

# WSU Executive Committee Minutes

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020, 10:00 on Microsoft Teams

## Agenda

	Agenda Item	Owner
1.	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	MP
2.	<b>Apologies</b>	MP
3.	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	MP
4.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	MP
5.	<b>Matters arising</b>	MP
<b>Approval Items</b>		
6.	<b>Approval of Principles for Society and Sports Club approvals.</b>	THB
7.	<b>Discussion on and approval of Associate Member fees for 2020-21</b>	THB
8.	<b>Approval of Societies and Sports Clubs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor Who</li> </ul>	TM
9.	<b>Approval of Ideas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainbow Crossing</li> </ul>	MP
<b>Reporting Items</b>		
10.	<b>Active Policy and Ideas Updates</b>	Officers
11.	<b>Campaign Updates</b>	Officers
<b>Information Items</b>		
12.	<b>Network Implementation Update</b>	THB
<b>Any Other Business</b>		
13.	<b>AOB</b>	MP
14.	<b>Date of Next Meeting: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b>	

## Attendance

### Attending:

Megan Price	President	MP
Harry South	Vice President Education	HS
Tish Manning	Vice President Student Activities	TM

### Also in attendance:

Sophie Williams	Chief Executive	SW
Tim Hewes Belton	Student Engagement Manager	THB
Robert Cox	Finance and Commercial Manager	RC
Abbie Banner	Student Voice Assistant (minuting secretary)	AB

## Minutes

Agenda Item													
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>												
	MP welcomed all to the Executive Committee meeting.												
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>												
	No apologies were received.												
<b>3.</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>												
	TM declared an interest in sports clubs and societies approvals.												
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>												
	Vote to approve the minutes of the Exec Committee meeting held on: 16/07/2020 For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 The minutes of the												
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	Action 06: THB to produce and circulate a template agenda of standing items for Exec Committee before the next meeting.	<b>Complete.</b>
	Action 07: MP as Chair to ensure decisions on society approvals (or otherwise), as well as other relevant decisions, made at weekly meetings with Officers and SW are communicated to AB as minuting secretary within 3 working days.	<b>Complete.</b>
	Action 08: THB to meet with MP to brief as Chair of Executive Committee prior to the next meeting.	<b>Complete</b>

### Approval Items

<b>6.</b>	<b>Approval of Principles for Society and Sports Club approvals.</b>	
	<p>THB conducted research into other Students' Unions' and looked at guidance from Equality and Human Rights Commission put out last year to create a proposal for Principles for Society and Clubs Approvals.</p> <p>THB noted this guidance makes it clear able to say no to an application for society or club, but not if the decision was based on a motive that would limit students' rights to freedom of speech and freedom of expression. THB gave an overview of the key points of the principles outlined in the proposal circulated with Exec before the meeting.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the wording around discrimination, and if it should instead say "discrimination on any grounds" or remain as specifying the grounds on which they cannot be discriminated against. It was agreed by Exec that the wording would remain the same.</p> <p>There was a discussion around costs associated with membership and involvement in the club or society being clear to students from the outset. THB noted it is written into the new Bye Laws student groups must do this, and that Student Engagement Coordinator and Sports Development Coordinator are working together on guidance for clubs and societies to ensure no student groups have hidden costs.</p> <p>Suggested changes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Change: "<i>They have significant risks that cannot be controlled by the society or sports club</i>", to: "<i>They have significant risks that cannot be adequately managed by the society or sports club without reasonable support from the Union.</i>"</li> <li>2. Add in a line regarding the Union's ability to support them with staffing and resourcing.</li> <li>3. Add in line about legality and not promoting something that is not lawful.</li> <li>4. Add in a line about information regarding the costs of membership and involvement in society being available to students from the offset, before becoming a member.</li> <li>5. Change "<i>our visions and values</i>" to "<i>our mission and values</i>".</li> <li>6. Change "<i>contradicts the Union's charitable objectives</i>" to "<i>not in line with the Union's charitable objectives</i>".</li> <li>7. Include Networks in the line: "<i>Their aims and objectives duplicate those of another society or sports club affiliated to the Union</i>".</li> </ol>	

	<p>8. Remove the line in brackets: "(e.g. in theory a British student is allowed to join another nationality society)."</p> <p><b>Action 01: THB to make the above changes and bring new proposed principles to the next Exec Committee meeting.</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Discussion on and approval of Associate Member fees for 2020-21</b>        (Associate Member applications would be a future standing item)</p>
	<p>THB explained that Exec Committee have the responsibility, delegated by the Trustee Board, for deciding the fees for Associate membership, noting that Exec reserves right to set variable fees based on the type of Associate member.</p> <p>Types of Associate member are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students enrolled at partner institutions who are on a UW accredited course but who are not registered as UW students due to their funding status.</li> <li>2. University Alumni</li> <li>3. University and Union staff members</li> </ol> <p>THB noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Executive Committee must review these fees on an annual basis</li> <li>- Associate membership is provided on a 12-month basis</li> <li>- "Other services" available to associate members might include Help and Advice for example.</li> </ul> <p>THB outlined the proposals for various options. A discussion followed around various pricing options. THB noted that uptake tends to be low across Students' Unions. In the new Bye Laws, no student group can have any more than 15% associate members.</p> <p><b>Action 03: THB to make the following amendments to the Bye Laws:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Enable Non-UW registered partner students to be able to join Student Networks.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Associate memberships to end at end of academic year rather than a 12-month period.</b></li> </ol> <p>RC noted the SU needs a way to identify associate members, for example a membership card. SW noted this could be in the form of an email to individuals that could be used as evidence of associate membership.</p> <p><b>Action 02: THB to research what system other SUs use for identifying associate members.</b></p> <p>Following discussion Exec agreed on proposed Associate membership pricing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £10 for students who are on a UW accredited course but who are not registered as UW students due to their funding status.</li> <li>• £15 Alumni who have graduated within the last two years</li> <li>• £25 Staff and other Alumni</li> </ul> <p>Exec voted on the above proposed Associate membership prices:        For: 3        Against: 0        Abstain: 0</p> <p><b>The proposed Associate membership pricing was approved.</b></p>

	<p>THB noted that Associate Member applications would be a future standing item on the agenda for Exec Committee meetings.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Approval of Societies and Sports Clubs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor Who</li> </ul>
	<p>MP noted the proposed Doctor Who society's constitution and society application form had been circulated with Exec members prior to the meeting. There was a brief discussion around the £10 membership fee. TM noted the SU would like to work towards societies having more substantial society costs but providing good value, rather than low membership fees.</p> <p>Vote to approve the Doctor Who Society.          For: 2          Against: 0          Abstain: 1  <b>The Doctor Who Society was approved.</b></p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Approval of Ideas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainbow Crossing</li> </ul>
	<p>MP noted an idea had been submitted onto the reviewed Ideas Forum platform on the SU website. This idea to implement a Rainbow Crossing on campus, had reached a vote score of 48 from a total of 52 voters.</p> <p>MP noted if the idea passes approval, this process means the SU would lobby and work with the University to introduce a rainbow crossing, it does not mean there is guaranteed to be one on campus.</p> <p>The SU wants to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. MP noted there was a comment on the idea from the Chair of ACS suggesting to include the Black Lives Matter logo on top of the rainbow.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the use of the Black Lives Matter logo on campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SW noted the University may be unable to use the logo, as it is deemed to be a political movement, although unofficially. It is a cross-political issue but still "political"</li> <li>- THB noted the SU could take a position on the Black Lives matter movement by a vote of students.</li> <li>- Cross-party/ cross-political is the rationale the SU used for taking a position on the Peoples' Vote campaign.</li> </ul> <p>Vote to approve the idea for a Rainbow Crossing:          For: 3          Against: 0          Abstain: 0  <b>The Rainbow Crossing idea was approved by Exec.</b></p> <p><b>Action 04: MP to follow up and address the comment on the Ideas Forum regarding Black Lives Matter and the Rainbow Crossing outside of the formal ideas process.</b></p>
<b>Reporting Items</b>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Active Policy and Ideas Updates</b>
	<b>10.1 Active Policy</b>

	<p>TM updated that work on the 'Discount on Clubs for Placement Students Policy' is progressing and work ongoing to introduce this ready for the new academic year with a design request in to begin promoting this.</p> <p>MP noted that progress on the Climate Emergency Policy has been limited, but more work will begin in the new academic year with a Sustainability Committee being planned for end September.</p> <p><b>10.2 Ideas Updates</b>          MP noted there were no other ideas to update on.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Campaign Updates</b>
	<p><i>11.1 Lanyards</i></p> <p>HS noted he is waiting to hear back from Ross for an announcement to students about facemasks and lanyards with more detailed guidance for students. The Hidden Disabilities organisation associated with starting up the sunflower lanyard scheme released information with a list of Universities supporting and promoting the scheme on their campuses.</p> <p>HS noted he has had students directly emailing him to ask if the University is supporting the use of sunflower lanyards.</p> <p>HS noted also that the University's DDS advisors agree it is a good idea, while some other University Senior Management may not agree with the idea. There was a discussion on the Sunflower Lanyards, several members attending the meeting pointed out they had experienced and overheard inconsistencies with being challenged or not around the use of face masks on campus.</p> <p><b>Action 05: SW to raise the idea of introducing Sunflower Lanyards and inconsistencies in challenging the use of face masks on campus in the University's Campus Reoccupation Group meeting later that day.</b></p>
<b>Information Items</b>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Network Implementation Update</b>
	<p>THB updated Exec that the Network Chair recruitment officially closed last week, noting there has been good levels of engagement with this and the students met so far in interviews for Chairs have been inspiring.</p> <p>The number of applications for the position of Chair in each of the networks are as follows: 2 for Mature, 3 for BAME, 4 for Women's, 1 for Widening Participation. There have been no applications for the Disabled, International, Commuter and Sustainability Networks.</p> <p>MP noted the SU is continuing to promote membership of the Networks and other committee roles. With the new students incoming in the new academic year this provides a lot of new students to promote to.</p>
<b>Any Other Business</b>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>AOB</b>
	No other business.
<b>14.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 10:00 online via Microsoft Teams.
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## **Actions**

**Action 01: THB to make the above changes and bring new proposed principles to the next Exec Committee meeting.**

**Action 02: THB to research what system other SUs use for identifying associate members.**

**Action 03: THB to make the following amendments to the Bye Laws:**

- 3. Enable Non-UW registered partner students to be able to join Student Networks.**
- 4. Associate memberships to end at end of academic year rather than a 12-month period.**

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