Student Council Agenda

# Tuesday 26th March, 17:15-19:15, PNG009

**Agenda**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Welcome and introductions |
|  | Apologies |
|  | Declarations of interest |
|  | Minutes of previous meeting |
|  | Matters arising |
| Approval Items | |
|  | Approval of Clubs and Societies   * British Sign Language (BSL) Society * Indian Society * Cycling Club * The Arts Collective |
|  | Motions   * 2018-19\_009 Domestic Air Travel |
| Discussion Items | |
| 8. | NUS Constitution |
| 9. | NUS Elections |
| 10. | Date of next Student Council |
| Reporting Items | |
| 11. | Update from Executive Committee |
| 12. | Update from the Board of Trustees |
| 13. | Update from AROG |
| 14. | Update from Education Council |
| 15. | Update on Leadership Elections |
| 16. | Officers’ reports – questions/comments |
| Any other Business | |
| 17. | Any other business |
| 18. | Date of next meeting: to be confirmed |

**Attendance**

**Councillors present:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chair | Katie Watts | KW |
| President | Lucy Conn | LC |
| Vice President Education | Euan Morrison | EM |
| Vice President Student Activities | Harrison Jarrett | HJ |
| International Students’ Officer | Yanzhe Li | YL |
| SU Society Representative (academic) | Georgie Cooper | GC |
| SU Society Representative (general interest) | Ellie Siviter | ES |
| LGBTQ+ Officer | James Gould | JG |
| Student Disability Officer | Kaya Tveito-Duncan | KTD |
| Sustainability Officer | Shannon Bolton | SB |
| Women’s Officer | Alia Moorhouse | AM |
| School of Education Rep | Kelly Chamberlain | KC |
| University of Worcester Business School Rep | Gianina Ratiu | GR |

**Also in attendance:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Student Engagement Manager | Tim Hewes-Belton | THB |
| Student Voice Assistant (minute-taking) | Jodie Stilgoe | JS |

**Apologies Received:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Students’ Union Chief Executive | Sophie Williams | SW |
| SU Sports Representative (non-BUCs Sports) | Olivia Clifford | OC |
| School of Sport and Exercise Science Rep | Harry Lonsdale | HL |
| Postgraduate Rep | Alex Gardener | AG |
| School of Nursing and Midwifery Rep | Valerie Deeley | VD |

**Not Present:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SU Sports Rep (BUCS Sports) | Chloe-May Barton | CMB |
| School of the Arts Rep | Emmy Khan | EK |
|  |  |  |

**Minutes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | **Welcome** |
|  | KW welcomed everyone to March’s Student Council meeting. |
| 2. | **Apologies** |
|  | Apologies were received from SW, Chief Executive, OC, SU Sports Representative (non-BUCs Sports), HL, School of Sport and Exercise Science Rep, AG, Postgraduate Rep, and VD, School of Nursing and Midwifery Rep. |
| 3. | **Declarations of interest** |
|  | KW asked those present if there were any declarations of interest for any agenda items. SB declared that she is the policy proposer for 2018-19\_009 and would therefore abstain from voting on this motion. EM declared that he is the policy seconder for 2018-19\_009 and would therefore abstain from voting on this motion. |
| 4. | **Minutes of previous meeting** |
|  | Vote to approve the minutes of the previous meeting:  For: 10  Against: 0  Abstain: 0  **The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.** |
| 5. | **Matters arising** |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Action 01. JS to circulate the COP with Councillors once this document is formally approved and published** | The COP has not yet been published and so this action will roll to next Student Council.  **Action 01. JS to circulate the Code of Practice with Councillors once this document is formally approved and published** | | **Action 02. Councillors to let SB know about their knowledge around Palm Oil and to ask any questions about Palm Oil if they have any** | SB received one email from a councillor about Palm Oil. She will use this information, along with comments gained from other students, to feed into an infographic about Palm Oil. | |
| Approval Items | |
| 6. | **Approval of Clubs and Societies** |
|  | *GC entered and so there were now 11 councillors voting.*  6.1 British Sign Language (BSL) Society  HJ read out the BSL Society’s aims as stated on their application. The BSL Society will offer UoW students the chance to learn sign language. They will provide qualifications in sign language, expand ways of communicating with others, work with the community and University to raise awareness, bring together people with similar interests, and include everyone. They would affiliate with Deaf Direct, Wayne Barrow Academy, and potentially other organisations.  Vote to approve the British Sign Language Society  For: 11  Against: 0  Abstain: 0  **Council approved the British Sign Language Society**  *KTD entered and so there were now 12 councillors voting.*  6.2 Indian Society  HJ read out the Indian Society’s aims as stated on their application. As part of the international culture of University life, this society will play a vital role in cultural diversity. The Indian Society will introduce various famous Indian cultural events including workshops, music, dance, art, etc. and any student can take part according to their interests. The Society will also help the Indian students with academic guidance and any problems they come across when becoming accustomed to the western culture.  HJ highlighted the membership fee, which is £25.00, and he is not sure why the fee is so high.  **Action 02. HJ to find out why the Indian Society’s membership fee is £25.00**  Vote to approve the Indian Society  For: 12  Against: 0  Abstain: 0  **Council approved the Indian Society**  6.3 Cycling Club  HJ read out the Cycling Club’s aims as stated on their application. The aim of this Club is to provide a fun and social cycling group that will welcome people of all abilities to join in with rides around Worcestershire. Initially, they will focus on road cycling but they would like to expand into mountain biking as and when appropriate. They would like to affiliate with British Cycling as this would provide the club and its members with additional benefits e.g. enter sporting events as a team.  HJ informed Councillors that all members of this Club would have to wear helmets. All Clubs and Societies reset membership fees over the Summer depending on interest and expected uptake, and so the Club have not yet clarified a set membership fee.  **Action 03. HJ to clarify set membership fee for the Cycling Club**  Vote to approve the Cycling Club  For: 12  Against: 0  Abstain: 0  **Council approved the Cycling Club**  6.4 The Arts Collective  Council did not receive an official application and so members would only be able to approve of this Society in principle. Once an official application has been submitted, this will be circulated with all Councillors.  The Arts Collective would provide students with a creative and inclusive space outside of lecture theatres and away from the pressures of getting a good grade. As a faculty, the connections between each Arts-based subject has not been fully nourished yet. As Creative students, they believe that this Society would be beneficial to help make those connections stronger. As a Collective, they would be able to facilitate Arts events in and around University.  The Society aims to improve artistic opportunities external to the University to help the creative culture in Worcester, to provide support and a place to be creative and help the facilitation of personal projects, to provide a social network or agency to join parties, and to create more discussions around all artist subjects.  Councillors asked whether this Society would infringe on other Art-based Societies e.g. Ink! Society. HJ said that it might but the Arts Collective would enable Ink! Members to continue their art-based activities on a larger scale. Therefore, it would be his hope that Ink! Members joined the Arts Collective.  Vote to approve The Arts Collective in principle  For: 12  Against: 0  Abstain: 0  **Council approved The Arts Collective in principle** |
| 7. | **Motions** |
|  | **2018-19\_009 Domestic Air Travel**  SB explained that this policy motion is to reduce domestic air travel within Great Britain for Students’ Union business e.g. conferences, if the journey is under 400 miles. The reason for this is that, although planes reduce journey times and are often more convenient that other modes of transport, it is heavily polluting the environment. Air travel creates at least 6% of the UK’s total carbon dioxide emissions. For travelling in Great Britain, domestic air travel is not deemed necessary when alternative, less polluting options such as high-speed trains are available.  Councillors asked for clarification on what the term “Great Britain” meant. EM clarified that Great Britain means mainland UK (Scotland, England and Wales).  Councillors asked how the motion would affect the Students’ Union if it were to be put into practice. EM explained that while it does not happen often because most conferences are near, the SU did travel to Glasgow via plane last year for NUS’s National Conference. This year NUS’s National Conference is taking place in Glasgow again but the SU are attending via train. The motion bans all air travel to mainland UK (Great Britain) under 400 miles. Sports and Societies would also be banned from flying internally for any fixtures in Great Britain.  Vote to approve 2018-19\_009 Domestic Air Travel  For: 8  Against: 2  Abstain: 2  **Council approved 2018-19\_009 Domestic Air Travel** |
| **Discussion Items** | |
| 8. | **NUS Constitution** |
|  | Councillors were sent an electronic copy of NUS’s Constitution before the meeting. THB explained that on 9th April, three delegates from WSU (LC, EM, GR) would be attending this year’s National Conference. The Conference looks at policy, procedures, elects the Officer Leaders for the following academic year, and holds its AGM where accounts etc. are approved. There will be a vote on reforming NUS completely this year. THB made Councillors aware that Student Council has the ability to mandate delegates to vote in a certain way if they wish.  Due to the £3M deficit, NUS will need to make significant cuts. This will inevitably have implications on the number of Officers that NUS has. Seven Officers appears in a lot of guidance documents circulated.  EM (who is an NUS Delegate and will be attending Conference in April) explained that NUS has to make cuts. It is important that students and Students’ Unions have a strong national union so that they can have a strong national voice at government level meetings. The reform offers more support for Officers, which means NUS will have representation that is more effective. Therefore, whilst Full Time Officers will be doing less, they will be doing it better. EM hopes that this reform will lead to an increase in awareness of NUS amongst the national student body. Students have been sold the dream that NUS can represent everybody at everything but in reality, this is just not true and they just do not have the budget to keep trying any more. NUS have been trying to do too much and it has led to events and activities not being organised very well.  LC explained that the Liberation Conference would happen with individual zones (Disability, LGBTQ+, Women, BAME, etc.). All zones would happen in the same time at the same location. Whilst LC admits that she is not overly happy with not having individual Liberation Officers within NUS and individual separate liberation Conferences, she would rather have NUS as an organisation than not. Additionally, the Liberation Conference event would mean that liberation representation and activities would still happen. LC also talked about the joint manifesto that was mentioned in the reform, which would enable core Officers to work together on key aims throughout the year.  AM asked if there would still be a generalised liberation officer as part of the core officer team. THB noted that in the constitutional documents, NUS consistently refer to a VP Liberation so NUS are probably aiming to incorporate a VP Liberation into the new Officer structure. NUS have stated however that every time they add an Officer it costs them £68,000 for the year in terms of salary, office space, and resources.  Council discussed the possible implementation of 2-year officer roles. This would enable the elected officer to achieve more and carry out more. There was, however, concern that students may not be able to run for a particular role because in the year they want to apply there might be someone starting their second year in that role, and then it would be too late to apply the following year, as they are no longer a student. EM counter argued this point by explaining that people who run for NUS office are often planning it for a long time in advance and often get involved in the national student movement quite early on. Giving officers the opportunity to both plan and develop a manifesto idea over two years is better than them not being able to carry out tasks fully in one year.  Council was asked whether they wanted to mandate their delegates to vote in a certain way on the constitution.  Mandate: 0  Not to mandate: 9  Abstain: 3  **Council decided not to mandate NUS delegates to vote in a particular way on the NUS reform and constitution** |
| 9. | **NUS Elections** |
|  | EM talked through all candidates for all different roles. Councillors were all sent the link to see each candidate and their manifesto a week prior to the meeting.  **Action 04. Councillors to all send emails to LC, lead delegate, with their comments and thoughts about NUS candidates.** |
| 10. | **Date of next Student Council** |
|  | THB noted that there is only one more Student Council for this academic year. Included in this meeting will be changes in the governance review report and there will be a few motions submitted following Change Week feedback. The current Student Council is scheduled for 16 May however; councillors noted that because this is during exam week this is not a suitable time. Councillors suggested Monday 20 May instead and to start the meeting earlier in the day.  **Action 05. JS to circulate a doodle poll to all Councillors and decide which date and time is best for the final Student Council of the year.** |
| **Reporting Items** | |
| 11. | **Update from Executive Committee** |
|  | There has not been a meeting since the last Student Council |
| 12. | **Update from Board of Trustees** |
|  | Members discussed the SU’s block grant, depreciation, and approved financial accounts for records. The 2018-19\_006 was also discussed (due to the implications of additional expenses for the Bar) and the Trustees were in support of this motion. |
| 13. | **AROG** |
|  | There has not been a meeting since the last Student Council |
| 14. | **Update from Education Council** |
|  | There has not been a meeting since the last Student Council |
| 15. | **Update on Leadership Elections** |
|  | THB gave Councillors a presentation highlighting demographic voter statistics and showed a graph of popular voting time statistics over the four days. This year’s Leadership Elections received 1862 voters, which is a record-breaking voter tally at the SU. Harry Lonsdale was elected as President, Meg Price was elected as Vice President Education, and Mike Harris was elected as Vice President Student Activities. |
| 16. | **Officers’ reports – questions/comments** |
|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Officer** | **Highlights** | **Comments/Questions** | | **LC** | Launch of the #PositiveWorc mental health survey. LC asked Councillors to continue promoting this survey. She also drew attention to the Wildlife event happening in The Hangar next week.  **Action 06. Councillors to give LC feedback and comments on printing and REACH** | No comments or questions | | **HJ** | Varsity begins on Tuesday evening (2nd April) | No comments or questions | | **EM** | Reminded councillors to nominate in the Student Choice Awards | No comments or questions | | **SB** | SB has not received designs for paper and fruit and veg campaigns and has chased SU marketing but not heard back.  SB is also putting together a factsheet on Palm Oil  She is also encouraging students to use double-sided printing, as the price for this is cheaper than printing two single sides. |  | | **JG** | JG attended NUS’s LGBT+ Conference in Sheffield and raised the following information with councillors:   * There are concerns of liberation groups being pushed out of the conversation concerning NUS turn around * Unions are in doubt as to whether they should remain affiliated with NUS (JG made it clear that there is an option that Unions can leave and then return if satisfactory change has been made) * The following motions passed: decolonisation (reducing money invested in oil and arms in other countries and campaigning for reparations), queer spaces (advocating for a safer nightlife and spaces for LGBTQ+ people, including drug testing kits), TERF (critique of trans exclusionary radical feminists, advocate for political education within universities), solidarity for Brazil (speaking against fascism and extreme violence to LGBTQ+ people), active union zone (working with intersex communities with guidance to support intersex people), LGBT+ housing only (very well debated over issues with segregation and protection, works well in Sheffield accommodation and is an opt-in process), trans healthcare (resources to help provide and support trans healthcare). * JG noted improvements that Worcester could make: students to be provided with direct information as to how universities of Worcester’s scale can get involved in national campaigns, and the process of submitting a motion to these conferences is not particularly explained or encouraged. Worcester SU should become more involved in this process   JG also mentioned that he is looking into putting a policy motion forward at the next Student Council to set events around both Student Pride and Worcester Pride. | Councillors were interested in the idea of grouping LGBTQ+ and other liberation groups in accommodation | | **KTD** | Attended an event which had specialist technology and was very useful but unfortunately not many students knew about it | LC explained that there were separate activities at separate locations going on throughout the day for this event e.g. an Arena Panel debate that LC was part of which was well-attended | | **YL** | He is organising an Easter break event with the International Team in the Hangar for students who are staying in Worcester over Easter | No comments or questions | | **AM** | AM received artwork for her body positivity campaign and this will be uploaded on social media and the SU website. She is thinking about doing a poster campaign to display the results from this campaign.  **Action 08. Councillors to give AM feedback for other methods of how to display her body positivity results (other than poster).** | No comments or questions received | |
| Any other Business | |
| 17. | **Any other business** |
|  | No further items were discussed. Meeting adjourned 19:30 |
| 18. | **Date of next meeting: to be confirmed** |

**Actions**

**Action 01. JS to circulate the Code of Practice with Councillors once this document is formally approved and published**

**Action 02. HJ to find out why the Indian Society’s membership fee is £25.00**

**Action 03. HJ to clarify set membership fee for the Cycling Club**

**Action 04. Councillors to send email to LC, lead NUS delegate, with their comments and thoughts about NUS candidates**

**Action 05. JS to circulate a doodle poll to all Councillors and decide which date and time is best for the final Student Council of the year**

**Action 06. Councillors to give LC feedback and comments on printing and REACH**

**Action 07. JS to chase SU marketing for paper, fruit and veg design requests submitted on SB’s behalf**

**Action 08. Councillors to give AM feedback for other methods of how to display her body positivity results (other than poster)**