

Student Council Minutes

13th November 2018, 5pm

Present:

INITIALS	NAME	ROLE	POSITION
DC	David Cowley	SU President	Non-Voting
MT	Mollie Tuck	VP Education	Non-Voting
RTW	Ro Tomlin-Wills	VP Employability & Engagement	Non-Voting
RW	Rich Westlake	VP Welfare & Community	Non-Voting
RL	Rebecca Latchman	Disabilities Students' Officer	Voting
SS	Stanislaw Sokolowski IV	International Students' Officer (Non EU)	Voting
FM	Feuren Mitchell	Mature Students' Officer	Voting
HR	Harrison Read	Mental Health Campaigns Officer	Voting
SO	Sonia Otieno	Physical Activities Students' Officer	Voting
EG	Eline Gappy	Religion & Faith Students' Officer	Voting
EH	Eli Hill	Trans+ Students' Officer	Voting
PL	Peter Langan	Warsash Maritime Academy Liaison Officer	Voting
BC	Bethanie Clarke	Women's Officer	Voting
	Josh Stevenson	Communications Coordinator	Non-Voting
JS	Joshua Smith	Student Voice Coordinator	Non-Voting

1. Welcome & Apologies

- a. DC ran through a quick introduction of how Student Council works.

2. Ratifications

- a. Minutes of Last Meeting:

RL proposed the minutes for the 03-05-2018 meeting and they were unanimously approved.

- b. Referendum Results:

DC explained the referendum results for new Student Officer roles and that these would be added to the Bye Laws where Student Officers are listed.

3. Policy Developments:

- a. Policy Register Updates:

DC ran through a quick introduction of what the Policy Register was and explained that none of the current policies put through by Student Council were lapsing.

4. Student Motions

- a. Basic Cooking Facilities at Warsash:

Motion Explanation: "My intake of September 2017 was the first to study at the new St Mary's campus at Warsash. I was told that being so close to the main campus would give access to more facilities that university has to offer. Unfortunately, it's not close enough to walk to during your lunch break to use

a simple thing like a microwave. That said, I can see plenty of space within Warsash campus to but some basic cooking facilities but instead I find some very overpriced vending machines.

I want to point out that although cadets are paid, what the majority get paid will not equalate to much more than a maintenance loan that any other student must live off. Having some basic cooking facilities could save a significant amount of money. One of the most attractive qualities of a cadetship is being able to get the education without getting into student debt. So, although student loans are available, any way the university can support us in not needed them would help to encouraging one of the key benefits of the course.

As cadets are attendance is very closely monitored and for us to pass it is legal requirement for us to be there. So, we are forced to use the facilities that are there.

There has been a couple of issues raised when this idea has been mentioned. Biggest one seems to be who will keep it clean? There are plenty of options for this, but I think what ever policy is currently being used at the main campus should be the best.”

PL explained the motion and took questions.

HR asked how close the main campus was to Warsash.

PL explained it was too far for cadets to travel to and from in their lunch breaks.

FM asked if a Fridge would also be required.

PL raised concerns around who would look after a fridge.

EH added that a place to store milk could be useful.

RL asked if a sink would also be required.

PL agreed a sink would also be useful.

FM asked if they could use the staff rooms at Warsash.

PL agreed that was a possibility but added that staff were also entitled to their own personal space.

VOTE to approve motion for ‘Basic Cooking Facilities at Warsash’ was unanimously approved.

b. Change Sabb Term Lengths:

Motion Explained: “Change the term dates so that Sabbs do grad speech for their academic year.”

RW explained the motion and added that the proposal was to change the Sabbatical Officer term dates so that students could go out with the Sabbatical Officers who were in office while they were students giving their graduation speeches.

RW then answered questions on the motion.

RL asked what the dates were now and when they would be changed to.

RW explained that the term dates currently ended in the 1st week of July and that they would be changed to the 2nd week of July.

RTW added that handover would simply occur a week later.

VOTE to 'Change the Sabb term Lengths' was unanimously approved.

c. Increase PTO's Length of Term:

Motion Explained: "Ensure PTOs sit for a whole year."

MT explained that the length would be changed from October to October to coincide with when they are actually elected now.

MT answered questions on the motion.

PL raised that Warsash academic term dates were different.

MT explained that they can vote over email so don't have to be present.

RTW explained that they Students' Union only held a referendum because there was no Student Council over the summer to approve any changes or creation of new roles.

MT added that Student Officers could continue to do stuff over the summer.

DC added that Student Council controls a lot of the Students' Union and is a part of key decisions.

HR asked what happens if a Student Officer were to graduate?

MT explained that they would cease to be a Student Officer and their role would be vacant.

EH asked what happens to vacant roles.

RW explained that they would be filled in an election each October.

BC suggested running the Student Officer elections at the same time as the Sabbatical officer elections before anyone could graduate.

DC explained that Solent Students' Union was small and everything would get overburdened.

JS explained that around 50% of students who voted and candidates who run were first year students.

HR raised concerns that their role would become vacant when they graduate in the summer.

RW explained that under the current term lengths it still would and that all of the responsibilities of vacant Student Officer positions would fall under the Sabbatical Officers.

PL suggested that outgoing Student Officers should prepare a handover.

PL asked if their role was a sea could they vote by proxy.

RW confirmed they could.

VOTE to 'Increase PTO's Length of Term' approved by 7 with 1 vote against.

d. Chair of Sport Solent to be added to Student Council:

Motion Explained: "A motion to allow the Chair of Sport Solent to be added to Student Council and to have voting rights and accountability."

RTW explained the motion and added that sports teams were separate to the Students' Union and have a committee of sports captains who elect a chair (SMG Chair), and that sports teams should be represented on Student Council as well.

RTW answered questions on the motion.

EH asked what the difference would be with the Physical Activities Student Officer.

RTW explained that they would have a different remit and be solely responsible for representing sports clubs similarly to the Societies Council Chair.

SO asked why her role couldn't represent sports clubs.

RTW explained that sports clubs already elect their own representative.

VOTE for 'Chair of Sport Solent to be added to Student Council' was unanimously approved.
--

e. School Reps to be Added to Student Council:

Motion Explained: "A motion to add all School Reps to Student Council with voting rights. Each School to have one vote between the two Reps."

MT explained the motion and answered questions.

RL asked if being both a School Rep and Student Officer would cause a conflict.

MT suggested that the other School Rep for their School could take on that responsibility.

PL added that the two roles should be separate.

RL asked if it was necessary to add School Reps.

MT explained that there was very little academic representation on Student Council.

PL asked what the specifics were of the School Reps.

MT explained that each School has two School Reps to represent issues affecting multiple courses.

SS thought that more representation was a good thing.

HR asked who they were as it was not known to them.

MT explained it was a new scheme introduced for the 2017-18 academic year.

EH asked how School Reps were chosen.

RL explained they were appointed after an interview by the university and Students' Union.

EH raised concerns of having a non-elected position on Student Council.

PL agreed they should be elected if on Student Council.

BC raised concerns that School Reps were not selected fairly.

DC suggested that School Reps were more voice of Course Reps instead.

DC added that perhaps they should be elected instead.

RTW suggested that Students' Council could elect one to represent the others.

PL raised concerns that they would be representing courses beyond their own course in that case.

HR suggested waiting 6 months and revisiting the motion then.

RW proposed pushing a decision on the motion back to April 2019.

VOTE to review 'School Reps to be Added to Student Council' motion in April 2019 approved by 8 with 1 vote against.

f. Create an Apprentice Students' Officer Role:

Motion Explained: A motion to add create an Apprentice Students' Officer Role.

MT explained the motion and answered questions.

RTW asked when the role would be elected.

MT clarified it would be elected the following year.

EH asked if they would be elected.

MT confirmed they would.

HR asked how all would be reached given apprentices are offsite.

RTW explained they are all in on campus one day a week.

VOTE to 'Create an Apprentice Students' Officer Role' approved by 8 votes with 1 abstention.

g. Rename Mental Health Campaigns Officer:

Motion Explained: Rename the Mental Health Campaigns Officer to Mental Health Students' Officer.

MT explained and answered questions.

RL asked when the change would take effect.

MT clarified it would take effect straight away.

HR explained they had no objections to the change but it would not impact how they did their job.

VOTE to 'Rename Mental Health Campaigns Officer was unanimously approved.

5. Sabbatical Officer Reports & Questions

a. SU President:

DC explained that what they'd been up to:

- Working on more Students' Union events.
- Communications department are doing a fantastic job on the newsletter.
- Looking at doing a website design completion for the Union website.
- Ran and organised the Southern Unions Conference which was 40+ staff and Sabbatical Officers from Students' Unions across the South Coast.
- Gave the graduation speeches.

b. VP Education:

MT explained what they'd been up to:

- Focussing on the Course Rep system.
- Changing and updating it.
- Aiming to train every Course Rep.

- Dealing with lots of course issues.

c. VP Employability & Engagement:

RTW explained what they'd been up to:

- Introduced a new Solent Societies award scheme.
- Introduced a Society of the Month scheme.
- Planning Union Awards and expanding it beyond societies.
- Taking over the Spark at the end of the month.
- Solent Sport can now use the Union minibus.
- Looking at having a petting zoo in the Spark.
- Looking at getting a bouncy castle for the Sabbatical Officer Election.
- Working on organising creative CV workshops.
- Working on Black History stuff to go on beyond a month.

d. VP Welfare & Community:

RW explained what they'd been up to:

- Launched the Safe Solent free taxi scheme for the 24 hour library.
- Involved in a Democracy Review of the Union.
- Reviewing Students' Union policies.
- Securing mental health funding.
- Working on NUS stuff.

RW answered question on their update.

RL asked if the Safe Solent Scheme would be extended.

RW explained it was a trial and would be extended as far as the budget would allow depending on the outcome of the trial and Trustee Approval.

SS asked how much it was costing.

RW explained it costed the Union £5 per city centre journey and £7 per Portswood journey.

RW further explained that the Safe Solent Scheme would be reviewed in January 2019.

6. Student Leader Updates & Questions

No Student Leaders were present to give updates.

7. Student Officer Updates & Questions

a. Disabilities Students' Officer:

RL explained they were working on:

- Simplifying access for students to Access Solent.
- Looking to introduce secluded study spaces in the library.
- Wants to make booking study spaces easier.

b. Environmental Students' Officer:

Was not present to give a report.

c. International Students' Officer (EU):

Was not present to give a report.

d. International Students' Officer (Non-EU):

SS explained they were working on:

- Working to introduce student on student tutoring to support international students with English and grammar for coursework and assignments.

e. LGBT+ Students' Officer:

Was not present to give a report.

f. Mature Students' Officer:

FM explained that they were working on:

- Child care provision for students who were parents.
- Improving promptness of receiving timetables.
- Combating short notice timetabling changes.

g. Mental Health Campaigns Officer:

HR explained what they were working on:

- Looking to introduce a card system for students waiting for counselling.
- Looking to get guest speakers in.
- Linking with local charities to provide extra support.
- Wants to introduce a comment box in the Students' Union.
- Not seen any provisions for mental health.
- Looking into whether students are getting sufficient help.

h. Physical Activities Students' Officer:

SO explained they had nothing to update.

i. Religion & Faith Students' Officer:

EG explained they were working on:

- An inter-faith event to create a dialogue of understanding to tackle misconceptions.
- Wanted to help others understand.
- Working on a Human Library.
- Met with Christian Union, Isoc and First Love.
- Wants Union to publicise faith society events.

j. Trans+ Students' Officer:

EH explained they were working on:

- Gender neutral toilets.
- Supporting toilets which match gender identity.
- Work with everyone to create a clear and safe environment.
- Looking to work with local societies.
- Wants to improve Trans+ and faith relations.

k. Undergraduate Students' Officer:

Was not present to give a report.

l. Warsash Maritime Academy (WMA) Liaison Officer:

PL explained they were working on:

- Wants to improve WMA Course and School Reps.
- Looking to get more involved in shipping industry changes.

m. Women's Officer:

BC explained they were working on:

- Researching issues facing female students on campus.
- Looking to get a sexual health service on campus.
- Wants to get free sanitary products on campus.

8. Any Other Business

a. Approval of Student Trustees:

DC explained that two Student Trustee appointments needed approving by Student Council.

VOTE to approve Student Trustees was approved by 7 with 1 abstention.

9. Next Meeting Date Confirmation

The next Student Council was scheduled for the 10th of December at 4pm.

END OF MEETING