

Student Council Minutes

10th December 2018, 4pm

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
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
EG	Eline Gappy	Religion & Faith Students' Officer	Voting
EH	Eli Hill	Trans+ Students' Officer	Voting
LC	Lewis Cleminson	Undergraduate Students' Officer	Voting
RN	Richard Neale	Environmental Students' Officer	Voting
ARL	Alina Raindel-Ludu	International Students' Officer (EU)	Voting
JW	James Whale	Course Rep	Non-Voting
JH	Jake Hillman	Course Rep	Non-Voting
AO	Abdul Omer	Course Rep	Non-Voting
JBN	Joseph Bou Nassif	School Rep	Non-Voting
BS	Ben Slater	Student	Non-Voting
GB	Giles Bretherta	Student	Non-Voting
SC	Sophie Clayton	Activities Coordinator	Non-Voting
JS	Joshua Smith	Student Voice Coordinator	Non-Voting

1. Welcome & Apologies

DC opened the meeting with apologies from Bethanie Clarke.

2. Ratifications

a. Minutes of Last Meeting:

7f. altered to include FM planning to work on students getting timetables earlier in advance and with less changes at short notice.

DC proposed the minutes for the 13-11-2018 meeting and they were approved (6 for, 2 abstain).

3. Policy Developments:

a. Policy Register Updates:

No change.

4. Student Motions

a. English Mentors:

Motion Explained: "Discuss and create/develop further a student/staff mentor system that helps international students with English regarding language, spelling and grammar when it comes to assignments and potentially other aspects of student life."

SS explained the motion and added that:

- It would be a drop in service in the library.
- Primarily aimed at non-UK students.
- Students would be paid to run it.

SS answered questions on the motion.

EH raised that students on English degree programmes already do proof reading.

SS explained they intended to adjust and adapt the existing provision.

LC requested clarification of what the university and Union could provide.

SS explained they understood the Union couldn't financially support it and just wanted their backing.

RTW asked if **SS** had spoken to the library.

SS explained they had only spoken to students.

RTW requested more clarification on how the roles would be filled.

SS explained that they would work with English lecturers.

RTW suggested that the library already has a similar service.

EG added that it was in the corner and that **SS** should talk to them.

SS explained he didn't know about that.

HR proposed a strategy should be brought back to the next meeting before voting on the motion.

Delaying the motion till next meeting approved (7 for, 1 abstain)
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b. Student Up/Down Voting:

Motion Explained: "With regards to a recent democracy review and researching other unions, I am proposing to trial a system of voting, based on ideas and issues to discuss. They would put an idea forward such as selling burgers, that they would like the union to focus on. Students would then vote on whether they would like this to be discussed at student council and progressed further. This done via a monitor number, currently 10 of votes for and against. This would also allow the Sabbatical team to comment on whether it is a possible idea, points to bring to student council and even progress on agreed ideas. It would also feel more natural and less scary to students who don't use / understand the language of the union. This is in addition to the sabb/staff team assisting with the motion with information and evidence needed. This is something we can do with our site currently. We will keep the current motion form as well whilst the system in a trial period or if emergency motions need to happen."

DC explained the motion and answered questions on it.

RW asked for an indifferent option to be added.

RTW suggested this would allow it to be known how many people were engaging with it.
EH raised concerns about how an indifferent option would affect minority group issues.

LC proposed sending the motion to the AGM.

Sending motion to the AGM rejected (1 for, 3 against, 3 abstain).

Amending motion to include indifferent option rejected (1 for, 5 against, 1 abstain).

Motion to introduce and up/down motion system approved (7 for, 1 against).

c. Changing Sabbatical Officer Job Roles & Descriptions

Motion Explained: "In the process of the democracy review currently being undertaken, it's been highlighted that Vice President/President structure is not indicative of the actual set up that actually occurs. After discussions with members of SC we also feel like Chief Officer of... is more representative and understandable"

RW clarified the roles would be and answered questions:

- Head of Student Policy
- Head of Student Education
- Head of Student Engagement
- Head of Student Wellbeing

RTW added that the President currently does all the graduation speeches but that under the new system all the Sabbatical Officers would do them to spread the workload.

LC asked how who does graduation would be determined.

RTW clarified the Sabbatical Officers would decide between themselves.

RN requested clarification on the costs involved in renaming the roles.

DC explained that everything already out of date and needed updating so the cost would need spending anyway.

LC proposed the motion was put the AGM for a decision.

DC warned that the Sabbatical Officer Elections finish before the AGM.

Postponing the motion till the AGM rejected (1 for, 4 against, 1 abstain).

Motion to change the Sabbatical Officer roles approved (6 for, 2 against).

d. Student Parking for Non-Southampton Residents

Motion Explained: "The issue I would like to raise is the lack parking available for students that live away from Southampton and commute daily to University by car for lectures, seminars and hand-ins etc. For some students, like myself, who do not live near any suitable public transport- driving is the only option.

The main campus car park is only accessible to staff and disabled students to apply for permits. There is a contingency to offer a parking space at the Lucia Foster student residence when they are under-subscribed however they are full this year and thus no spaces.

<https://portal.solent.ac.uk/campus/accommodation/car-parking.aspx>

Which leaves students having to scavenge around Southampton trying to find somewhere to park, often at a high cost which can be up to £8 per day in a council car park.

I have had good communication with the Facilities team thus far who are unfortunately unable to advise further.

I am in the process of a Freedom of Information request with the University to find out the scale of this problem in terms of how many students have to commute into the city and can report that back once I have the answer.

What I would like to see is the University making serious steps in securing parking for local students.

Further details of the issue can be provided as required."

BS explained the motion and answered questions.

HR requested clarification on what the Freedom of Information request asked for.

BS explained that it was for how many students lived at home and from what radius.

HR suggested using staff car parks around the city.

BS explained only staff can use them.

RTW added the City Council won't give more space as they want more Park and Rides.

LC suggested parking in Bitterne or Shirley and getting a week bus ticket for around £6.

EH added that car parks were restricted in Bitterne.

JW suggested that there were other ways to get to university than a car.

BS raised the issue of those who don't live near public transport links.

BS added students at other universities get spaces if live outside a certain radius.

GB suggested the university could look at introducing a bursary to assist students commuting in.

DC clarified that if the motion was approved the Union would lobby the university to address the issue.

Motion around parking approved (5 for, 1 against, 1 abstain).
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5. Society Funding Changes

SC explained there would be three categories:

- General Societies – Free
- Liberation Societies – Must Be Free
- Special Status – Extra Funding

SC explained that the proposed changes were to make all societies have a minimum membership fee of £5 and that all funding would have to be applied for from the same pot. It was meant to encourage societies to run more of a business and be self-sustainable.

HR asked if there was a projection on how the budget would be used.

SC explained that there would be three points in the year where money could be applied for and if not uses that money goes.

LC asked is Sonar Media and RAG would be taken of Student Council.

RTW clarified they would.

LC raised concerns that if Sonar Radio couldn't raise the money for their licensing that the Union would still be liable.

RTW explained that most of their members were first and second years.

SC added that they would have to cover the cost themselves.

RTW further added if they didn't raise enough the Union would cover the cost.

SS asked if all societies would have to charge £5.

SC confirmed they would.

RN asked when it would take effect.

SC explained it would start next year.

LC asked if RAG would not get Society Funding.

RTW explained that it could use Union project funding or the Union would pick up the costs.

RW added there hadn't been a RAG for years.

LC suggested delaying it till the AGM.

RTW explained it had already gone through Societies Council for feedback.

ACTION: Issue to be discussed at next meeting.

6. Sabbatical Officer Reports & Questions

a. SU President:

DC gave a video update: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFrc37MLZyo>

LC requested better promotion of the next Student Council meeting.

DC explained it would also be better promoted to members as well.

b. VP Education:

MT gave a video update: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2292m_15_XY

LC asked what they would bring back to their role from Auschwitz.

MT explained they were still trying to process it and would put their experience in a blog.

JDN raised concerns of confusion around the School Rep role.

MT explained there would be an away day in January to run through the role.

LC added it was set up by the Course Rep working group with the university.

c. VP Employability & Engagement:

RTW gave a video update: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqtM2d3vsDk>

AQ asked when the massages would be.

RTW clarified it would be May.

d. VP Welfare & Community:

RW gave a video update: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmTML-VVOvM>

7. Student Leader Updates & Questions

No Student Leaders were present to give updates.

8. Student Officer Updates & Questions

a. Disabilities Students' Officer:

RL was not present to give an update.

b. Environmental Students' Officer:

Was not able to give a report.

c. International Students' Officer (EU):

ARL explained they were working on:

- Planning on meeting students on the 15th of February.
- Will have food and drink like a party.
- Seeing what support they need.
- Making them feel welcome.

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

SS explained they were working on:

- Checking in with the librarian.
- Talking to English Course Reps about motion.
- Will report back how it goes.

e. LGBT+ Students' Officer:

Was not present to give a report.

f. Mature Students' Officer:

FM was not able to give a report.

g. Mental Health Campaigns Officer:

HR explained what they were working on:

- Meeting with the university mental health lead.
- Getting Tyson Fury down to do a talk.
- Introducing a mental health evaluation comments box.
- Would be for anyone who's received counselling.

h. Religion & Faith Students' Officer:

EG explained they were working on:

- Working on an inter-faith event.
- Partaking in the Human Library project.

i. Trans+ Students' Officer:

EH explained they were working on:

- Looking into a toilet poster campaign.
- “Don’t question who belongs here.”
- Getting in contact with LGBT+ staff network.

j. Undergraduate Students’ Officer:

LC explained they were working on:

- Not let held Sabbatical Officers to account.
- Worked with Officer of Students as part of TEF.

k. Warsash Maritime Academy (WMA) Liaison Officer:

PL was not present to give a report.

l. Women’s Officer:

BC was not present to give a report.

9. Any Other Business

a. Student Council Chair Election

BS was the only candidate for Student Council Chair.

BS was unanimously elected Student Council Chair

10. Next Meeting Date Confirmation

The next Student Council was scheduled for the 28th of January at 4pm.

END OF MEETING