

WSU Education Council Minutes

08/02/2024 at 12:30 (EGA 1010)

Members	Staff Invited to Attend
<p>Chair: Al Linforth (<i>Students' Union President</i>)</p> <p>Department Reps: Brad Law (<i>Film, Media & Theatre</i>) (BL) Elliot Atkinson (<i>English, Media & Culture</i>) (EA) Kate Phillips (<i>Art & Design</i>) (KP) Katherine Stone (<i>Paramedic Science</i>) (KS) Harriet Lawrence (<i>Education Enhancement</i>) (HL) Anesse Ameer (<i>Management and Finance</i>) (AA)</p> <p>Apologies: Oliver Nightingale (<i>Occupational Therapy Physiotherapy & Nutritional Therapy</i>) Hannah Harrison (<i>Health & Wellbeing</i>) Caysee Webster-Miles (<i>Law</i>)</p>	<p>Antonia Rossiter-Eaglesfield (<i>Director of Representation and Membership Services - Chair's Aide</i>) (ARE)</p> <p>Meg Lee (<i>Representation and Democracy Assistant -Minuting Secretary</i>) (ML)</p> <p>Kimberly Dawson (<i>Academic & Welfare Advisor Worc SU</i>) (KD)</p>

	Item	Timings	Owner
1.	Welcome & Introductions	10 Minutes	AL
2.	Apologies		AL
3.	Declaration of interest		AL
4.	Minutes of previous meeting		AL
5.	Matters arising		AL
6.	Officer Updates	5 Minutes	AL
7.	TeamWorc Awards	10 Minutes	AL
8.	A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) Workshop	20-30 minutes	HH
9.	General Feedback		All
10.	AOB		All

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introduction

AL welcomed all members to the third Education Council of the year.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Oliver Nightingale, Hannah Harrison, Caysee Webster-Miles.

3. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Due to the council not meeting quoracy there could be no approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. **Action:** ML to ask for email approval of the minutes.

5. Matters Arising

Carried Over Actions	Owner	Update
ACTION 01: SJ to share calendar with Department Reps and ensure his office hours are widely publicised with students.	SJ/AL	Carried for SJ return. AL to make calendar available and advertise their hours.
ACTION 02: AL to email estates/facilities around closed disabled access door at Jenny Lind.	AL	SJ has been told that the door in question can be opened for disabled students, but students fed back that to ask for the door to be opened they would have to enter the building. Al has emailed and waiting for response.
ACTION 03: AL to give VV email of Mature, Parents and Carers Network chair.	AL	No current committee for Network, AL has informed student. Complete
ACTION 04: AL to put VV in contact with Sally Moyle.	AL	Complete
ACTION 05: AL to ask RC about any feedback/response from the last Chartwell meeting.	AL	The meeting in question has now happened, AL will ask RC to share any feedback/response from the meeting. ACTION: AL to ask RC about any feedback/response from the last Chartwell meeting
ACTION 06: AL to raise the issue from the individual student with	AL	Complete

Aspergers (raised with CH) with TJ directly.		
ACTION 07: SJ to meet Simon Hardy alongside AJ to discuss humanities location move and future communication.	SJ/AL	Complete
ACTION 08: SJ to address heads of department stepping down in meeting with Simon Hardy.	SJ/AL	Complete
Actions From This Meeting		
ACTION 09: VP will share more details on the timetabling forum, such as dates and timings, when we have received this information from the university.	VP/AL	AL explained that they hadn't received any dates from the university yet.
ACTION 10: ARE to ensure newly elected Student Councillors are sent future invitations & papers and are updated on Worcester Students' Union website.	ARE	Complete
ACTION 11: AL to continue to raise the issue regarding rail strikes/issues with transport for Nursing placement students with the University.	AL	Complete
ACTION 12: AL to raise that students don't get notification of car park closures to Communications department.	AL	Completed but due to the issue still being ongoing despite completion AL asked to keep this on the actions and will follow up again.

6. Officer Updates

AL started their update by thanking the reps for their patience whilst they have settled into the additional roles and responsibilities in the absence of a VPE.

- Department Rep Bursaries - They have been allocated and students should have received their bursaries for semester 1.
- Voice Conference - AL updated councillors that they were planning to run the rep conference this year. AL is planning to develop the conference to include a wider range of students.
- Met with ARC's - AL updated students on the ARC catch up that took place between the SU and the ARCs.

- AROG - AL updated councillors on the most recent AROG and how there are plans to streamline processes to make things more effective.
- Rep Forums - AL explained that there is going to be an adaptation made to the rep forums and that we are currently arranging to have rep forums by school including department reps, course reps and ARCS (where available).
- Updated handbooks for Reps and ARCS - AL explained they are planning to update handbooks for both student reps and ARCS before they depart from their role.
- Attended new VLE 'Anthology' sessions to ensure students at focus of discussion.
- Academic Board - AL thanked the reps for all their hard work with the feedback they gathered and gave regarding progress week and that they were praised by university staff when the announcement of keeping progress week was made. AL congratulated the reps for all their hard work and for the win.

AL also provided an update about our upcoming leadership elections explaining that nominations were open so you can go and nominate yourself to stand in the elections. The SU team expressed that everyone should look into the leadership elections as everyone would make great officers.

ARE explained that students could book onto 1-2-1 sessions with ARE and ML to learn more about the elections.

7. TeamWorc Awards

AL explained that we are looking to develop some awards and social media recognition to make the TeamWorc Awards more inclusive of all those involved in union activities, including reps and networks. AL asked if anyone had any ideas they wanted to share. There were no suggestions given.

Action: ML to share survey with education councillors via email to collect ideas about the TeamWorc Awards.

8. A.I. Workshop

Helen Hope did a workshop to councillors about using GenAI and how to use it effectively and how to avoid using AI in a way that would class as cheating.

9. General Feedback/ 10. AOB

AA expressed concern about rail strikes potentially affecting upcoming presentations and exams and also stated that he is concerned the train companies won't do a seasonal

ticket anymore which will be an added expense. AA expressed that many of the university's students commute and or have placement and trains can be difficult.

KD stated that rail strikes does not class as mitigating circumstances but recommended submitting one anyway. KD suggested getting them checked by one of the Academic Advisors from the SU. KD stated it is the universities responsibility to work with students when they are affected by Transportation strikes.

AL explained that they now sit on a supporting students with placement working group and how that might help with issues around travel and placements.

HL stated that lecturers in her department are not acknowledging Reasonable Adjustment Plans (RAPs).

KD asked for examples of how they are ignoring them, and HL explained that despite members of the class needed lecture slides in advance due to RAP's they are not getting them. They also can't record the parts of the lectures they need to due to the speed and amount of content being delivered.

AL explained that this is something that needs to be brought to EDI committee. Action: AL to bring lecturers not following RAPs to EDI committee.

EA explained that some of his lecturer's upload the slides to blackboard the morning of the lecture, HL agreed this happens on her course too. BL explained that in journalism they are going to stop uploading them in advance and that they are going to upload them after as students are not attending lecturers.

KD explained that the PowerPoint is there to give foundational knowledge and the lecture is to provide further development and expand on the foundations. KD explained that she will take this to her 'multi-meets' where she meets with different services from the University.

Action: KD to bring issues with RAPs to Multi-meets.

BL explained some issues he is facing in his department. He is only in two days a week. He also explained that they are stopping the digital media course, so lecturers are leaving and in replacement they have an associate lecturer who the students feel is not satisfactory. He is the only lecturer on the module. They have talked to senior lecturers, but they have stated it's not their modules. He is the only lecturer BL has in person and is not receiving good teaching. He has been acting like a friend of the student and wearing clothes that would not be deemed professional in this space. He isn't answering their questions properly. BL has tried to raise this with Paul Hazel, a senior lecturer from the course.

AL suggested raising to Rachel Ammonds and then raising to head of department and then if needed AL can support in raising to head of school.

Returning to a previous point KS expressed that in her department they received the PowerPoints after the lecture.

Elliot received some feedback from Film studies, and he believes it to be concerning. Feedback received included:

- the way that it is taught is backwards.
- Lecturers are misgendering students.
- There is no discussion or engagement in the lecturers, it is just the delivery of content from the lecturer.

A 1st year student has gone to their PAT about some matters is hopefully going to email Elliot an update.

AL suggested speaking to the course lead but there is only one lecturer as it is a small course so AL suggested reaching out to department lead and then if it needs to be escalated AL can support EA in going to the head of school if needed.

KP explained about a module on her course which is a Fine art and Psychology module that was going very well but has become very heavy with psychology which some students who are only on the Fine Arts degree not joint honours are finding very difficult. Kate wanted to know if students have a voice with influencing the content of a module.

AL suggested that at the end of the module they fill in the end of module feedback survey and have a conversation with the module lead after gathering some feedback from fellow members of the module. AL offered to go and talk to the member of staff on their behalf if needed.

KD suggested looking into handbooks, module guides and learning objectives of the modules and identify if you are getting out of the module what you have been promised.

KP expressed that some students may be looking to place blame after not achieving the grades they might have liked, and KD reiterated her point that they should look to see if they have had delivered what they were promised.

AA asked if there was an update of information about the Jenny Lind prayer room.

AL explained that it is an item on their agenda with Tim Jones next time they meet as they think they might have found a space.

EA explained that when he met with Simon Hardy they found a room that would be appropriate and this was explained to AL who will discuss with TJ in their meeting.

AA asked when Varsity is as he might want to volunteer to help. AL stated the dates of varsity: 18th -20th March.

HL stated she has had some frustrations with timetabling and that her timetable requires she switches between campuses several times in a day with AA agreeing that it isn't very good that students must do this.

AL explained that the university is doing a big piece of work to reduce the number of days students are in and looking at their timetabling and after conversations in council AL will follow up whether this piece of work will look into Postgraduate courses and particularly joint honours students like HL is.

Student Voice Conference

AL explained that they were hoping to do the REP Conference again this year but re-naming it and expanding the conference to engage more of our student body. AL explained that the date we have chosen is April 26th and we would be in touch with more information nearer the time.

Student Choice awards

ARE explained that nominations for the student choice awards had opened for this year and explained that it is a chance for students to recommend members of staff from the university who they think are amazing and deserve to be recognised.

ARE stated the categories for this year's awards:

- Outstanding Lecturer Award (add section to recognise module excellence)
- The Extra Mile Award for Support Staff (Non-Teaching)
- Award for Exceptional Personal Academic Tutor (PAT)
- Sustainability Award - Individual or Departmental Achievement
- Academic Rep Coordinator (ARC) of the year
- Provost award

One student asked what category the Disability Advisors fit into. The SU team confirmed they fall under the extra mile for support staff category.

Action: ML to circulate nomination form to Course reps and department reps.

A student asked when student council is, and AL confirmed the date of student council is Thursday 22nd February in EGAG011 17:15-19:15.

Before concluding the meeting AL explained that the location of the next meeting is subject to change, but that ML would be in touch with the updated room.

Meeting ended.

Actions

Action 01: ML to ask for email approval of the minutes.

Action 02: ML to share survey with education councillors via email for collect ideas about the TeamWorc Awards.

Action 03: KD to bring issues with RAPs to Multi-meets.

Action 04: ML to circulate nomination form to Course reps and department reps.
