

WSU Student Activities Council

Thursday 10/10/2024 at 15:30 (CC004)

Attendance

Staff in attendance: Jack Lambert (JL), Sophie Smith (SS), Barney Blake (BB), and Hannah Heskin (HH).

Sports Clubs in attendance: Cheerleading, Men's Rugby, Women's Cricket

Sports Clubs not in attendance: Athletics, Men's Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball, Women's Rugby

Sports Clubs sending apologies: Aerial Fitness, American Football, Archery, Badminton, Baseball & Softball, Boxing, Climbing and Mountaineering, Dance, Equestrian, Fencing, Handball, Men's Cricket, Men's Football, Men's Futsal, Men's Hockey, Netball, Paddlesport & Surf, Social Sports, Swimming, Tennis, Trampolining, Wheelchair Basketball, Women's Basketball, Women's Football, Women's Futsal, Women's Hockey, and Yoga.

Societies in attendance: Allotment & Gardening, Book Club, Business, Gaming, LOCO Show Co, and Uni Boob Team.

Societies not in attendance: British Sign Language, Law, Nigerian, and PENSA.

Societies sending apologies: Christian Union, Creative Writing, Debate, Dungeons and Dragons, Education Enhancement, MedSoc, Midwifery, Music, Oriental, Paramedics, Physician Associate, Physiotherapy, Poetry Society, Spotlight, SSAGO, Surgical Society, and The RAG Team.

Quoracy: 9/18 Student Groups who did not send apologies (50.0%) - quoracy reached.

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

- JL welcomed all members to the first Student Activities Council of 2024-25 and introduced the agenda.
- JL & SS introduced where Student Activities Council sits within the Students' Union governance structure, the purpose of the Council, and the policy proposal process.
- Attendance and apologies are listed above.

Approval Items

2. Approval of Terms of Reference

- Student Activities Council Terms of Reference were unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Student Activities Committee Meeting minutes from 11th April 2024 were unanimously approved.

4. Actions from Previous Meeting

- No actions raised in previous meeting.

Reporting Item

5. Student Activities Council Reps

- SS explained the need to elect reps, the different groupings & categories, and advised that an application had been received for General Interest Societies Rep.
- JL discussed the open positions with no prior applications, promoting Student Council, the remit and influence/employability aspects of taking up the role.
 - Application heard from Carolina Furtado (Gaming Chair)
 - Carolina Furtado unanimously voted in as General Interest Societies Rep by secret ballot.
 - No further applications heard from the floor.

Discussion Items

6. Ice Breaker Discussion

- JL facilitated an ice breaker discussion – “does a straw have one hole or two?”

7. Welcome Festival - Highlights & Feedback

- JL facilitated a discussion about Welcome Festival, gathering written feedback via flipchart paper.
 - Atmosphere on Campuses / Decorations
 - Loved the ‘Welcome Festival this way’ circles on the ground around campuses.
 - Felt friendly & inviting! Signs were helpful for new students.
 - Amazing vibe.
 - Welcome Fair
 - Way better than last year (being in the Arena and also the atmosphere in general).
 - Activities were a good idea for Freshers to meet everyone & get involved.

- Good way to find Societies.
- Hard to get potential members to come to Scribble Social as they only briefly met us on the same day.
- Better in the Arena.
- QR codes helped with Interest Lists.
- Good freebies.
- Could do with putting similar Societies together.
- Really great way to see the Soc & Club lineup for the year. Music was a bit too loud, and the amount of people was overwhelming (too many), so the quiet hour could make a comeback for those who find the event triggering.
- Could start later in the day.
- The Fair was amazing. I wish I had more time to interact with every student!
- Really helped having the QR codes.
- Give it a Go Period
 - Can this be extended one more week to close the gap between fees payment > financial dep > SU info > possibility to buy membership? (Example: this year, GIAG Period ends on 4th Oct, but some students can only buy on 14th Oct payment.
 - Gaming: amazing 1st GIAG!
 - Helped gain interest within club. Could it be extended, as so much goes on in the first two weeks of university?
 - Last longer.
 - Could potential members have the option to attend a social/event (sober social) after the Give it a Go session and then have to purchase the membership instead of having to buy one straight after Give it a Go?
 - Could it last longer? Or could people be given 'GIAG passes', so if they can't attend GIAG's, they could still attend a couple of sessions for free? Also, longer period is needed for the January GIAG sessions. Other than that, really good to get people to try new things & meet people!
 - More publicity that it's going on, because we didn't know it was GIAG.
- Daytime Events (Big Bounce, Pick n Mix, Crafternoon)
 - Amazing!
 - Big Bounce could have had more things (trampoline, etc)
 - Could've been more information what Pick n Mix actually is, not only for students, but also for committees.
 - Crafternoon went down really well doing something really interactive with potential members and raising awareness for a good cause.

- Crafternoon was really fun and should be on every year! Really easy for committees to put on but also an easy & non-pressuring way for students to get involved a bit with Socs & Clubs and be social with others as well.
- Crafternoon could be open to Sports too as well as Societies.
- Enjoyable for commuting students, but more info needed.

- SU / The Hangar Evening Events
 - As a commuter, I cannot attend. Brunch events would be awesome, even "party brunches" are amazing.
 - Sometimes clashed with other nights, such as Sin.
 - Offers within the SU at night-time are good. The Hangar Loyalty Cards - can we try to get these onto Apple Pay?
 - Separate prizes minigames and bingo.
 - Fun!

- Tramps Lineup
 - Bring back Foam Party in Freshers' Week.
 - It was fab! Love Freshers' Week, so fun 😊
 - Type of music is not inclusive of international students. Suggestion: some events focusing on genres like hip hop / rap / metal / rock and other events focused on Portuguese, Spanish, Indian, and any other nationalities, or one event with a good DJ that knows how to mix music from different countries in different languages. Have bands as well.
 - Emo Night and Pop Party may have been more successful on Friday/Saturday rather Thursday.
 - Cheaper drinks 😞

8. Movember - Plans & Ideas

- JL promoted Sports Clubs & Societies making plans for Movember, directed groups to the Event Request Form
 - CF (Gaming) - Gaming Society wants to do something, likely to publish some social media promo, will discuss with JL.

Reporting Items

9. TeamWorc Points

- JL reminded of the TeamWorc Points accreditation scheme and associated Gold, Silver & Bronze targets.
- SS advised of the various TeamWorc Points criteria and how groups can earn points.
- JL shared the current TeamWorc Points leaderboards.
 - Societies led by Spotlight Theatre (30 points).
 - Sports Clubs led by Cheerleading (50 points).

10. Club & Society of the Month

- JL shared the nominations and winners of Club & Society of the Month for September 2024.
 - Society of the Month nominees: Creative Writing, Spotlight Theatre & Gaming
 - Club of the Month nominees: Cheerleading & Volleyball
 - Winners to be announced on @worcsu social media (W/C 14th Oct)

11. Officer Updates

- JL shared updates on his VPSA objectives & recent activity:
 - Hosted a Speed Friending event during Welcome Festival.
 - Worked with the Students' Union and the University to plan & deliver Welcome Festival events.
 - Attended BUCS Advisory Group as one of the national BUCS Student Officers.
 - Attended the University's Board of Governors meeting
 - Appointed as the University of Worcester Movember Rep
 - Met with the University's Senior Management Team regularly to discuss student problems.

12. SU Activities Updates

- SS advised about the Club & Society Grant Applications process to be held later in Semester 1.
- SS reminded attendees about the kit supplier agreement with Kukri, advising about the Students' Union stock shop, and the bespoke clothing order process.
- JL & SS delivered save the date information about Club & Society Photo Day with TakeThatPhoto, being held on Monday 9th December, 09:00-15:00 at St John's Campus Sports Centre.
- JL delivered a RAG Update
 - Student Groups have currently raised £786.72 for charity!
 - Midwifery Society held a raffle and bake sale at their induction.
 - Upcoming fundraisers:
 - Women's Cricket Charity Walk for Breast Cancer Now.
 - Dance 12-hour dance-a-thon on Friday 11th October in The Hangar, 12 noon to 12 midnight.
 - Aerial Fitness Halloween Ball on Friday 25th October.
- JL provided a reminder on TeamWorc Action for attendees to log their volunteering hours via the V-Record system.
- SS provided a reminder about Student Group By-Elections, with the deadline of Wednesday 16th October to confirm vacancies.

Any Other Business

13. AOB

- None raised from the floor.
- SS provided a reminder of the Member Survey, available for any Student Group members to provide feedback to the Students' Union about their experiences at their Sports Club or Societies.
- SS advised that this was HH's last Student Activities Council meeting, due to soon leave her role at the Students' Union.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 28th November 2024 - 15:30 - CC004

JL thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.

UNAPPROVED
