

WSU TeamWorc Council

Monday 16/10/2023 at 11:30 (EE1057)

Staff in attendance: Isobel Price (IP), Sophie Smith (SS), Barney Blake (BB), and Hannah Heskin (HH).

Clubs in attendance: Aerial Fitness, Badminton, Boxing, Men's Rugby, Social Sports, Trampoline, Women's Cricket, Women's Football, and Women's Hockey.

Clubs not in attendance: American Football, Athletics, Cheerleading, Climbing & Mountaineering, Dance, Dodgeball, Equestrian, Fencing, Handball, Lacrosse, Men's Basketball, Men's Cricket, Men's Football, Men's Futsal, Men's Hockey, Netball, Paddlesport & Surf, Swimming, Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball, Women's Basketball, Women's Futsal, Women's Rugby, Worcester Strikers, and Yoga.

Societies in attendance: African & Caribbean, Anime & Manga, Biomedical Science, Book Club, Creative Writing, Nigerian, and Paramedics.

Societies not in attendance: Allotment & Gardening, Business, Christian Union, Dungeons & Dragons, Film, Knit N Knatter, Law, Midwifery, Music, Oriental, Professional Policing, Psychology, Spotlight, and RAG Team.

Apologies: Archery, British Sign Language, Debate, Education Enhancement, LOCO Show Co, Poetry, and Uni Boob Team.

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

- IP welcomed all members to the first TeamWorc Council of 2023-24, and introduced the agenda
- IP introduced where TeamWorc Council sits within the Students' Union governance structure and the purpose of the Council
- Attendance and apologies are listed above
- IP led a feedback submission topic on the discussion topics and the engagement for TeamWorc Council:
 - "What would you like to see discussed at TeamWorc Council?"
 - TeamWorc Points leaderboard
 - Kukri issues
 - Publicising smaller societies
 - Mental Health Awareness Week / Beat (Eating Disorder) Week
 - How can societies do more? (like a Varsity for socs)
 - Response times
 - Varsity
 - How to support smaller societies and academic societies

- Keep it short and sweet
- Funding for student volunteers
- Fundraising ideas
- "What would make TeamWorc Council more engaging?"
 - Games / Music
 - Sweets / Pizza / Food / Snacks / Drinks
 - Not as long
 - Toby the campus cat
 - Interactivity
 - Incentives to attend
 - Host in The Hangar

Approval Items

2. Approval of Terms of Reference

- TeamWorc Council Terms of Reference were unanimously approved

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- TeamWorc Committee Meeting minutes from 17th April 2023 were unanimously approved

4. Actions from Previous Meeting

- No actions raised in previous meeting

Reporting Item

5. TeamWorc Council Reps

- HH explained the need to elect reps, the different groupings & categories, and advised that applications had been received for Academic Societies Rep, General Interest Societies Rep, Faith & Cultural Societies Rep, Artistic & Martial Arts Sports Club Rep, and Adventure, High Risk & Social Sports Club Rep.
 - Applications heard from Benji Robison (Paramedics Chair) and Millie Alcock (Biomedical Science Chair) for Academic Societies Rep.
 - Benji Robison voted in as Academic Societies Rep by secret ballot.
 - Application video played for Andrew Weber (LOCO Show Co Chair) for General Interest Societies Rep.
 - Andrew Weber voted in as General Interest Societies Rep by secret ballot.
 - Application heard from Ronke Akintan (Nigerian) for Faith & Cultural Societies Rep.
 - Ronke Akintan voted in as Faith & Cultural Societies Rep by secret ballot.

- Application heard from Daisy Dymond (Trampolining Vice Chair Finance & Admin) for Artistic & Martial Arts Sports Club Rep.
 - Daisy Dymond voted in as Artistic & Martial Arts Sports Club Rep by secret ballot.
- Application video played for Lacey Freeman (Archery Vice Chair Inclusivity & Promotions) and application heard from Natalia Taneska (Social Sports Social Secretary) for Adventure, High Risk & Social Sports Club Rep.
 - Natalia Taneska voted in as Adventure, High Risk & Social Sports Club Rep by secret ballot.
- HH advised of the open positions with no prior applications - Charity & Volunteering Societies Rep, Team Sports Clubs Rep, and Individual Sports Clubs Rep - no applications from the floor.

Discussion Items

6. SU Spaces

- BB introduced discussion item about SU Spaces (physical spaces on campus):
 - The Hangar is a good space, easy to book, great for events or Sober Socials. Noted that you can easily contact The Hangar team through booking forms, email, and social media.
 - Only spaces aware of are The Hangar and Union Square ("the quad")
 - Some committee members shared that they only visit The Hangar for big events, or that Sports Club only go there to meet for their buses to BUCS fixtures
 - Confusion over difference between University spaces and SU Space, as some mentioned use of the Peirson Study Centre, Made canteen, and firstpoint. Mode/Tramps was also mentioned - interesting to note as a "partner/sponsor space" that hosts SU group activities.
 - BB advised of the Welcome Desk area as another SU space
 - SS highlighted SU presence on City Campus to increase throughout the 2023-24 academic through the Campus Chat initiative
 - Discussion notes also highlighted other areas of the Students' Union building spaces - Costa Coffee, Campus Shop.
 - Notes also highlighted that the SU can support with booking other spaces - e.g., University classrooms, and 3G pitches.
 - Temporary SU spaces such as the Welcome Festival marquees were also mentioned.

7. Celebration Week

- SS advised of plans for Summer Ball 2024 – including details of early bird pricing and payment plans as an attempt to meet needs of cost-of-living crisis.
- SS facilitated discussion surrounding combined TeamWorc Awards vs split Colours Ball & Union Awards.
- Thoughts from the discussion included:
 - It is better having Sports Clubs and Societies together – doesn't need to be split over two nights.
 - Sticking to a combined event will reduce any culture of division between Sports Clubs and Societies.
 - In current format there is limited ticket capacity for nominated committees – causes issues when larger committees are nominated.
 - Solution to capacity issue – could consider venues other than The Hangar? (UW Arena, etc).
 - i. SS advised of cost implications of using venues outside of the Students' Union.
 - Could consider option to change the flow/format of the event – more like a mixer than a sit-down event, this could increase capacity.
 - Use of UW Arena – if there are costs for an external venue, could a payment plan be set up, similar to Summer Ball 2024?
 - If split into two nights, would smaller societies be able to be recognised? Smaller groups often feel overshadowed by bigger groups, especially the bigger Sports Clubs.
 - There are pros and cons – if someone is involved in both a Sports Club and a Society, they would want their contributions to both groups to be recognised on one night. Splitting the event potentially creates a divide, but could be better for smaller groups to not get overshadowed.
 - TeamWorc/Union Awards should take priority over Summer Ball, as this recognises those who engage most in the SU.
 - Without appropriate opportunity for recognition, some committee members may feel disillusioned.
 - Could considering combining the Awards event with Summer Ball?
 - i. Concerns that combining would make it feel like its only for committee members, and not for all members (who might attend Summer Ball, but not awards)
 - Even if capacity was increased, sometimes it feels like there is no point attending, if your group is not nominated.
 - Colours Ball – when this was ran it was the night of the year, everyone attended, from committee members right through to social members.
 - If combined into one event, could start with Awards with invited members, then run the Summer Ball afterwards. You wouldn't need a sit-down meal – could run as an Awards ceremony with an afterparty?
 - Consensus of the room – generally, keep on one night but there are worries over capacity of The Hangar if the format doesn't change.

8. Welcome Festival Feedback

- HH introduced discussion item to take feedback on Welcome Festival:
 - Welcome Fair worked well in SJC Sports Hall, most students based are on St John's Campus, so this meant attendance was good. It was well spread out between the Sports Hall and Gym 1, which meant you could get around and see everything.
 - Question from floor: why can't you collect names, personal information, etc? There were problems with Interest List sign-up, student accounts not activated. Students don't want to spend ages logging into SU website when they visit a stall.
 - SS advised of the GDPR implications of collecting personal information at stalls
 - SS also advised that QR codes to join Facebook groups and WhatsApp groups are permitted, as the student then is consenting to join the group. The SU recognises that social media is more commonly used than messaging Interest List members.
 - One committee really enjoyed the atmosphere the reggae band brought to the Fair and said it was good to see The Hangar include an Afrobeat night - this included a different demographic of students.
 - The quiet hour wasn't actually quiet, people were still setting up etc, so there were still lots of people packed into the Sports Hall.
 - Overwhelming consensus that the band was too loud, so you couldn't hold conversations at stalls.
 - SS advised that they were booked to perform in an outdoor space, not to provide background music in an indoor venue, so the late change to indoor caused this issue.
 - City Campus Welcome Picnic was a bit of a flop, low attendance, bad weather had an impact. Could it be advertised better as including free food, e.g., "Welcome Lunch"?
 - City Campus Sunset Session had similarly low attendance (Saturday evening), so there was little point in The Hangar staff being there. Nothing was being ran in the afternoon, which meant there was nothing for people to do once dropped off by parents. There was much more of a focus on the St John's Campus Big Worcester Welcome.
 - The banners higher up on market stalls was easier to see in previous years, compared to hung over the edge tables (meant they were covered by people, decorations, etc). Students might miss seeing clubs/socs that they might want to join.
 - Welcome Fair was better inside because it was warmer, you can't guarantee a nice day in September, but it meant it was also loud, crowded and busy - could you split Sports Club and Societies on different days/slots?
 - Response from floor: not the right approach to split - there is a crossover of members and committee members between Sports Clubs and Societies, and we wouldn't want to create a divided culture.

- As there is already not a lot of SU activity on City Campus throughout the year, if the Welcome Fair is taken away from the campus, this would be a real shame. The outdoor space on City Campus means all the Sports Clubs can do their games/activities/demonstrations.
- It was not great being held on a Wednesday; it is better on a weekend. Holding on a Wednesday means groups are straight away competing for members to attend their social afterwards that evening.

9. TeamWorc Points

- IP introduced discussion point of recognition and rewards for hitting TeamWorc Points goals:
 - Recognition for being consistent holding sessions and socials.
 - Certificate recognition for being on a committee that achieves a TeamWorc Points goal.
 - Membership targets seem unattainable for smaller societies - marginal growth is not recognised.
 - Could there be a higher level than Gold - e.g., TeamWorc Platinum? Some groups may hit gold for multiple years in a row and want to keep pushing on.
 - Groups liked the digital promotion on Instagram through takeovers, and like that they are featured on the Club/Soc advertising board.
 - Is there an easier way to find out how many TeamWorc Points your group is on rather than waiting for a TeamWorc Council?
 - IP advised to watch this space (there is a leaderboard coming soon on the TeamWorc Points website).

Reporting Items

10. TeamWorc Points

- IP reminded of the TeamWorc Points targets, shared the current leaderboard.

11. Club & Society of the Month

- IP shared the nominations and winners of Club & Society of the Month for September 2023.
 - Society of the Month nominees: Christian Union, Nigerian, and Poetry.
 - Society of the Month winner: Christian Union.
 - Club of the Month nominees: Aerial Fitness, Cheerleading, and Men's Hockey.
 - Club of the Month winner: Cheerleading.
- TeamWorc Wins - IP shared current membership figures, highlighted impressive year-on-year growth since October 2022.

12. Officer Updates

- IP shared updates on VPSA Objectives
 - Consent Campaign in the works to be launched next month.

- Increased engagement already in extra-curricular, looking to run campaign in Semester 2 to continue to support this.
- Continuing to encourage collaboration between Clubs and Socs.
- Supporting ways for students to be commended for their hard work with Clubs and Societies.
- IP shared details about the Worc Star scheme and reminder of how to nominate.

13. SU Activities Updates

- SS shared inform about Club/Society Grant Applications
 - Applications are now open, close on 23rd Oct
 - Dragons' Den style panels scheduled for 27th Oct and 30th Oct
- SS shared an update on Kukri
 - Online shop delayed, but launching soon
 - Bespoke items - Kukri will set up a separate bespoke item shop link, making bespoke items available for purchase for a short time frame
 - Sizing - important to attend sizing sessions to check sizes, bespoke personalised kit cannot be returned or refunded. We have been advised women's sizes are coming up a bit small
 - For any bulk orders, contact Kukri
 - Kit drop-off - rather than big deliveries to SU Welcome Desk like Akuma, Kukri will instead be on campus for kit to be collected from them at a drop-off point, you will be given an allocated day to collect your order.
 - Question from floor: issue raised with Kukri communication - societies feeling ignored, not good customer service.
 - SS advised of other issues with communications, will escalate this.
- SS shared information about Club & Society group photos day
 - TakeThatPhoto will be on campus Monday 4th December at SJC Sports Hall
 - Potential paid opportunity TBC to work with TakeThatPhoto on the day
- HH shared a RAG update, £755.11 raised so far
 - Midwifery Society raising £474.21 for Becoming Families and for Born Sleeping.
 - Poetry and Women's Basketball have held raffles for Behind the Smile at their recent events.
- HH reminder about TeamWorc Action
 - All committee members are volunteers, so make sure you log your hours!
- SS provided update on Activities By-Elections - highlighted that groups must make sure their vote tally hits quoracy

Any Other Business

14. AOB

- Publicity for smaller societies and the events that they are running?
 - HH response: SU are trying to push promo of societies on the whole this year, working with The Hangar team
 - Use of social media - tag the SU, tell the SU (the sooner, the better)
 - Advice to create an event on the website, this will show on the main SU events page

- HH provided link to Member Feedback form - asked committees to share with their members.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 21st November 2023 - 11:30 - EE1061

IP thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.
