

WSU Student Activities Council

Monday 31/03/2025 at 14:30 (CC004)

Attendance

Staff in attendance: Jack Lambert (JL), Sophie Smith (SS), Barney Blake (BB), Olivia Williams (OW) and Luca Campos (LC).

Sports Clubs in attendance: American Football, Badminton, Dance, Women's Football, and Women's Futsal.

Sports Clubs not in attendance: Archery, Boxing, Climbing and Mountaineering, Fencing, Men's Basketball, Men's Futsal, Social Running Club, Social Sports, Taekwondo, Trampolining, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball, and Women's Rugby.

Sports Clubs sending apologies: Aerial Fitness, Athletics, Baseball & Softball, Cheerleading, Equestrian, Men's Cricket, Men's Football, Men's Hockey, Men's Rugby, Netball, Paddlesport and Surf, Swimming, Tennis, Wheelchair Basketball, Women's Basketball, Women's Cricket, Women's Hockey, and Yoga.

Societies in attendance: Book Club, British Sign Language, Gaming, Nursing, and The RAG Team.

Societies not in attendance: African and Caribbean Medical Society, Allotment & Gardening, Christian Union, Creative Writing, Dungeons and Dragons, Education Enhancement, Law, Midwifery, Music, Nature, Nigerian, Paramedics, PENSA, Physician Associate, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Socialist, and SSAGO.

Societies sending apologies: Biology, Business, Cocktail Society, Debate, Emergency Medicine Society, Garlic Bread Society, Geography, Islamic, LOCO Show Co, MedSoc, Occupational Therapy, Oriental, Poetry Society, Spotlight, Surgical Society, and Uni Boob Team.

Quoracy: 10/40 Student Groups who did not send apologies in attendance (25.0%) - required quoracy not reached (30%).

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

- JL welcomed all members to the final Student Activities Council of 2024-25 and introduced the agenda.
- Attendance and apologies are listed above.

Approval Items

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- With quoracy not met, the Student Activities Council Meeting minutes from 11th February 2025 could not be voted on for approval.
 - Post-meeting, an online vote was conducted via MS Forms (voting window from 1st April 10am to 8th April 9am) with 23/74 (31.1%) votes required to reach online vote quoracy.
 - At the deadline, 15 votes had been received, so the online voting window deadline was extended to 15th April 9am.
 - At the extended deadline, 24 votes had been received via the online vote:
 - For: 23
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 1
- Student Activities Committee Meeting minutes from 11th February 2025 were approved by majority via online vote.

3. Actions from Previous Meeting

- No actions raised in previous meeting.

Discussion Items

4. Ideas Forum

- OW guided council attendees through where they find the Ideas Forum on the SU website, the purpose of the Ideas Forum, and the mechanisms by which approved Ideas are acted upon by the Students' Union.

5. Catering Feedback

- JL facilitated the gathering of feedback on the catering offer across the University campuses via flipchart paper.
- Summary of responses:
 - General Feedback
 - Reduce the campus shop prices!
 - Kettles (if canteen staff aren't working, you have to pay £1.30 for hot water)
 - Keep vending machines stocked!

- Vegan alternative to milk, which is easily available/grabbable in the canteen
- Canteen moved coffee machine behind the till, which causes long lines
- Bake & Bite is good
- Ideas Shared
 - Hot water machine
 - Water dispenser on Pierson - top floor
 - Summer BBQ's
 - Sandwich meal deal in canteen - not just baguettes
- St John's Campus
 - Elgar Kitchen should be open for longer. At the moment it closes too early to grab even an early dinner after lectures.
- City Campus
 - There is no kitchen so there is no proper plate meals i.e. rice with beef and fries. There is a very short and repetitive food choice, such as jacket potato with anything on top every day. Please, they need to get proper meals to city campus.
 - P.S. Please ask the staff to leave napkins outside when they close - thank you.
- Jenny Lind
 - There is only a vending machine and moving to city everyday to get a jacket potato every day is not the crush of anyone. Please bring some options to Jenny Lind too.
- Across Campuses
 - Please re-encourage the Coffee Pass Stamps across campuses. So often missed out on stamps since the staff don't remind/offer new stamp cards to replace old ones.

6. TeamWorc Awards Process

- SS gathered feedback on the TeamWorc Awards nominations and voting processes via flipchart paper.
- Summary of responses:
 - Nominations Process
 - Pros
 - Criteria information clear
 - MS Form was so easy
 - Recognition for effort
 - Encourages participation
 - Community building
 - Transparency

- Cons
 - Length of time stretched to two weeks would be better
 - Nominations submission process - one role within the committee designated to fill out the form to make it cleaner
 - Other committee members to feedback their thoughts to that person
 - How is sports team + person considered? Can we make it clear what they are nominated for? Is it to do with uni sport or outside? University athlete?
 - Submission should be open throughout the year- allow for nominations to come when things happen
 - Subjectivity
 - Limited recognition
- Voting Process
 - Pros
 - Straight forward process
 - 10 days is enough time
 - Democratic
 - Transparent
 - Engagement
 - Cons
 - All students should vote
 - Bias
 - Limited info
- Student Group Choice Awards Feedback (should be chosen by student groups?)
 - Sports Club of the Year: 6 agree, 0 disagree
 - Society of the Year: 5 agree, 1 disagree
 - Network of the Year: 6 agree, 0 disagree
 - Charity Fundraising Group of the Year: 3 agree, 2 disagree, 1 unsure
 - Event of the Year: 5 agree, 1 disagree
- Student Group Choice Awards Feedback (comments)
 - Course Rep of the Year: should be chosen by student groups because they represent the students, they then know if they made contact and meaningful difference
- Time of Year: Nominations (mid-March)
 - Too Early?
 - Little bit early as some still competing
 - Should it be around Varsity? Lots of people do things in the run up to this
 - Agree! Plus, there's still events to come after nomination that possibly miss out on being considered for them.
 - Maybe after Varsity?
 - A little bit early, it has incomplete data since there will be more activities running

- Just Right?
 - Any later would run into assignment season
 - Fair timing, just if events occur after nominations, you take last season's performance into consideration
 - Avoids last minute rush
- Too Late?
 - Open all year
 - Stress with assignments
- Time of Year: when should the TeamWorc Awards evening be held?
 - Before Assessment Period?
 - Before, as it gives people a positive thing to look forward to before exams
 - Most people will be here as May tends to be the end of lectures and people might go home
 - Pros: boosts morale, high attendance
 - Cons: distraction, timing conflicts
 - During Assessment Period?
 - Pros: breaks from stress, immediate recognition
 - Cons: low attendance, increased stress
 - After Assessment Period?
 - Would be better to enjoy everything when we are relaxed after exams and assignments
 - ^ disagree as most people will be at home
 - Right after assessment period so most (active) students are still here, and it is a nice way to close off the year. Before/during assessment period most students are busy and stressed, especially third years, so they might miss out entirely in favour of assignments / harbour guilt for attending when should be doing the assignments
 - Doesn't get in the way of exams and exam prep, voting needs to take place before though
 - After might be the most beneficial to allow students to fully enjoy the event without the pressure of upcoming assessments and can serve as a celebratory conclusion
 - Pros: relaxed atmosphere, high attendance, celebratory mood
 - Cons: delayed recognition, post-assessment plans
- Number/Range of Awards
 - Too many?
 - Probably wouldn't add any more
 - A lot of awards already
 - Yes

- Not enough?
 - No more
 - Clip of the year - individuals send in best play and is voted on
 - Sports play of the year - awards the most outrageous / aesthetically pleasing sports play
- Missing any areas of recognition:
 - University Athlete of the Year (only to do with university sport, not representative/pathway/professional)
 - Campaign of the Year (Sports)? Lots do campaigns that aren't networks
 - All rounds (academics, volunteering, sports and other activities)
 - Network Committee Member of the Year
 - Make these awards obvious from the start to give people more incentive and chance to boost their chances of winning
 - ^ agree! Also, recognition for each committee role individually, rather than choose from everyone, just one?

7. Committee Handover Content

- BB gathered feedback on Committee Handover content via Mentimeter.
- Summary of feedback responses below:

What information/training was VITAL for your role on committee?

Who in the su can help	Time with previous student in the role	Training on how to use the website	How to/who to contact about finding out current funds of the soc/club
Kit meetings early	All there is to know about the pink slip	Sports budget meeting with Sophie smith explaining the spreadsheet Online training- showed me how to use the website,	Background information on what has been done before.

What information/training was VITAL for your role on committee?

who to speak to for different things

Organisational support

Booking the hangar/event holding information

Designated SU member to support when adopting a society or being the only committee member

Details on the election process for committee

committee meetings, what to say, when to hold them

What is one thing you wish you knew at the start of your role?

How varsity is organised and when the meetings need to be what you need to talk about in meetingd

From an adopted society, what things the previous society did/would as there was no student in that role to help

Sponsorship deals

social media training

When we can sort training times for to try and get the best slots possible

I which I knew that I had to walk between St John's and City campus to pick up materials, such as buckets and card machine, before SU closes.

How the payments work, needing to get them in on a Wednesday. What to do if people don't pay there memberships, How often you have to email people to pay there memberships

committee meetings, when to hold them, what to include

Inclusivity training (for all roles)

How to organise the team effectively prior to the events especially working with different students at the university

How to start putting in volunteering hours, who to add for staff contact for them, etc.

How to contact and find out who our members are when they join

You can split the members on the website into groups

What has been done. What worked. What didn't work. What did you use to support yourselves as committee.

What didn't you perhaps achieve in your roles that we could try next year

What would be useful to include in Committee Handover?

How to use the website, split up members by group, didn't know the shortcuts

What has been done before. What worked and what didn't work.

What the sale reports look like, how often we'll be sent them

How to log volunteer hours and what counts as volunteer hours

Previous team performance - How well they did, What challenged they faced, some tips to how to overcome the previous issues and if there is any, whom should the committee need to arrange a meet-up with

What didn't you achieve in your role that we could try next year

Any feedback (negative and positive) from members, so that the new committee can take actions accordingly

Pool ideas for what to try next year from outgoing and incoming committee members

Interesting ideas for events/sessions, etc. that didn't get done yet

- BB sought clarity or additional information from attendees regarding some feedback submissions:
 - What is one thing you wish you knew at the start of your role: *"How is Varsity organised and when the meetings need to be"* - related to the example of Varsity rules needing to be set for Dance prior to the start of the academic year so that team entries and choreography could be aligned
 - General explanation shared surrounding the Adopt a Club/Soc process.
 - Expanded discussion around social media training and what resources are already available
 - CF (Gaming) asked for better information exposition and reminders regarding working times of the SU to pick up items

Reporting Items

8. Update on Policy Proposal (SU Website)

- JL shared an update on the policy proposal that was approved at Student Activities Council (2):
 - The policy is with the SU Marketing team who have looked at what changes the Website allows.
 - JL is meeting the policy proposers tomorrow (1st April 2025) to discuss this further and the desired outcome for the students.

9. Updates from Student Council

- JL shared an update from the Student Council meeting held on 18th March 2025

- Agenda items & discussions included:
 - updates from the SU Officer Team
 - RM updating on Exec Committee student group approvals (Socialist Society & Islamic Society)
 - SW updating on Trustee Board meeting held on 5th February 2025
 - EA updating on Academic Rep Oversight Group (AROG)
 - ARE highlighting how the SU Leadership Elections went (congratulating Ronke Akintan, Katie Costis & Olayemi Ogunleye)
 - Discussion on current student issues

10. TeamWorc Points

- JL reminded of the TeamWorc Points accreditation scheme and the associated Gold, Silver & Bronze targets.
- JL shared the current TeamWorc Points leaderboards.
 - Sports Clubs are led by Dance (485 points) who are the first Student Group to reach Gold status, followed by Cheerleading (300 points) who have now reached Silver, and Men's Cricket (245 points) who have furthered their bronze tally.
 - Aerial Fitness (210 points), Women's Cricket (175 points), and Social Sports (145 points) have all recently achieved Bronze accreditation
 - Societies are led by Paramedics (280 points) who have leapfrogged Gaming (265 points); both recently reaching Silver accreditation
 - MedSoc (195 points), Business (195 points), British Sign Language (160 points), Christian Union (155 points), and Cocktail Society (125 points) have all recently achieved Bronze accreditation

11. Club & Society of the Month

- JL shared the nominations and winners of Club & Society of the Month for February 2025.
 - Society of the Month nominees:
 - Christian Union (winner), Nigerian Society, and Midwifery Society
 - Club of the Month nominees:
 - Dance (winner), Aerial Fitness, and Athletics
- JL shared the nominations for Club & Society of the Month for March 2025, with winners soon to be announced on social media:
 - Society of the Month nominees: Gaming & Business, and Paramedic Society
 - Club of the Month nominees: Dance, Men's Cricket, and Men's Rugby

12. Officer Updates

- JL shared updates on his VPSA objectives & recent activity:
 - Attended BUCS Midlands Conference Finals to support Women's Basketball and Women's Football.
 - Met with the University Comms department to discuss the progress of a University wide 'What's On' page.

- Attended many different student events including the CPR Marathon, Cricket Darts Night, and Saints Dance Competition.
- Part of the organising team who delivered the University's first Holi event, held at Tramps Nightclub.
- Went on a Varsity site visit to Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Football Club with Sophie and Barney.

13. SU Activities Updates

- BB/JL delivered an update on SU Student Activities:
 - Varsity 2025 - schedule, ticket access, merchandise available
 - TeamWorc Awards 2025 - Monday 28th April, 7pm @ The Hangar (invite only, shortlists announced & invites sent)
 - Committee Handover & Celebration - Wednesday 30th April, 2pm-7pm @ CC004 (handover) & The Hangar (celebration)
 - VCFA Handover - Thursday 1st May (EE1106 Cotswold A) or Wednesday 21st May (EE1107 Cotswold B)

Any Other Business

14. AOB

- SR (Badminton) queried if returning committee members are required to attend Committee Handover
 - SS - yes, beneficial for returning committee members to pass on knowledge to incoming committee.

Date of Next Meeting: October 2025 (2025-26 Council Cycle tbc)

JL thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.