

WSU Executive Committee Minutes

Friday 21/01/2022 at 9:30am (Online via MS Teams)

Attendance

Members	Apologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liam Lees (President) - LL - Ragnar Mularczyk (VP Education) - RM - Neve Ricketts (VP Student Activities) - NR 	Jack Appleby (Student Voice Assistant) - Minuting Secretary JA
Staff Invited to Attend	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sophie Williams (CEO) - SW - Tim Hewes-Belton (Student Engagement Manager) - THB - Rob Cox (Finance & Commercial Manager) - RC - Jack Moore (Student Opportunities Coordinator) - Acting Minuting Secretary JM 	

Agenda

	ITEM
1.	Welcome & Introductions
2.	Apologies
3.	Declaration of interest
4.	Minutes of previous meeting
5.	Matters arising
Reporting Items	
6.	Active Policy & Ideas Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling programme for hard to recycle waste (LL) • Create a student medic volunteer (NR) • Women's Workout Hour (NR) • Campus Community Garden (LL/NR) • Recycling Bins on City Campus - outside (LL) • Calmatea (NR)
7.	Officer Objective Update
8.	Additional Campaign Updates

Discussion Items	
9.	NUS Liberation Review
10.	New Vision for Education Campaign/Student Strike
11.	Non-Disclosure Agreements Pledge
12.	Current Student Issues
13.	Update on Relevant Projects and Discussions with the University
Any Other Business	
14.	AOB

Minutes

1.0 Welcome & Introduction

LL welcomed JM to the meeting who would be minuting in JA absence.

2.0 Apologies

Jack Appleby - Minuting Secretary

3.0 Declaration of Interest

No declarations were made.

4.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

For - 3
 Against - 0
 Abstain - 0

The minutes from the Executive Committee on December 21st 2021, were approved.

5.0 Matters Arising

Actions	Owner	Update
Action Sep1.1: May Exec - VPE to work with and maintain liaison with Caryn Thorogood around a new Fit to Study policy. THB to ask Kate	RM	Ongoing. Meeting held with CT in January 2022.

Gynn to go through Fit to Study Policy with RM. RM and SW are meeting Caryn in January to review the drafted policy.		
Action Sep1.2: May Exec - THB rework the proposal for associate membership. No progress to date. This work will be conducted to enable changes to be made to launch associate memberships in 2022-23	THB	Ongoing will be done in time to launch for 2022-23
Action Sep1.3: LL to pick back up Recycling Programme for Hard to Recycle waste post welcome week. No Update - LL/THB will look at this with Katy Boom, University Director of Sustainability in January 2022.	LL	Tim has added to the agenda of his next catch up with Katy Boom on 31 st January
Action Sep1.4: LL to contact Sabrina Jones (Staffs SU) about potential pronoun workshops for this year if not for future planning. Sessions now being planned for LGBTQ+ History Month internally. LL to contact Sabrina Jones in January	LL	Close Action will refocus and do this for Committee training in 2022-23. ACTION CLOSED (New) Action J.01. THB to inform JM to ensure this is done.
Action Sep1.5: RM to contact Sarah Pittaway on how he can be involved in promoting study skills check. No further update	RM	RM has contacted SP and as part of his objectives will continue to follow up and will update, as appropriate in objectives agenda item. ACTION CLOSED
Action Oct1.1: LL & SW to chase the universities progress on Report & Support initiative. SW spoken to TJ about this who is keen to launch the system despite resourcing concerns. Ongoing.	LL/SW	Ongoing
Action Oct1.2: LL to reach out to Liz-Davis Ward & Sethu to see what welfare awareness we can do together to help support our health care & paramedic students. We need to join this up with work undertaken more widely in the	LL	THB meeting with LL to discuss way forward on 25/01. Suggest action is closed as part of operational plan and will be followed up ACTION CLOSED

Union. LL and THB to carry this forward in January.		
Action Oct1.3: NR find out intermural progress at next Sport Development Meeting. No further update.	NR	No further progress. Suggest action closed as included as one of NR objectives. Updates can be provided in regular agenda item. ACTION CLOSED
Action Oct1.4: RM to reach out to SG, see if there are any courses that may sit in the same boat as Archaeology, so the SU can best prepare itself to support students. SG now left University, follow up conversations with Ann Jordan.	RM	Complete and courses identified. Following up through Feedback & Intelligence. Action closed and further updates will come through current student issues as and when needed. ACTION CLOSED
Action Nov1.1: LL/NR to reach out to ACS to do an event in The Hangar (take over event). Carry over to January	LL/NR	Carry Over, No progress to date.
Action Nov1.2: RM to organise a meeting with Clement about making our student body aware of the cost of your future campaign. Not completed.	RM	Action on hold due to stalling of national campaign.
Action Nov1.3: LL to get agenda items added to - There needs to be a discussion on the EDI committee around buildings accessible - gender neutral toilets, prayer rooms and breastfeeding locations. The Initial meeting was to discuss basic policy and the aims of the working group. In the next meeting I will discuss the visibility of university provisions e.g., gender neutral toilets, prayer rooms and breastfeeding locations. ACTION - LL to speak to Mark Hughes/Tim Jones to make sure that these facilities (breastfeeding) are promoted to students.	LL	Ongoing no further meetings held.
Action Dec1.1 - LL to speak to Mark Hughes/Tim Jones to make sure that breastfeeding facilities are promoted to students.	LL	Complete, ACTION CLOSED

<p>Action Dec1.2 - THB to add promotion of SU availability online to isolated and socially anxious students to engagement team meeting agenda with Clement Servini.</p>	<p>THB</p>	<p>Complete. Meeting held 11th January and follow up meetings will meet ACTION CLOSED</p>
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Actions Carried Forward from Previous Meetings:

6.0 **Active Policy Updates**

Recycling programme for hard to recycle waste - Update given in matters arising. **CARRY OVER**

Create a student medic volunteer programme - No Update. **CARRY OVER**

Create a bookshelf swap on campus - No Update. **CARRY OVER**

Women's Workout Hour (NR) - No Update. **CARRY OVER**

Campus Community Garden - THB spoke to Katy Boom, suggestion made to promote the garden that already exists. **CARRY OVER**

Recycling Bins on City Campus (outside) - LL to email estates & facilities. **CARRY OVER**

Calma-tea, Arts & Mindfulness on Campus (outside) - **COMPLETE**

Action Jan.03: THB to submit a design request to promote the community garden and recycling bins down at City Campus.

7.0 **Officer Objective Updates**

LL-Making the curriculum more inclusive - LL updated that at the University EDI meeting Committee a discussion were was had about making the University more inclusive by making amendments to the curriculum. More work scheduled to happen in the next Discussions will be picked up at the next University EDI Committee meeting.

NR-Life Skills - NR updated that she has made contact with Susan & David in Firstpoint who deal with financial support. They've supplied NR with loads of resources which will go into a student friendly guide which will be released in February and will cover many of the skills students requested support for in the NR's as a result of the Life Skill survey launched before Christmas.

Action Jan.04: NR continue to build a portfolio of LifeSkills Workshops for students.

Consent Campaign – NR & Charlotte, [her counterpart at Gloucestershire SU](#), are using #NeverOkay for the Varsity campaign where they want to 'Call it out', 'Stomp it out', 'Keep it out' ~~are the rules for the Varsity campaign~~.

Lecture Recording – [RM updated that the](#) Digital Learning Steering Group met last week; Academics have expressed concern around additional workloads with reference to video recording captioning and sensitive content sessions. Automated captioning only works so well, so there is concern for where the extra time goes into editing the captioning. RM wants to reach out to Disability Network and see if they'd be interested in taking part in focus groups/interviews to present to a University executive meeting to show that students value lecture recording.

Timetabling – [RM informed the committee that he is](#) currently analysing survey results, picking out key themes from the results, a report will be built off the qualitative answers opposed to the quantitative.

The University have a timetabling working group, which RM has spoken to AJ about. Looking into getting VPE role/SU representative onto the group, although the premise of the meeting is planning timetabling opposed to student issues.

Peirson Renovation – [RM updated the Committee on the work he is doing with the University regarding the renovation of the student learning spaces in Peirson](#). Refurb being led by WeAreBeard, they are currently working on designs to go on the wall. Mood boards are being created. Officers to create a student working group to consult students on the redesign.

Action Jan.05: RM to consult NR/LL about choosing a working group to help the University redesign Peirson.

8.0 Additional Campaign Updates

No additional campaign updates [were received](#).

9.0 NUS Liberation Review

SW [introduced the item and gave an overview of NUS' plans for Liberation reform and that she felt this needed to be something Exec ensured Worcester students could feed in to](#), ~~felt that this needed to be a topic of conversation~~.

[THB updated the group that plans are already in place to consult students and that the review](#) ~~The liberation review~~ is going to [make up the majority of](#) ~~be a significant agenda item at~~ the next Welfare & Inclusion ~~C~~council and Student Council. The outcomes of the discussions from W&IC will lead into conversations at Student Council.

The SU are going THB will to simplify the NUS reform document to make it more student facing and easier to understand and present it to them in the two meetings. It was agreed that it is it's important that they Councillors understand the reasoning behind the reform.

10.0 New Vision for Education Campaign/Student Strike

The committee discussed the implications that could be caused as a result of NUS'S planned a student strike, it was decided that the conversation would be raised at sStudent Ccouncil to understand their stance on the New Vision for Education campaign.

It was noted that NUS Sstudent Sstrike will be taking place during the March progression week, meaning that the majority of courses wouldn't be affected significantly impacted if students took part.

Moving forward:

- The campaign will be proposed to Student cCouncil as the representative body of the union, here the rUnion will canvas the interest of students in the campaign.

NR noted that with regards to previous national campaigns, the SU were a little slow to respond with their stance. It is imperative that students know that they have the support of their union.

Action Jan.06: NR to make a commitment to invite Sarah Speck to the SU.

Action Jan.07: Officers to meet relevant people and make sure they are prepared to make a decision on supporting NUS Student Strike.

Action Jan.08: THB to ensure that New Vision for Education campaign is a topic of conversation at upcoming councils & ASM.

11.0 Non-Disclosure Agreements Pledge

THB introduced the item and explained the background to the work undertaken by NUS. He acknowledged that NUS was still working on guidance for SUs but felt that Executive Committee should discuss how we may want to move forward given that we have a passed policy on the issue on our Policy Book. Due to a delay in guidance, certain aspects of this will need to be parked but THB wished for this to be minuted.

THB reminded the Committee that, last academic year, the officer team passed a policy 'Sexual Violence, NDAs and Student Sex Workers'. The government have launched a pledge and NUS are sharing guidance on how to adopt the pledge. The above WSU policy will require the SU to lobby the Utrniversity to adopt the NDA pledge.

Comments and questions from the Executive included:

- As this is now a [Government](#) initiative, how much resistance do we think there will be from the University?
- [Are we aware if the University have previously ~~done~~ issued any NDAs.](#)

[THB updated that the Union is not aware of any NDAs used but that would be expected as by their nature, no information is disclosed. He suspects they have been used in the past. In terms of resistance, he is aware that the University Executive is looking at the issue and we will need to follow up with Tim Jones.](#)

There was no further questions or comments.

12.0 Current Student Issues

Paramedic Students

RM updated that:

- There has been no major progression with the paramedic students.
- The vacant Paramedic School Rep position has now been filled.
- General feedback from paramedic students that they're feeling supported and that there has been improvements within the course.
- SW was contacted via an external source about a student who is facing issues on paramedic course. SW supplied student with RM and Course leads contact details.

Academic Integrity (AI) & Mitigating Circumstances (MC)

- For the purpose of the minutes, it was noticed that the Advice [S](#)service has seen an increase in both AI & MC, this is something that the SU will keep an eye on.

There was no additional updates.

13.0 Update on Relevant Projects & Discussions the University

Transport (FirstBus)

- LL & THB are meeting with FirstBus with the University to address transport issues that students are facing, with a particular focus on availability of transport post 5pm and bus availability between Worcester & the Hospital.

GoGreen Week

- [THB updated that this is ~~is~~ currently](#) being planned, THB is meeting with KB next week to organise and plan the week.

Chamber of Commerce

- LL & THB attended [a meeting with](#) the Chamber of Commerce ~~meeting, this was a~~ positive meeting [and we have agreed that future collaboration would be of benefit.](#)
- LL will be talking with [CoC](#) charity board.

Commented [THB1]: What is this and what is he talking about I can't remember.

There was no additional updates.

14.0 AOB

[SW raised the issue of the recent Office for Students \(OfS\) announcement on the changes to their regulatory framework which may have a significant impact on the University and the wider sector.](#)

[OfS Consultation](#)

- THB & RM have already contributed to B3 section, through Mari.
- Consultation through Jim Dickinson/WonkHe showed that some UoW courses such as Psychology, Media may fall below OfS benchmarks. Meaning students may not be eligible for student loans for certain courses.
- This could have a significant impact on many universities including Worcester.
- The SU needs to decide whether we're going to take part in the OfS Student Outcomes and Quality Education consultation.
- THB advised officers to read into Jim Dickinson's article, which gives an in-depth understanding in simple terms.

Comments and questions from the Executive included:

- With regards to progress post University/graduate job. What is the time-frame for this benchmark? THB confirmed this will be based on several metrics including longitudinal outcomes data and results of the Student Outcomes Survey.

Action Jan.09: THB & RM to meet with Marie Stowell [around to discuss the SU's contribution how the SU contributes](#) to the consultation.

No additional comments were made.

The meeting was brought to a close.

The next Executive Committee is 17th February 2022.

Actions

Actions	Owner
Action Sep.01: May Exec - VPE to work with and maintain liaison with Caryn Thorogood around a new Fit to Study policy. THB to ask Kate Gynn to go through Fit to Study Policy with RM. RM and SW are meeting Caryn in January to review the drafted policy	RM

Action Oct.01: LL & SW to chase the universities progress on Report & Support initiative. SW spoken to TJ about this who is keen to launch the system despite resourcing concerns.	LL/SW
Action Nov.01: LL/NR to reach out to ACS to do an event in The Hangar (take over event).	LL/NR
Action Nov.02: RM to organise a meeting with Clement about making our student body aware of the cost of your future campaign.	RM
Action Nov.03: LL to get agenda items added to - There needs to be a discussion on the EDI committee around buildings accessible - gender neutral toilets, prayer rooms and breastfeeding locations.	LL
Action Jan.01: THB to inform JM to ensure that pronoun workshops are implemented in September	THB
Action Jan.02: LL to speak to MH/TJ to make sure that breast feeding facilities are promoted to students.	LL
Action Jan.03: THB to submit a design request to promote the community garden and recycling bins down at City Campus	THB
Action Jan.04: NR continue to build a portfolio of LifeSkills Workshops for students	NR
Action Jan.05: RM to consult NR/LL about choosing a working group to help the University redesign Peirson.	RM
Action Jan.06: NR to make a commitment to invite Sarah Speck to the SU	NR
Action Jan.07: Officers to meet relevant people and make sure they are prepared to make a decision on supporting NUS Student Strike.	LL/RM/NR
Action Jan.08: THB to ensure that New Vision for Education campaign is a topic of conversation at upcoming councils & ASM.	THB
Action Jan.09: THB & RM to meet with Marie Stowell to discuss the SU's contribution to the consultation. THB & RM to meet with Marie Stowell around how the SU contributes to the consultation.	THB/RM