

## WSU Executive Committee Minutes

Monday 16/12/2022 at 09:30hrs (Online via MS Teams)

|                           | ITEM  | Owner    |
|---------------------------|---|----------|
| 1.                        | Welcome & Introductions   | AL       |
| 2.                        | Apologies   | AL       |
| 3.                        | Declaration of interest   | AL       |
| 4.                        | Minutes of previous meeting   | AL       |
| 5.                        | Matters arising   | AL       |
| <b>Approval Items</b>     |   |          |
| 6.                        | Society Approval  | ML       |
| <b>Reporting Items</b>    |   |          |
| 7.                        | Active Policy & Ideas Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's Workout Hour (ML/SS)</li> <li>• Open Facilities on Saturdays (AL)</li> <li>• Common room for students in the Jenny Lind Building (GA/AL)</li> </ul>  | Officers |
| 8.                        | Officer Objective Update  | Officers |
| 9.                        | Additional Campaign Updates   | Officers |
| <b>Discussion Items</b>   |   |          |
| 10.                       | TEF Submission  | SW       |
| 11.                       | All Student Meeting   | ARE      |
| 12.                       | ULG   |          |
| 11.                       | Current Student Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updates from recent councils               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MH Services to Healthcare students</li> <li>- Personal Academic Tutors</li> <li>- Access to Learning Fund</li> <li>- Food provisions at Riverside/Garage</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |          |
| 12.                       | Update on Relevant Projects and Discussions with the University   | All      |
| <b>Any Other Business</b> |   |          |
| 13.                       | AOB   | AL       |

## Minutes

### 1.0 Welcome & Introduction

AL welcomed all to December Executive Committee.

### 2.0 Apologies

Apologies noted from:

- Antonia Rossiter-Eaglesfield (Interim Membership Engagement Manager)
- Robert Cox (Director of Finance & Commercial)

No additional apologies received.

### 3.0 Declaration of Interest

No declarations declared.

### 4.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting in November and then took a vote to approve:

For - 3

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

The minutes from the Executive Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022, were approved.

### 5.0 Matters Arising

| Actions   | Owner    | Update   |
|---|----------|--|
| <b>Action July.01:</b> ML to catch up with SS what progress Women's Workout has made.   | ML       | No update.<br><br><b>Ongoing.</b>  |
| <b>Action July.04:</b> At the next SU/Facilities catch up, officer team to bring up plans about spaces at Jenny Lind.                                   | Officers | <b>Carry Over</b>  |
| <b>Action October.01:</b> ASB and ARE to put together a Green Impact campaign plan.   | ASB      | This is in hand with<br><br><b>Ongoing.</b>  |
| <b>Action November.01:</b> RC to reach out to SU insurance company and find out the logistics of having student led media/podcasts.                     | RC       | <b>Complete.</b>   |
| <b>Action November.02:</b> ML to reach out to officer networks and seek advice on what other SUs do and how they manage student led media and podcasts. | ML       | Reached out to some local SUs. General consensus was that media ha<br><br><b>Complete.</b> |

|  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
| <b>Action November.03:</b> ML to arrange a meeting for Jamie to come into SU.  | ML | ML/ARE met with Jamie a couple of days later. Jaime responded well to initial process.<br><br>ARE is in the process of writing a policy.<br><br><b>Complete.</b> |
| <b>Action November.04:</b> AL to email Lucy Blunt about reorganising monthly SU/Facilities catch up meetings, CC Tim Jones so he is aware that these meetings are cancelled. | AL | Still ongoing to rearrange going forward. Mark Hughes is off work currently.<br><br><b>Ongoing.</b>  |
| <b>Action November.05:</b> GA to email Jane Britton about student ambassador support for surveying TEF.  | GA | GA contacted both Tim Jones and John Coleman. Ambassadors were then recruited to support survey.<br><br><b>Complete.</b>   |

## 6.0 Approval Items

There were no item for approval.

## 7.0 Active Policy Updates

- Women's Workout Hour (ML)
  - o Update provided in Matters Arising.
- Open Facilities on Saturdays (AL)
  - o There hasn't been an SU facilities meeting for a while, Lucy Blunt is aware of this issue. Officers are looking to push this item forward at the next facilities meeting.
- Common room for students at Jenny Lind Building (GA/AL)
  - o TJ is going down to Jenny Lind building with the officers on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November to look and review facilities available to students there.
  - o GA shared with the exec some images of kitchen/common room spaces highlighted by Chris Garrett.
    - **ACTION:** Officers to draft an email to TJ, LB & CG about Jenny Lind and the space. Address conflicting messages and looking for a resolution to Jenny Lind spaces.

## 8.0 Officer Objective Updates

### AL:

- Community Cupboard
  - o Donations have slowed down, please donate if you are able to and spread the word to your clubs, socs, networks, course mates etc.
  - o Received a large donation from WR2 community Facebook page with over 100 items

- Gender Neutral Toilets
  - Following a recent meeting there was a lot of pushback from DG. AL looking at how we can approach moving forward.
- Speak Week
  - 328 student interactions across the week
  - We hosted the week in St John, City Campus and Jenny Lind to ensure all students had the opportunity to get involved.
- Wellbeing Wednesday
  - Puppy Walks
    - Very successful and received positive feedback from students in attendance, as a result we have created a good relationship with the Fairy Dog Mothers and will continue to work with them in semester 2.
  - Winter Wellbeing Fair
    - Stalls from student services, pets as therapy and more. Over 129 interactions with students (true number may be higher due to event being split over Hangar and Welcome Desk area)

**GA:**

- Open Panel Discussion
  - GA to review this over the Christmas break.
    - SU insight work will impact engagement from students.
      - **ACTION:** GA to review what the open panel discussions look like post Christmas.
- Decolonisation of the curriculum
  - The University have now agreed to include decolonisation of the curriculum into their course design framework. Ensuring the decol is considered when developing and reviewing courses.
- Rep Conference
  - Date change to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023
    - Venue: The Hive, The Classroom
    - Special Guests
      - NUS Liberation officer Nehaal
        - Hosting a session around 'Decolonising the Curriculum'
        - Hosting a session around 'The History of NUS'
      - Katy Boom
        - Hosting a session around 'How to promote sustainability as an Academic Rep'
      - Ashley Storer-Smith (University of Nottingham SU)
        - Hosting a session around 'Transphobia'
- Rep Rewards
  - Awarded 3 School Reps of the Month awards so far
  - Awarded November Course Rep of the Month
    - Reminder that anyone can nominate a rep if you'd like to nominate them check out our website.

**ML:**

- RecSport
  - Working with the University to provide more recreational sport opportunities
  - The university have been trialling a 6 week recreational sport program which we will reflect on in the next meeting.
- Society Social
  - Society social was a success
  - Looking to update social media artwork to organise a soc drop in session in semester 2
    - Couple of random time slots across a 2 week period to allow time for our socs to
- Employability Guide
  - Plans in place for it to be launched in April 2023
  - Development work will start in January
- Xmas Box/SU Drive
  - Due to Cost-of-living concerns and not wanting to add pressure to our students in the current climate, Meg's shoebox appeal objective idea has been transformed into a SU drive, encouraging student groups to donate to the SU drive rather than lots of individual drives.
    - Donations will be going to both the community cupboard and the food bank. This was decided because we felt that it was important to support our own community but also the food bank since they have been supporting our students and so it would be good to give back
- TeamWorc TV
  - 4 episodes of TeamWorc tv have been released, one being a RAG week special and one being our Men's and Women's hockey team.
  - Planning has already gone ahead for episodes after Christmas (Keep your eyes peeled)

No further updates were given by the Officers.

---

**9.0 Additional Campaign Updates**

- Speak Week
  - 5 days of engaging students
  - Took the SU to students on St Johns, Charles Hasting & Jenny Lind
  - Engaged with 328 students across the week
  - Excel document has been created where feedback has been split into themes/areas.
  - Feedback has since been shared with David Green.
    - SW: What work are we doing to address feedback
    - **ACTION:** JA to ask ARE to put together a presentation for next ALL STAFF MEETING around outcomes of speak week and plans/actions.

- Breakfast Club
  - 2 Breakfast clubs successfully ran so far
  - 167 students fed over the two sessions
  - Semester 2 dates to be confirmed
  - Officers dedicated £1000 of their officer budgets to provide food to our students

No additional updates.

---

## **10.0 TEF Submission**

SW noted that we are now in the process of drafting a script. This is based on our collected survey feedback and previous feedback and intelligence we'd gathered in different areas. SW noted that we've been speaking to local unions to gain further understanding on how they are approaching their TEF submissions.

A draft TEF submission to be ready by 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

No additional updates.

---

## **11.0 All Student Meeting**

JA explained that this was an opportunity to discuss how are we going to advertise the AGM to students this year.

It was noted that pre-covid ASM were held in-person, since all ASMs have been online via teams. Due to the absence of RC and ARE, it was decided that we should organise a separate meeting including marketing on how we advertise and promote the ASM.

- **ACTION:** SW to speak to Antonia to form a working group and start discussions of the ASM.

No additional updates.

---

## **12.0 ULG**

Initial update that came from Marie Stowell, this update included

- Student Retention, with particular focus on supporting students who are on suspended studies
- Understanding the current satisfaction of new and returning students

Papers from Jane Britton covered areas such as:

- How the University continue to develop courses
  - How the University will look to develop their offers to students
  - Reducing the % of student application rejections
  - Increase the demand of students wanting to come Worcester
    - The demographic of students coming to Worcester from Birmingham has dropped drastically.
    - Majority of Worcester students are coming from further away in the UK opposed to locally.
- 
- 
-

- Discussions about international students and their role in UW student population
  - o Main aim to grow student population at Worcester
  - o The recruitment drive of the Three Counties Medical School will also drive international student numbers.

SW key notes highlighted in the papers were:

### **Marie Stowell Paper**

- Students Retention/Satisfaction
  - o Timetabling working group has been reconvened
    - Nursing & Midwifery
      - Satisfaction is on the up and previous raised issues have since been resolved.
    - Primary Teaching
      - There had been highlighted issues and most of them have resolved, the low scores on organization and management are being tackled. The majority of the issues around timetabling on specialist facilities have now also been rectified,

### **Jane Britton Paper**


- o Reduction of distance learners is the Universities biggest loss
  - A 5% reduction in student population would equal a £3.2million loss
  - As of September 2022, the University was down 70 students in comparison to September 2021.
    - It was acknowledged that this doesn't include our February/March starters, of which we know there is meant to be a la
- o Success of Law has masked the flaws and additional issues within Humanities
  - Following government announcements that Art & Humanities are 'low value degrees', Worcester continues to be a success
- o There has been a significant drop in partner students
  - UoW only received 25% of partner students fees.
- o Part-Time students numbers on the decline year on year since 2014.
- o Projected growth of international students, international students to make up 20% if student population by 2023.
- o Last year UoW rejected 500 nursing applications
- o International students applications are thundering in
  - Looking at be selective when it comes to recruitment
- o University **lost £4,000,000** last year, current projection says it will be more this year

No additional updates.

---

### **13.0 Current Student Issues**

SW noted that these are recurring issues which we need to keep on our agenda to ensure we can help implement positive change.



- PATs
  - o Feedback was provided by a number of Education Councillors that there had been concerns Information came from Education Council.
    - Gemma & Jack are looking at how they can tie PATs discussions into upcoming forums and rep conference.
- Mental Health Provision & Access
  - o Healthcare students have noted that there is a need for a dedicated MH provision or service. Students are subject to potential
    - **ACTION:** GA/AL to arrange a meeting with Healthcare Head of Schools to look at how we support our students. This to involve Rob Dudley, Liz Davis-Ward & Tim Jones.
  - o Students wait time is too long, NHS services access times is also really long at the moment.
- Access to Learning Fund
  - o SW has an upcoming meeting with Caryn Thorogood about ALF
    - There seems to not be enough staff within the department to be able to conduct a review of the fund
    - The more the SU lobby the more pressure put onto Caryn as additional resources are very unlikely.
- Food provisions at Riverside, Garage & Elizabeth Cassen
  - o Vending Machines
    - Students have highlighted to SU staff that vending machines across sites are constantly broken or empty and are not being checked regularly enough. SW is meeting with LB/Chartwells after this meeting to address vending concerns.
  - o Campus Shop
    - Staff bought donations from the shop to donate to SU Community Cupboard and tins of soup all out of date.
      - Shop response was that student staff have failed to complete stock rotation.

It was noted by the executive committee that we need to continue to speak to Tim Jones about how we can continue to ensure our students are being supported.

No further discussion.

---

## **14.0 Update on Relevant Projects & Discussions with the University**

No updates given.

---

## **15.0 AOB**

No further discussion.

---





---

## ACTIONS

- **ACTION:** Officers to draft an email to TJ, LB & CG about Jenny Lind and the space. Address conflicting messages and looking for a resolution to Jenny Lind spaces.
  - **ACTION:** GA to review what the open panel discussions look like post-Christmas.
  - **ACTION:** JA to ask ARE to put together a presentation for next ALL STAFF MEETING around outcomes of speak week and plans/actions.
  - **ACTION:** SW to speak to Antonia to form a working group and start discussions of the ASM.
  - **ACTION:** GA/AL to arrange a meeting with Healthcare Head of Schools to look at how we support our students. This to involve Rob Dudley, Liz Davis-Ward & Tim Jones.
- 