

Student Council Meeting Minutes

5pm 3rd May 2018, TS 103

1. Welcome to Student Council

Meeting opened by (LC).

Quorum was not met until halfway through the meeting so no votes were taken until then.

1.1. Attendance

1.1.1. Sabbatical Officers

(LC) Lewis Cleminson	VP Education	Non-Voting
(NF) Naomi Fry	VP Employability and Engagement	Non-Voting
(HH) Hanna Head	VP Welfare and Community	Non-Voting

1.1.2. Student Officers

(RN) Richard Neale	Postgraduate Students' Officer	Voting
(LA) Lotty Astbury	WMA Liaison Officer	Voting
(IM) Izzy Mana	BME Students' Officer	Voting
(MT) Mollie Tuck	Disabilities Students' Officer	Voting
(SGR) Sebastian Graves-Read	LGBT+ Students' Officer (Acting Chair)	Voting

1.1.3. Students' Union Staff

(JS) Joshua Smith	Student Voice Coordinator (Secretary)	Non-Voting
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1.2. Absent

(BC) Bethanie Clarke	Women's Officer	Voting
(LMN) Lulu McNally	Societies Council Chair	Voting
(DD) Daniela De Palma	Sonar Media Representative	Voting
(RL) Rebecca Latchman	Mental Health Campaigns Officer	Voting
(KL) Katharina Laube	EU & International Students' Officer	Voting

2. Ratifications

2.1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (27.02.2018) were handed round and run through on the screen for ratification. The following amendments were made:

- 2.2 typo corrected.
- 3.1 lapsed policy but were not quorate so couldn't.

Ratification of the previous minutes unanimously approved

It was also noted that on the agenda Sonar Media Representative was incorrectly marked as vacant.

3. Policy Developments

3.1. Policy Register Updates

There were two lapsing policies.

3.1.1. The Union to improve exposure for all of Sonar Media, after the rebrand.

The policy lapsed.

3.1.2. Creating an official Bye-law that any society funding request over £300 has to go to Student Council, or be approved by a majority Sabbatical vote.

(NF) asked if it could be amended.

(HH) clarified the policy would have to remain the same.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY RENEWED

4. Student Motions

4.1. Solent University Name Change

Proposer: Lewis Cleminson

Secunder: Naomi Fry

The University have recently received confirmation from the Privy Council that their application to change their name from "Southampton Solent University" to "Solent University" has been approved. In light of this, this motion aims to replace all mentions of "Southampton Solent University" from the Bye-laws and replace it with "Solent University".

Remove "Southampton" from 1.1.1.a

Remove "Southampton" from 1.3.1.a

Remove "Southampton" from 1.5.a

Remove "Southampton" from 14.4.1.a

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

4.2. NUS Ex-Officio Place

Proposer: Lewis Cleminson

Secunder: Naomi Fry

NUS UK Articles and Rules state that

"328 The governing document of a Constituent Member will be entitled to provide that one of its office bearers be an ex-officio delegate to the National Conference. Such persons will be granted the same status as delegates elected by Cross Campus Ballot, but always providing that such an office bearer will not be accorded the same status as a delegate if any other members of that Constituent Member's delegation have been refused delegate's status by having failed to fulfil any of the above provisions."

At present our governing documents make no reference to assigning an ex-officio delegate to the NUS national conference. All available delegate positions should therefore be elected by cross campus ballot and made clear within our bye-laws.

Add to byelaw 6.13 "with all Union NUS delegate positions being elected by a cross campus ballot"

(SGR) asked how the lead delegate would be selected.

(LC) explained it would not be an issue as the lead delegate had no additional responsibilities and you cannot guarantee that whoever would have it been had NUS Conference experience.

(HH) added that all of this would feed into the democratic review.

VOTES TO APPROVE: 4

VOTES AGAINST: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 1

MOTION APPROVED

4.3. Add New Byelaw 16 – Conflicts of Interest

Proposer: Lewis Cleminson

Secunder: Naomi Fry

For full policy, see appendix 1.

This has been discussed by Trustees to be added to the Byelaws.

2. To add Conflicts of Interest into Byelaws as Byelaw 16
3. To renumber the current Byelaw 16 and 17 to 17 and 18 respectively

(LA) asked for clarification of what a trustee was.

(HH) explained they sit on the governing board of the Students' Union to ensure it is legal and compliant with or rules and regulations. There are three types of trustees:

- Elected by students – Sabbatical Officers
- Appointed students – Student Trustees
- Appointed external specialists – External Trustees

(MT) asked what happens if an individual does not state a conflict they have.

(SGR) clarified that they would be disqualified.

(HH) added that everything is covered in the trustee handbook.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

4.4. Deputy President

Proposer: Lewis Cleminson

Secunder: Naomi Fry

Trustees have made the decision to add a deputy president into the role description of sabbatical officers.

Add Byelaw 7.4.2 “The Sabbatical Officers shall also be given the responsibility of Deputy President, as laid out in the relevant role description”

(HH) explained that this was the outcome of what Officer Committee suggested be done after the SU President resigned and proposed to ensure policy covered what should be done if it happens again.

(LC) added that the Deputy President could take over and cover for the President if they were to go away or take a leave of absence.

(HH) requested it be clarified to clearly state one Sabbatical Officer would be selected.

Motion amended to: Add Byelaw 7.4.2 “One of the Sabbatical Officers shall also be given the responsibility of Deputy President, as laid out in the relevant role description, to be co-opted by the sabbatical team.”

(LA) suggested it would be better for the student body to decide.

(SGR) suggested that it would be better for the Sabbatical Officers to decide as a group.

(HH) added that the general responsibilities of a Sabbatical Officer would be shared and that they were not sure how an election for Deputy President would be managed as it would need to be completed by July.

(HH) stated that it was important that the Deputy President appointment was not a staff decision.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED WITH AMENDMANT

4.5. Transgender + Officer

Proposer: Sebastian Graves-Read

Secunder: Hanna Head

This motion is for the purpose of creating a more inclusive position, at the moment the transgender officer position only covers people who identify as transgender, this will expand the role to include the variations of gender identities such as non-binary people.

This will benefit members by creating an inclusive environment for all members who identify with a different gender and do not identify as trans.

Motion Resolves:

1. Update byelaw 4.1.m to "Trans+ Student Officer"
2. Update Byelaw 8.3.j to "Trans+ Student Officer"
3. Update Byelaw 9.1.n to "Trans+ Student Officer"
4. Mandate the Students' Union Leadership Team to rename and update the Trans Student Officer role description and eligibility to run as appropriate before the start of the new academic year.

(NF) requested it be amended to change 'Student' to 'Students'.

(RN) asked why the role wasn't combined with LGBT+ Students' Officer

(HH) explained that there was a difference between sexuality and gender that meant one person in a combined role would struggle to represent both. It was important to ensure that all students were represented and given the right support.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED WITH AMENDMANT

4.6. Better drugs policy on campus

Proposer: Hanna Head

Secunder: Sebastian Graves-Read

There's growing evidence that prohibitive and punitive drug policies don't work. NUS & Release recently published a report 'Taking the hit: Student drug use & how institutions respond' that outlined the damaging effects of university drug policy, while highlighting why students use drugs. 22% of respondents to the survey who used drugs, said they did so to medicate a mental health condition, and of this group it was more likely to be reported by minority groups. Students also said they were less likely to seek support for drug use if their university had a zero tolerance policy on drug use, meaning students are going without support as a result of these policies.

The SU should:

- Create an internal harm reduction focused drug policy for students
- Examine the way that the SU disciplines students and student groups for drug use and move from a zero tolerance approach and feed this into the above SU drug policy
- Lobby the university to move from zero tolerance to a harm reduction approach

- Lobby the university to rethink their disciplinary process in relation to drug use both on campus and in halls
- Actively promote services like The Loop, WEDINOS, and Release through the main social media channels and events
- Work with clubs and bars to encourage harm reduction information at venues
- Encourage the NUS to do more work on this area, specifically on Fitness To Practise and drug use

Students will benefit from being able to access better quality support, that openly talks about drug use rather than ignoring the fact students use drugs.

(LA) suggested that this would be well received by students at the Warsash campus and recommended talking to them as cadets can lose their companies, and by extension their university place for drug use.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

4.7. Overnight Safe Storage for Societies

Proposer: Naomi Fry

Seconder: Lewis Cleminson

At the moment, societies who meet during the evenings are left to sort safe storage of their equipment. The D20 society for example meet on a Monday evening and have to leave their games in a bag in CSI next to the staff kitchen overnight. A SU staff member then returns the games to the locked societies store room on the Tuesday morning. This isn't safe. There are plenty of other societies who rely on committee members taking their equipment home to keep it safe, this isn't fair on them.

The SU should:

- Provide a safe space with lockable areas which all out of hours societies have access too so they can store their equipment securely.
- Make sure the space is only accessible by those who need it and a paperwork trail is made to ensure accountability if things go missing.

Our societies will be able to spend society funds and run activities to their full potential, without fear of theft or having to downsize ideas due to the lack of a secure overnight storage space.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

5. Sabbatical Officer Reports and Questions

5.1. VP Education

(LC) gave a verbal report about what they had been up to:

- STAR Awards planning.
- TEF work.
- Filling in for the SU President role.
- Preparing handover.
- Only 26 work days remaining.

QUESTIONS:

(SGR) congratulated (LC) for a 'seamless' split of the SU President role's tasks between Sabbatical Officers from a student perspective.

(HH) asked if the shortlisted STAR Award nominees would be able to see what students have said about them.

(LC) agreed to take kit to the next working group but explained there were only limited resources available.

5.2. VP Employability and Engagement

(NF) gave a verbal report about what they had been up to:

- Attended NUS Conference.
- Part of an employability audit.
- Sat on micro-intern and School Rep panels.
- Has got seating in the Sabbatical Officer office for students.
- Worked on Council promotion with new banners.
- Got LES new storage space.
- Organising a new Puppy Room.
- Organised Union Awards 2018.

QUESTIONS:

(SGR) requested an update on liberation society funding.

(NF) explained that:

- The liberation funding group had not met for a while.
- A new group had been formed of just staff which Sabbatical Officers were not invited to.
- Current discussions are about all societies being eligible so all can access funding.

(HH) added that the entire society funding system was being reviewed and there was a special pot of funding available this academic year for liberation societies to apply to.

(LC) asked why Giving Back Award only had two nominations.

(NF) explained that it was the panel's decision.

5.3. VP Welfare and Community

(HH) gave a verbal report about what they had been up to:

- Been working on student drug use on campus.
- Put together a motion about it and will be meeting with the university.
- Policy on drug use at Solent University is years out of date.
- Leading on a democratic review of the Students' Union.
- There will be a micro-intern to support the democratic review.
- Supporting FMP students.
- Went to Manchester to discuss Students' Union peer reviewing trustee boards.
- There is now a new Student Board made up of Sabbatical Officers, Student Officers and members of senior university management.
- Working on the Student Protection Plan.
- Access Agreement working group.

QUESTIONS:

(NF) asked for further information on the Access Agreement working group.

(HH) clarified that in the previous year they had got the Access Agreement a few days before it needed approving but that this year (HH) and (LC) were both on the working group making it.

6. Student Leaders Updates

6.1. Societies Council Chair

- See Societies Council minutes.

6.2. Sonar Media Rep

(DD) was not present so submitted a report by online messaging:

- New committees were elected but some still have vacant positions.
- Sonar Magazine's third issue is out.
- Sonar Film had only three weeks left of showings.
- Radio Sonar's last broadcast would be that Friday.
- Was looking at a Media Societies Showcase.

7. Student Officer Reports and Questions

7.1. Disabilities Students' Officer

(MT) provided a verbal report of what they had been up to:

- Did not have much to update due to deadlines and university work.
- Wanted to finish up some stuff.
- Was happy to be asked any questions.
- Will be the new VP Education for the 2018/19 academic year.

(HH) thanked (MT) for her support on the EC panel.

7.2. LGBT+ Students' Officer

(SGR) provided a verbal report of what they had been up to:

- Had been busy with dissertation and deadlines.
- Fed back on the LGBT+ Conference.
- Submitted a motion about the Trans Officer role.
- Partook in an Access Agreement meeting.
- Still looking into a potential unconscious bias.

QUESTIONS:

(IM) asked if the Trans Officer position had been filled.

(LC) explained that it hadn't but that the role was up for election in the autumn.

(HH) thanked (SGR) for his work as LGBT+ Officer.

(LC) wished (SGR) all the best as a Solent Alumni.

7.3. Mature Students' Officer

This position is currently vacant.

7.4. Postgraduate Students' Officer

No report submitted.

7.5. Warsash Maritime Liaison Officer

No report submitted.

7.6. Mental Health Campaigns Officer

No report submitted.

7.7. Trans Students Officer

This position is currently vacant.

7.8. BME Students' Officer

(IM) provided a verbal report of what they had been up to:

- Is attending a conference.
- Met up with the NUS BME Officer.
- Looking to work with NUS more.
- Giving upcoming policies for the conference a read.
- Looking into Afro-Caribbean Society to potentially ramp it up.
- Will work with current president.
- Won award at Union Awards.

QUESTIONS:

(NF) asked if (IM) was excited for his conference.

(IM) confirmed he was and asked about train ticket collection.

(JS) explained they could be collected from the Student Involvement office.

(HH) advised (IM) to keep a record of how they vote at conference so they can be accountable.

(HH) thanked (IM) for putting in so much time with the NUS.

7.9. EU & International Students' Officer

No report submitted.

7.10. Women's' Officer

No report submitted.

8. AOB

8.1. Women's Officer Vote of No Confidence

(SGR) called for a vote to remove (BC) from the position of Women's' Officer as they had failed to attend a single Student Council meeting without an explanation.

(LC) clarified it would remove her entirely from the role.

(LC) spoke in defence of (BC) explaining that:

- They are a volunteer.
- Is attending a disciplinary panel in a few weeks to represent students.
- Represented Solent students at the NUS Women's' Conference.

VOTES TO REMOVE: 3

VOTES AGAINST: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 2

ACTION: (BC) to be removed from the role of Women's' Officer.

8.2. Thanks

(NF) thanked (LC) for his interesting chairing.

Meeting End

Appendices

Appendix 1: Bye Law 16 – Conflict of Interest Policy

Bye Law 16 – Conflict of Interest Policy

16.1 Introduction:

All Trustees of Solent Students' Union will strive to avoid any conflict of interest between the interests of the Organisation on the one hand, and personal, professional, and business interests on the other. This includes avoiding actual conflicts of interest as well as the perception of conflicts of interest.

16.2 Purpose

The purposes of this policy is to protect the integrity of the Organisation's decision-making process, to enable stakeholders to have confidence in the organisation's integrity, and to protect the integrity and reputation of Trustees.

16.3 Examples of conflicts of interest include:

- 1 A Trustee who is also a user may be faced with a decision in a committee meeting regarding whether fees for users should be increased.
- 2 A Trustee who is related to a member of staff and there is decision to be taken on staff pay and/or conditions at a committee meeting.
- 3 A Trustee who is also on the committee of another organisation that is competing for the same funding.
- 4 A Trustee who has shares in a business that may be awarded a contract to do work or provide services for the organisation or is a Trustee, partner or employee or related to someone who is.

16.4 Upon appointment each Trustee will make a full, written disclosure of interests, such as relationships, and posts held, that could potentially result in a conflict of interest. This written disclosure will be kept on file and will be updated annually or as appropriate.

16.5 In the course of meetings or activities, Trustees will disclose any interests in a transaction or decision where there may be a conflict between the organisations' best interests and the Trustee's best interests or a conflict between the best interests of two organisations that the Trustee is involved with. If in doubt the potential conflict must be declared anyway and clarification sought.

16.6 In the case of a conflict of interests arising for a Trustee because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person and the conflict is not authorised by virtue of any other provision in the memorandum or the articles, the un-conflicted Trustees may authorise such a conflict of interests where the following conditions apply:

1. The Charity Commission's permission is sought before a benefit for a trustee may be authorised that isn't otherwise authorised in the Memorandum of Articles or already authorised in writing from the Commission.
2. the Trustee who has declared the conflict of interest withdraws from the part of the meeting at which there is discussion of any arrangement or transaction affecting

that other organisation or person;

3. the Trustee who has the conflict of interest does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when considering whether a quorum of Trustees is present at the meeting;
 4. The other Trustees who have no conflict of interest in this matter consider it is in the interests of the charity to authorise the conflict of interest in the circumstances applying.
 5. Any such disclosure and the subsequent actions taken will be noted in the minutes.
- 16.7 For all other potential conflicts of interest the advice of the Charity Commission will be sought and the advice recorded in the minutes. All steps taken to follow the advice will be recorded.
- 16.8 This policy is meant to supplement good judgment, and Trustees should respect its spirit as well as its wording.

End of Appendices