Student Council Minutes

# Thursday 27th February 2020, 17:15-19:15 (EE G020)

**Agenda**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Welcome and introductions |
|  | Apologies |
|  | Declarations of interest |
|  | Minutes of previous meeting |
|  | Matters arising |
| Approval Items | |
|  | UWIC Councillor Co-option |
|  | Approval of new Clubs and Societies   * Journalism and Media * Mixed Hockey |
|  | Expiring Policy Review |
| Reporting Items | |
|  | Update from Executive Committee |
|  | Update from the Board of Trustees |
|  | Officers’ reports – questions/comments |
| Information Items | |
|  | Change Week |
|  | City Campus Update |
|  | Live Policy Update |
|  | NUS Conference |
|  | SU Leadership Elections |
| Any other business | |
|  | Any other business |
|  | Date of next meeting: Monday 30th March, 17:15 – 19:15 |

**Attendance**

**Councillors present:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Student Council Chair | Katie Watts | KW |
| President | Harry Lonsdale | HL |
| Vice President Education | Meg Price | MP |
| Vice President Student Activities | Mike Harris | MH |
| International Students Officer | Samuel Kyei | SK |
| LGBTQ+ Officer | James Gould | JG |
| Sustainability Officer | Claudia Gutierrez | CG |
| Welfare Officer | Amelia Price | AP |
| Women’s Officer | Alia Moorhouse | AM |
| General Interest Societies Rep | Danielle Jones | DJ |
| Non-BUCS Sports Clubs Rep | Luke Quinlan | LQ |
| Postgraduate Rep | Afoma Obidinnu | AO |
| School of Psychology Rep | Janne Vollan Tollefsen | JVT |
| UWIC Representative (following co-option within this meeting) | Jorson Deep Singh | JDS |

**Also present:**

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| Student Engagement Manager | Tim Hewes-Belton | THB |
| Student Voice Assistant (minute taking) | Abbie Banner | AB |

**Apologies Received:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Student Disability Officer | Nadine Baxter | NB |
| Academic Societies Rep | Karl Stanfield | KS |
| BUCS Sports Clubs Rep | Sophie Davies | SD |
| School of Education Rep | Kelly Chamberlain | KC |
| Chief Executive Officer | Sophie Williams | SW |

**Minutes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Welcome and introductions** |
|  | KW welcomed all to the February Student Council meeting. |
|  | **Apologies** |
|  | Apologies were received from Nadine Baxter, Karl Stanfield, Sophie Davies, Kelly Chamberlain and Sophie Williams. |
|  | **Declarations of interest** |
|  | MH declared an interest in clubs and societies, so would be abstaining from voting on approval of clubs and societies.  HL declared an interest in the policy proposal on Student Housing as the proposer.  MP declared an interest in the proposal on Careers Service as the proposer.  JG declared an interest in the proposal on Careers Service as an employee of the Careers & Employability Service within the University. |
|  | **Minutes of previous meeting** |
|  | Vote to approve the minutes of the previous meeting:  For: 12  Against: 0  Abstain: 0  **The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting** |
|  | **Matters arising** |
|  | *Actions carried forward from 12/11/2019*   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Action** | **Update** | | **Action 01. MP to follow up on Women’s Network with Sarah Greer.** | MP spoke to AM who believed that there may not be huge student uptake on a Women’s Coffee Morning. MP is going ahead in the planning stages of a coffee morning, noting how we communicate and market it is an important factor. |   *Actions carried forward from 09/12/2019*   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Action** | **Update** | | **Action 01: MP to oversee the implementation of the UWIC pilot rep and their co-option to Student Council.** | Process with UWIC for co-option has been started. Candidate attending this meeting, to go through co-option voting process in agenda Item 6. |   *Actions from 27/01/2020*   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Action** | **Update** | | **Action 01: HL to ensure additional SU social media posts are created to explain the Night Bus ending** | HL and marketing pushed “How you are you getting home?” campaign on social media as an alternative message as this is a complicated issue. | | **Action 02: JG to forward to councillors a list of LGBTQ+ related events to allow councillors to encourage their networks to join in** | Complete | | **Action 03: AB to share a link to the SU Governance Review Network Consultation survey** | Complete | | **Action 04: HL to liaise with University to gain reassurance for Student Council that no profit is made from graduation and evidence this** | HL contacted University finance department, who provided Council with an overview of the breakdown of all associated income and expenditure for graduation. This was displayed on the screen for Councillors to see there was a surplus of £887 from the 2019 graduation, with HL reassured that this is reinvested into the 2020 graduation.  HL noted that the University Registrar and graduation organisers are meeting with the recording company in March, after which they will get back to HL on the progress, as issues around this include the capability of networks and service available. | | **Action 05: AB to circulate link to NUS National Conference webpage for all councillors to read over before next meeting** | Complete | | **Action 06: MP to forward student feedback about the student experience and facilities at City Campus to councillors** | Student Councillors invited to the post-Change Week working groups with University staff. | | **Action 07: HL to forward collated student feedback from general City Campus consultation sessions to councillors** | Student feedback from these will be involved in part of the post-Change Week process. Councillors invited to working groups, to be discussed later in agenda item 12. | | **Action 08: AB to circulate the Student Union’s updated Strategic Plan to the Student Council** | Complete | |
| Approval Items | |
|  | **UWIC Councillor Co-option** |
|  | HL explained to council that the UWIC Rep position is to represent the University of Worcester International College in which students have a very different experience to that which standard International students may do, as represented by the International Students’ Officer.  Candidate Jorson Deep Singh spoke to Council about why he wanted to be co-opted into Council.  **Vote to approve Jorson Deep Singh Application for UWIC Representative**  For: 12  Against: 0  Abstain: 0  Jorson Deep Singh was co-opted into Council as UWIC Representative. |
|  | **Approval of new Clubs and Societies**   * **Journalism and Media** * **Mixed Hockey** |
|  | The Club and Society applications and proposed constitutions were circulated with all councillors so that they could make an informed decision.   * 1. **Journalism and Media Society**   MH explained some of the previous committee members of ‘The Shout’ who set up earlier in the academic year and has since folded have decided to set up a new society, with individuals who are more invested  HL questioned if the society would be affiliated to an academic department. MH clarified that although it does not outline this in their application form, the society was borne out of students’ discussions with academics within the Journalism course and would be an academic society. MH noted that the society, if approved, would be encouraged to formally affiliate to the Journalism course as this would provide them with several benefits.  **Vote to approve Journalism and Media Society**  For: 12  Against: 0  Abstain: 1  The Journalism and Media Society were approved by Council.  **7.2 Mixed Hockey**  MH noted from their application form that they would be affiliated with England Hockey, the national governing body for hockey. MH explained that if either of the separate men’s or women’s hockey societies were struggling for players, this club would still provide an inclusive platform on which any individual can play hockey.  AM questioned if the club would play in BUCS. MH explained there is not a mixed league in BUCS, but that there is no reason the mixed society could not enter either a men’s or women’s team.  **Vote to approve Mixed Hockey Club**  For: 12  Against: 0  Abstain: 1  The Mixed Hockey Club were approved by Council. |
|  | **Expiring Policy Review** |
|  | THB clarified that this agenda item is to discuss policies of the SU that are due to expire as all policies expire three years after they have passed. The policies had been circulated to councillors for them to read through prior to the meeting.  **8.1 Student Housing Review Platform (06/12/17)**  HL gave an overview of the policy. HL noted that there are lots of resources for students can use for housing advice, including the University Accommodation service advice and help, Worcester Student Pad, the SU’s Help and Advice service who can go through housing contracts and the annual Housing Fair, which over 500 attended in 2020.  HL explained that his recommendation to Council was to withdraw this policy as the above services and resources are now made available to students. The SU could instead promote ‘Marks Out of Tenancy’ to students, an independent and anonymous online platform available nationally for the public to view reviews of houses and landlords.  MP noted that she is supportive of promoting ‘Marks out of Tenancy’, but there is potential for concern around the relationship between tenants and landlords, where tenants could feel obliged to leave a positive review, and the system is open to a certain level of corruption.  HL hoped that if the platform were to become widely known and used by Students in Worcester, as it is anonymous over time it becomes more difficult to pinpoint individuals through the system and that landlords begin to accept this as a commonly used platform.  There was a discussion around how this could and should be best utilised by the SU and University, including some of the following points:   * HL clarified the website is designed for private rentals only and would not include student halls on campus * However, it could be used for University-owned rentals * Thoughts it would be useful for incoming students when reviewing potential private rentals * When problems solved, would comments on the website be there indefinitely? * HL clarified that neither the SU or University would necessarily have any influence or control over the platform, it is an external, independent website that the SU could merely promote and recommend as an option * As it stands there are many opportunities for students to feedback on student halls. This is aiming to improve the information and feedback opportunities on private rentals.   **Vote to approve HL’s proposal to remove the “Student Housing Review Platform” policy**  For: 12  Against: 0  Abstain: 1  The proposal to remove the “Student Housing Review Platform” policy was passed.  **8.2 A Career Service that is inclusive of the whole student body (06/03/17)**  MP gave an overview of the policy. MP explained this was created out of the wish for the University Careers Service to become more inclusive at the time, but that she feels the service has improved greatly since this proposal with the introduction of a fully accessible online careers platform.  JG clarified that the Careers Service also do specifically “disability-friendly” job listings. AM noted that there is a Disability Law that requires employers to accommodate for an individual’s disabilities.  **Vote to approve MP’s proposal to remove the “Career Service that is inclusive of the whole student body” policy**  For: 11  Against: 0  Abstain: 2  The proposal to remove the “Career Service that is inclusive of the whole student body” policy was passed |
| Reporting Items | |
|  | **Update from Executive Committee** |
|  | HL explained the membership and purpose of Exec Committee for new members of Student Council, before providing an update on the recent Exec Committee meeting on 10.02.2020:   * 12 months since the previous Executive Committee due to the challenges that Council was aware of in arranging a time to meet. * SW provided a Chief Executive update and the Full Time Officers gave an update, similar to previous Student Council * The part time officers attending, JG and AP, gave an update on what they had been working on: * JG: LGBTQ+ History month, rolling out the Allies Scheme from just staff to include students, involving LGBTQ+ inclusivity elements in the TeamWorc points system. * AP: implementing Ask Angela differently and improving visibility of the SU Help & Advice service through the website, signage etc. * Then talked about working together, through the governance review, network chairs would work together in future on formulating the networks. LBGTQ+ History month – flags up in Hangar and SU to stimulate conversation around this. Also reviewing Change Week for next year and how this could become more student led as a potential project for student council |
|  | **Update from the Board of Trustees** |
|  | HL updated on the most recent Board of Trustees meeting from January, including discussion around submitting the request for the SU’s block grant from the University, NUS National Conference coming up for which HL, MP and SK will be the Union’s delegates, the SU Governance Review and the SU’s outdoor Wellbeing Space, which is schedule to see work begin on 2nd April. HL noted the next meeting is in March 2020. |
|  | **Officers’ reports – questions/comments** |
|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Highlights** | **Comments** | | **HL** | HL updated that Celebration Week tickets should be available next week, including to the Union Awards. Tickets cost £20 which includes a two-course meal, a drink and a fun filled evening including photo booths. The SU will also be asking some members of Student Council to present some of the awards on the night, so that students can receive awards from their peers.  The University and SU are holding Mental Health Day on 17th March, with Student Minds running a raffle and a quiz in the Hangar, so please come along. NUS National Conference is 31st March to 3rd April, HL, MP and SK are excited to be attending as the SU’s delegates. |  | | **MP** | MP informed Council that the University has bought the Worcester News building on Hylton Road (Berrows House) and arranged a student consultation session on their plans for this new development. Previously, these sessions have genuinely informed the way in which the University plans and utilises the space, as this building will include a Medical School alongside social and study spaces.  Action 01: MP to circulate details of the ‘Berrows House Student Consultation’ session with councillors.  MP noted that a large part of her work since the last Council had been on Change Week which was on the agenda. |  | | **MH** | MH updated Council that following a challenging process to find an option to deliver self-defence taster session, the first session is now being planned to take place in The Hangar, MH encouraged all councillors to look out for this and attend as feedback on this will inform future plans and developments on this. Society memberships are up 30% on last year and Clubs memberships are up 5% on last year.  Varsity 2020 is coming up on Wednesday 25th March to Wednesday 1st April. | Council were concerned about floods, with Varsity requiring access to the arena. MH assured Council that there would be access to the arena in case of floods, unless to the extent which they have been throughout February but hoping that the slightly later time of year in Spring means that this situation does not arise. | | **SK** | SK informed Council that he is planning a Salsa themed event in The Hangar, where all students will be encouraged to attend, not just those who are international, to encourage conversation between home and international students. The Dance Club are supporting the event and creating a dance competition with a prize for the winner. SK is also planning a more chilled-out Games Night for international students.  SK updated Council that he is also working with the International Experience Team to plan a session on essay writing and exam skills, which will provide broad and generic information and guidance, including the University’s marking system, common mistakes etc. |  | | **JG** | SK informed Council that LGBTQ+ History month has been fun although some events were not so well attended, partially due to floods which coincided with all events that ran throughout the month, whereas other events had lots attending beyond expectations – these were the events where they were an LGBTQ+ version or takeover of a regular event, for example the quiz.  JG noted that the Improv Night that was planned for the evening after Student Council had been cancelled also due to flooding and will be rescheduled so to look out for this on social media. | MP thought it would be good to also provide opportunities for students to be able to engage in these events through online platforms, i.e. the ‘Q and Gay’ could provide the opportunity to submit questions online to be answered by the panel, JG agreed this is a good idea for future events as a way to engage with remote students. | | **NB** | As NB had submitted a report but was unable to attend due to the floods, MH provided Council with an update of NB’s activities on her behalf:  The first SU Disability Sport Meet and Greet was hosted in The Hangar on Monday 24th Feb, which was a social and fun event that will now be monthly moving forwards. This session provided a great platform for discussion between students on what developments and provisions there could be moving forwards. |  | | **CG** | CG updated Council that Go Green Week was successful, ran by a group of students as part of a module, with support from CG on the SU’s fair on Wednesday.  CG wanted to consult Council on their thoughts on the reusable lunchbox scheme she is moving forward with Aramark (the University catering providers), CG proposed two options, asking Council which would be the preferred option moving forward:   1. Aramark provide a lunchbox for students to buy at a one-off cost, e.g. around £3, after which the lunchbox is theirs to keep and look after. When using this they get a discount on the food. This is the same model as the way they currently offer the reusable coffee cups and hot drink discount. 2. Students buy a token for the same price which they keep and bring to the catering outlet and swap for the box each time they want to use one. When students return the box, the token is returned to them, this means they do not have to look after or wash up the lunchbox.   CG explained that once the lunchbox is ready, if option number one this could be part of an Eco-Friendly Student Pack sold in the campus shop and could include a reusable cup, lunchbox and metal straw. | Councillors questioned the difference between option number 2 and a plate. CG clarified a box is needed for food choices where portion control is required, i.e. salad or soup, as well as being able to take the lunchbox with them around campus. Councillors felt that option number 2  Council felt that more people are likely to buy one if it looked nice, as with the coffee cups that come in different colours and patterns and could also have the University branding on it.  Council agreed that option number 1 was the preferred way to go, as it seemed less complicated, and is nice to have something to own and keep.  Council thought the packs should be ready to go for welcome weekend 2020 as these would sell very well with parents likely to buy them for students moving into halls. | | **AP** | No report provided. |  | | **AM** | AM updated that March is International Women’s History Month and that she will be organising and hosting several events throughout the month including a quiz on evening of Tuesday 10th March and on Friday 20th March there will be a showcase of creative work of women students , followed by a karaoke in the evening, AM encouraged all councillors to look out for promotion of this and to please come along. |  | |
| Information Items | |
|  | **Change Week** |
|  | MP further updated that Change Week 2020 was successful with 20 volunteers giving over 150 hours of their time, we collected over 700 student ideas, 20% of which were What you love about Worcester”.  MP ran through the top ten student ideas from Change Week, explaining that councillors interested in taking part in the post-Change Week student and staff working groups could sign up to be a part of them at the end of the meeting.  SK noted that it would be useful to create some nice visuals to communicate these results to the student body. |
|  | **City Campus Update** |
|  | **13.1** MP explained that a large part of this month’s update on City Campus blends into the Change Week follow-up process, explaining that officers would prefer for students to be ‘in the room’ with University staff to ensure there is an open conversation on this topic. MP noted there are certain short-term wins that are feasible such as getting a microwave in Charles Hastings café, but that improving City Campus will ultimately be a longer-term project to be carried through the Full Time Officers’ terms.  **13.2** MP opened the discussion to council asking if there is anything they would like to raise.  JDS felt that a common room and dedicated social space is needed in Jenny Lind, especially with the number of UWIC students with teaching based at Jenny Lind.  THB noted to council that the sofas and furnishing in Jenny Lind are currently being upholstered, so this is a small improvement to the area. Council agreed that more furniture is needed in this area, but that it is not ideal to mix a busy social space with one of few workspaces in the building. |
|  | **Live Policy Update** |
|  | THB ran through the list of 18 current live SU policies.  **14.1 Welfare and Inclusivity Committee Member**  Council agreed that Inclusivity Rep training should be reviewed by Council as laid out in the policy  **Action 01: MH to bring the Inclusvity Rep training overview to Council to undertake a review of the Inclusivity Rep training.**  **14.2 Dedicated Parking for Motorcycles**  Additional parking acquired across car parks. Additional lockers to leave bike helmets in not secured.  **Action 02: HL, MH and MP to continue to lobby the University to secure helmet locker space**  **14.3 SU Against Fit to Sit**  THB explained the concept of the ‘Fit to Sit’ policy, explaining that when this policy comes to the end of its term, the SU would recommend that this is renewed when it approaches its expiry date.  **14.4 Action 03: HL, MP and MH to assign each current policy to one of the three full time officers’ roles before next Student Council.** |
|  | **NUS Conference** |
|  | THB outlined the deadline for submission of policies to the NUS National Conference was Monday 24th February as previously discussed at Council. The conference delegates, HL, MP and SK are meeting w/c 2nd March to begin the complex process of prioritisation of the policies that have been submitted nationally.  THB noted that the next Student Council is just before the conference, and that at the conference they will only be looking at 8 policies on which the whole conference will discuss and decide the national NUS ‘position’ on this topic.  THB explained that Student Council can mandate their delegates to vote a certain way for each of the policies and each of the candidates running for NUS National Officer positions. THB explained that as an SU of a Higher Education institution, the delegates can only vote for the President and the Vice President Higher Education, but not the Vice President Further Education.  **Action 04: AB to circulate with Council information on the candidates running for NUS national officer positions.** |
|  | **SU Leadership Elections** |
|  | THB explained that the SU is currently holding the Leadership Elections to elect the three Full Time Officers for 2020-21. A number of recommendations have been submitted. THB anonymously congratulated those students present who had received a recommendation. Nominations close at 12 noon on Thursday 5th March, THB recommended that anyone interested in the positions that has yet to book on to an information session does so as soon as possible.  Councillors not standing and or members of a campaign team were encouraged to ensure they vote, particularly ensuring that they vote in order of preference and to encourage their friends and networks to vote in the elections also! Voting will be open from 14:15 on Tuesday 10th March and closes at 14:15 on Friday 13th March, followed by the Elections Results Night at 7pm in The Hangar. |
| Any other business | |
|  | **Any other business** |
|  | No other business. |
|  | **Date of next meeting: Monday 30th March, 17:15 – 19:15, EE G020** |

Matters Arising:

**Action 01: MH to bring the Inclusvity Rep training overview to Council to undertake a review of the Inclusivity Rep training.**

**Action 02: HL, MH and MP to continue to lobby the University to secure helmet locker space**

**Action 03: HL, MP and MH to assign each current policy to one of the three full time officers’ roles before next Student Council.**

**Action 04: AB to circulate with Council information on the candidates running for NUS national officer positions.**