

### WSU Executive Committee Agenda

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 09:30 (SU012)

	ITEM	Owner
1.	Welcome	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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Advocacy Society</i></li> <li>- <i>Physiotherapy Society</i></li> </ul>	IP/HH
<b>Reporting Items</b>		
7.	Active Policy & Ideas Updates <a href="#">2023-24-007 Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Building 24 hour access</a> <a href="#">2023-24-004 Email name change</a> <a href="#">2023-24-002 Incorrect Terminology Policy</a> <a href="#">2023-24-001 All Gender/ Disabled Toilet Separation Policy</a> <a href="#">2022-23-003 Mental Health</a> <a href="#">2022-23-001 Module Withdrawal Procedure</a>	Officers
8.	Officer Objective Update	Officers
9.	Additional Campaign Updates	Officers
<b>Discussion Items</b>		
10.	Current Student Issues	All
11.	Update on Relevant Projects and Discussions with the University	All
12.	Period Products	AL/ARE
13.	Community Cupboard Express	
14.	Ideas forum	SW
<b>Any Other Business</b>		
	AOB	AL/All

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## **Minutes**

### **1.0 Welcome**

AL welcomed all members to the February Executive Committee.

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### **2.0 Apologies**

No apologies received.

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### **3.0 Declaration of Interest**

No declarations declared.

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### **4.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

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

For - 2

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

The minutes from the Executive Committee on 15/01/2024 are approved.

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### **6.0 Society approval**

We jumped to item 6 on the agenda as HH was present to explain the new society applications.

#### Physiotherapy Soc

IP explained the aims of the physiotherapy society:

- Enhance members knowledge and skills of physiotherapy, highlighting the importance of it to others.
- Encourage a safe space to socialise and have fun through a range of activities, like social events, study sessions and an online community.
- Foster friendships within the physiotherapy community.

AL expressed concerns over the new society reforming to use the money in the account to throw a ball and not engage in any other way as a society. IP explained they didn't know about the funds until they met with IP and HH. HH explained that if they did do this although not ideal it would spotlight the society and societies generally which would be a positive.

The committee voted on the approval of the physiotherapy society:

For - 2

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

Approved.

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### Advocacy Soc

HH explained to the committee that this society application was received from the department rep from the Law School.

HH talked through the aims of the new society.

- To provide students with court room advocacy skills
- To assist students in the development of their legal skills
- To offer opportunities for students to compete at national level.
- To provide 6-8-week programs per semester on focused skills required for court room advocacy.

HH shared with the committee that there has been some conflict between the law society and the student who has sent the application. There were previous concerns on how this society differs from the law society which HH explained they do not want to do socials; they do not want to host guest speakers etc and they don't want to overlap with the law society. They want the society for mooting trials and law debate. HH explained that the law department are already doing many of the things the society wants to do but they want it to be student led.

SW expressed she didn't feel the name was correct, HH stated the society are open to changing their name. SW suggested a change to the mooting society to reflect their aims.

AL asked whether their aims are reflecting what they want to do as a society and HH explained that the differences between the law society and the new society need to be explicit and clear. SW asked what was meant by the 6-8-week program as stated in their aims which HH explained involves students practicing and learning and then carrying out a mock trial.

HH expressed concerns about involvement from the law department. SW explained they might need to add a line into their constitution stating, 'with the support of the department'. HH also expressed concern as the students only want to open the society to law students which the group agreed is not possible.

SW explained her understanding of the society and felt it was a good idea, but we need more reassurance and a better understanding of their 6-8 week program due to the workload along side their studies and we need to ensure we have good processes and safeguarding measures are in place.

The students want to attend competitions and SW explained they could be very expensive, and students would need to be prepared that they might have to pay.

There was a discussion about one of the suggest roles, Outreach Role, and it was agreed that this falls more under the chair role. SW said the roles need to be condensed and simplified.

**Action:** HH to meet with the society and discussion changes and clarify some of the concerns with the society.

## 5.0 Matters Arising

Carried Over Actions	Owner	Update
<b>Action July.05:</b> Exec to keep on top of city campus refurbishment.	All	<b>Action:</b> AL to follow up with TJ about city campus refurbishment  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Carrying over due to cancelled meetings from TJ</li> </ul>
<b>Action July.12:</b> RC to feedback issues with quality of food at next meeting with Chartwells.	RC	<b>Action:</b> AL to raise in Student Council as a standing agenda item
<b>ACTION December.01:</b> Elizabeth Garret Building Access - AL to follow up with TJ in the new year on progress regarding CCTV.	AL	<b>Action:</b> AL to continue to follow this up with Tim Jones and Tom Taylor
<b>ACTION December.03:</b> Discussion around location for the community cupboard. AL to consider a new location or approach (combination approach with H&A) in the new year.	AL	<b>Action:</b> IP to locate a box for donations to be received when welcome desk is closed- <b>Complete.</b>  <b>Action:</b> IP to speak to speak to clement and the marketing team about bags that will be kept behind welcome desk for an emergency when the cupboard is empty  <b>Update</b> - This is being put on hold for the time being.
<b>ACTION December.04:</b> IP to look at various grants (Worcester community grant and national lottery grant) for funding towards CoL objective or any relevant campaigns/developments.	IP	Ongoing progress  <b>Action:</b> AL and IP to discuss together after reviewing independent
<b>ACTION December.05:</b> AL to start looking at other campuses and prayer space, and open student consultation in the new year.	AL	<b>Action:</b> AL to speak to the university again and see where this is at and their plans for other campuses
<b>ACTION December.06:</b> SW updated that Val Yates had previously discussed with SJ what would a good suite of academic societies look like	IP	<b>Complete.</b>

and how do we create them. IP to continue this work and follow up with HH.		
<b>Actions from Jan 15<sup>th</sup> meeting</b>		
<b>Action January.01:</b> Sophie Williams to discuss progress and plans for the mental health policy with Claire Neild.	SW	Meeting scheduled for next week.
<b>ACTION January.02:</b> AL to take Incorrect Terminology Policy to University EDI Committee when it takes place.	AL	
<b>ACTION January.03:</b> Al to communicate with the Cathedral regarding them distributing Sanitary products and how they can support each other.	AL	<b>Completed.</b>
<b>ACTION January.04:</b> IP to introduce a donation box beside the community cupboard for times when welcome desk is closed and ensure donations are still received.	IP	<b>Completed.</b>
<b>ACTION January.05:</b> AL to discuss the hardship fund in TJ/Officer catch up to ensure the hardship fund for international students is put in place despite Caryn Thorogood having left the university and Tim Jones' upcoming departure.	AL	<b>Completed.</b>  Nick Slade is dealing with this.
<b>ACTION January.06:</b> IP to follow up with Emma from Warwick following an unsuccessful meeting (absence from Emma) to continue to look into Trans inclusion in sport.	IP	<b>Completed.</b>
<b>ACTION January.07:</b> IP to set a meeting with HH to	IP	<b>Completed.</b>

plan and organise Battle of the Socs		
<b>ACTION January.08:</b> IP to continue to write article for WonkHe about consent week and ask Livia from WonkHe in the next catch up whether there could be space to share about the Repair Café and Race Equity week.	IP/AL	<b>Completed.</b>  Repair café article will likely not happen due to no more repair cafes taking place.
<b>ACTION January.09:</b> AL to plan conference with ARE, ML, Reps and Networks	AL/ARE	<b>Completed.</b>
<b>ACTION January.10:</b> AL and IP to discuss the future with the departure of both Tim Jones and Caryn Thorogood in Tim Jones/Officers catch up and UW/SU	AL/IP	<b>Completed.</b>
<b>ACTION January.11:</b> SW to talk to Sophie Smith about committee recruitment being added to a Student Activities Council	SW	Needs completing
<b>ACTION January.12.</b> AL to contact Rob Dudley about placement concerns.	AL	<b>Completed.</b>

## **7.0 Active Policy and Ideas update**

AL provided a verbal update on Active policies and Ideas update.

### **7.1 Active Policy**

Exec discussed active policies and provided updates.

- Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Building 24-hour access - Delays due to cancelled meetings between AL and TJ's. On matters arising.
- Email name change - this has been completed but waiting for students to use it.
- Incorrect Terminology Policy - is in the matters arising.
- All Gender/ Disabled Toilet Separation Policy
- Mental Health - Action: SW to follow up with Claire Neild about the Mental Health Policy when they meet.

- Module Withdrawal Procedure - This was something Gemma Alcott worked with Marie Stowell to sort. AL has recently followed up with Marie and she will support with any frustrations that come through the SU.

## **7.2 Ideas Forum**

- There is currently only one active idea on the idea's forum. The idea is Seat Reservation for big lectures, and it currently has 1 vote.

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## **8.0 Officer Objective updates**

AL & IP updated exec on their objectives and stated they had updated the objective log.

Actions resulting from objectives review as follows:

AL and IP to push engagement in TeamWorc video in councils - This came from AL being concerned about engagement at the time of the year the video is set to take place. SW suggested pushing it in councils.

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## **9.0 Additional Campaign Updates:**

- Student Voice Conference
- Period products - on the agenda
- Community Cupboard - on the agenda
- Sports Recycling Kit

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## **10.0 Current Student Issues**

There were a few student issues brought up by members of the group.

- Accessibility in lectures

Students from education council and student council have explained that their Reasonable Adjustment Plans are not being followed and being ignore by lecturers and academics. **Action:** SW to discuss RAPs concerns with Claire Neild in their catch-up meeting.

- Paramedics -

Concerns about who will be Head of School with Elizabeth Davis-Ward leaves the university. **Action:** AL to email Liz to find out if there is any information about her replacement

- Help and advice / Iron Mill

One of the Universities partner institutions has students trying to use our help and advice services before going through their own institutions processes, which is a requirement for accessing the Worc SU service. They are stating their institution processes aren't good enough so bypassing all together. **Action:** AL and ARE to discuss issues with Iron Mill with Sue Cuthbert

- Housing
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An ongoing issue for students and for Worc SU help and advice.

### **11.0 Update on Relevant Projects and Discussion with the University**

- *Housing*

Housing continues to be an ongoing issue. Officers updated the group with an housing update from UW/SU stating they are considering reducing the prices of some accommodation.

- *International hardship fund*

AL updated that we are still waiting on the confirmation around whether this will be implemented.

- *Video on comms*

IP updated the committee on a video she saw on the universities TikTok. IP explained how she communicated concerns with the Comms team, they posted it on Instagram anyway and received negative feedback. IP went back to them again and now comms is going to do some comms on cost of living and want SU representation in their planning.

- *Tim Jones leaving*

SW meeting with David Green to discuss future related to TJ's departure from the university and is planning to push the SU up his radar. SW will also discuss Varsity with him and explain that many events are fully booked due to limited tickets.

### **12.0 Period products**

There was a discussion about period products and particularly the concerns around the companies' ability to continue to supply us period products. MP has been in discussion with another partner, and this might need to be a possibility moving forward.

ARE expressed concerns around the SU supplying period products and the workload it is adding to IP and the high number of products needed to meet the current demand all agreeing it is not sustainable. The group agreed we need to put out some comms out to students and explain we can't put them in every toilet anymore. ARE explained that the Period Dignity bags have had a lot of requests. It was suggested that going forward we just supply the toilets in the SU building and put signs up in the other toilets stating only take what you need.

### **13. Community Cupboard Express**

AL explained that they are very worried about the new proposed Community Cupboard Express Scheme and whether it is going to be sustainable, especially with the current level of donations. AL explained that there has been negative feedback about the community cupboard as it has been empty.

### **14. Ideas forum**

SW explained she wanted this on the agenda as it is something she believes we need to look at as it feels a bit bureaucratic. SW explained how as a union we have new set of values have, one being around keeping it simple which our processes do not always reflect. There were questions



such as does the ideas forum work and the group sharing the view that it is confusing and needs reviewing.

Other unions have Change Labs and citizen assemblies which we could look into instead.

Whilst on this topic SW shared some feedback from her CEO meeting with other SU CEO's and they have collectively raised concerns about officer elections and the number of candidates is a concern. They believe the kudos of the role isn't there anymore and SW shared that like us other unions have had students nominate themselves and withdraw their nomination.

AL suggested potentially running nominations and recommend a friend more simultaneously and there were thoughts around keeping the nomination period open for longer.

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### **13.0 AOB**

**No submitted AOB.**

**No AOB in the meeting.**

Meeting ended.



## ACTIONS

**ACTION July.05:** Exec to keep on top of city campus refurbishment. AL to follow up with TJ.

**ACTION July.12:** AL to follow up regarding student meeting and food quality/variety, to then feedback to SC.

**ACTION December.01:** Elizabeth Garret Building Access - AL to follow up with TJ in the new year on progress regarding CCTV.

**ACTION December.03:** Discussion around location for the community cupboard. AL to consider a new location or approach (combination approach with H&A) in the new year.

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**ACTION January.01:** Sophie Williams to discuss progress and plans for the mental health policy with Claire Neild.

**ACTION January.11:** SW to talk to Sophie Smith about committee recruitment being added to a Student Activities Council

**ACTION February.01:** HH to meet with the society and discussion changes and clarify some of the concerns with the society.

**ACTION February.02:** SW to follow up with Claire Neild about the Mental Health Policy when they meet.

**ACTION February.03:** SW to discuss RAPs concerns with Claire Neild in their catch-up meeting.

**ACTION February.04:** AL to email Liz to find out if there is any information about her replacement.

**ACTION February.05:** AL and ARE to discuss issues with Iron Mill with Sue Cuthbert