

Student Council Minutes

4th March 2019, 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 |
| PL | Peter Langan | Warsash Maritime Academy Liaison Officer | Voting |
| DW | David Woolley | Student Involvement Manager | Non-Voting |

1. Welcome & Apologies

- a. DC welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies have been received from Ben Slater, Bethanie Clarke, Lewis Cleminson and Lulu McNally. Mollie Tuck had to leave the meeting at 5 and Harrison Read could not attend the meeting until 5. Alina Ranidel-Ludu (International Students' Officer- EU) is resigning from their role.

2. Ratifications

- a. Minutes of Last Meeting:

DC proposed the minutes for the 28-01-2019 meeting and they were unanimously approved.

3. Chair's Report

BS was not present.

4. Policy Developments:

- a. Policy Register Update:

DC ran through the policy register. There will be an Exec Committee in the next few weeks which will be scheduled and communicated out to the Student Officers.

5. Student Motions

- a. Lobby Sodexo to improve prices in "The Artisan":

Motion Explanation: "The Artisan is the Café based in the SJM building. The prices in The Artisan are arguably considerably higher (£1.75 for 4 mini rice cakes to name but a few injustices) than the rest of campus; the deals that are available at other Sodexo outlets around campus e.g. Meal Deals are not available there, meaning lunch times for student's can often be costly. This is unfair on the students whom are based primarily in the SM building, often not having time to venture across the park to grab lunch. Even if the only outcome for this is getting The Artisan to offer the meal deal available in other Sodexo outlets on campus, this would be a huge cost saving win for students. I understand that The

Artisan is also open to the public, so maybe a way to avoid any potential loss by Sodexo is that the deals could be made available on the presentation of a Solent Student ID.”

DC explained the motion in **BC’s** absence. **FM** said that you are able to eat in the basement and has not been stopped eating in classrooms. However, **FM** does agree with the motion. **SS** asked if The Artisan was run by the University. **RTW** said that The Artisan used to do student discount. **PL** said should be able to have warm food. **FM** suggested having a kitchen in the SM. **PL** recommended trying to reduce prices as the priority, **SS** suggested getting feedback in the future. **EH** suggested adding a motion to re-open for discussion and add a kitchen to this motion.

Amendment was accepted unanimously.

Motion unanimously approved with amendment by those in the meeting.

VOTE to approve motion to ‘Lobby Sodexo to improve prices in “The Artisan”’ was approved via email on 11/03/19.

b. Implement a trans inclusion and equality policy at the university:

Motion Explained: “Transgender individuals deserve to feel safe at all times, and it is my belief that the university should have policies in place to ensure that this is the case in the uni environment.

I have spoken to many trans individuals at the university, as well as consulted those at other unis and looked at the policies of these unis, and have begun drafting a proposed policy.

A trans inclusion and equality policy needs to cover all aspects of university life and how the trans experience relates to this; from name changes on student ID cards to room allocation in accommodation and on any university trips or placements.

This is not about giving extra rights to transgender individuals, but about ensuring the safety, confidentiality and prosperity of those who face so many battles in life to feel accepted.

This motion proposes that the university should show that one place where trans people don’t need to fight is at Solent.”

Policy unanimously approved by those in the meeting.

VOTE to approve motion to ‘Implement a trans inclusion and equality policy at the university’ was approved via email on 11/03/19.

6. Bye law updates

DC ran through the bye law updates paper. This included the additional minor change to the Student Officers bye law. There were no questions.

Changes unanimously approved by those in the room

VOTE to approve bye law updates approved via email on 11/03/19.

7. Sabbatical Officer Reports & Questions

a. SU President:

DC explained that what they'd been up to:

- Been off sick for 2 weeks.
- Attended the Refreshers' Fayre.
- Planning to launch website competition.
- Surveys for community space.
- Making an events society.

b. VP Education:

MT explained what they'd been up to:

- TEF response.
- NSS campaign.
- Course complaint.
- Bridging the gap with Warsash.
- Festival of Ideas alongside the Research department.
- Photography competition launching soon for the University.
- Attending Course Committees.

PL asked about whether there will be another Course Committee at Warsash. **MT** confirmed there would be.

c. VP Employability & Engagement:

RTW explained what they'd been up to:

- Refreshers Fayre.
- Started planning Freshers' Faure.
- Nominating some of Solent's societies for the National Society Awards.
- Supporting the University with the development of their new app.
- Micro internships launched on SU website.
- Feedback on the new strategic plan.
- Working with City College, for a Pride Against Prejudice day.
- International Women's' Day in The Spark, Smear campaign.
- Refreshing Farm with alpacas on 13/03/19.
- Sleepout in Southampton with YMCA on 15/03/19.

RTW asked **PL** what time lunches are at Warsash.

d. VP Welfare & Community:

RW explained what they'd been up to:

- Launched the Safe Solent free taxi scheme for the 24 hour library and ensured that it was continued.
- Charity grants, PCC and other ways to fund the scheme.

EG asked if it is likely that students will have to pay a fee. **RW** said that this is not looking likely bit that he couldn't confirm at this stage.

8. Student Leader Updates & Questions

No Student Leaders were present to give updates.

9. Student Officer Updates & Questions

a. Environmental Students' Officer:

Was not present to give a report.

b. International Students' Officer (EU):

Was not present to give a report.

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

SS explained they were working on:

- Attended the NUS International Students' Conference and so could not attend last meeting.
- Reported that many other universities have International Societies, but Solent doesn't. **RTW** recommended having a meeting with herself and the University's International Office to discuss international events etc.
- Academic services- no longer doing a table in the library, but instead promoting

PL asked if **SS** meant the Academic support for international students, **SS** confirmed that this was.

FM asked whether **SS** was planning to put info about academic services on the screens in SM, **SS** confirmed he would.

PL said it looks wordy, **RTW** said that many things the SU publish on screens are wordy.

EG asked about academic services- what **SS** means by not wanting an office. **PL** and **SS** agree that this would be very helpful for international students.

d. LGBT+ Students' Officer:

Was not present to give a report.

e. Mature Students' Officer:

FM explained that they were working on:

- Trying to create 2 petitions; one for a separate section in the library for students who have kids, and a petition regarding scooter racks.
- **FM** asked **RTW** about timetabling issues. **RTW** said that timetables will be created earlier, **MT** said that she can confirm this.
- **SS** clarified where the bike racks would be, **FM** said they would be by the bike racks.
- **FM** also said that she has requested an area for children to be built into plans for when the library is developed.

f. Mental Health Campaigns Officer:

- Will attend at 5.
- Had a meeting about changing the therapy referral form with the university.
- University Mental Health Day on 7th March. **HR** and **RW** giving talk after the Vice-Chancellor for this day.

g. Religion & Faith Students' Officer:

EG explained they were working on:

- An inter-faith forum, discussing plans about welcome weeks and the role of Faith Advisors.

- Met with Osama Khan this morning, discussed the Prayer Room and making it more inclusive.
- Helped out with the Human Library last week.
- **DC** mentioned the Wilberforce event, **EG** was aware of this.
- **RTW** clarified who **EG** had talked about Welcome Week with, and mentioned that there will be a marquee and we are looking for events to run that students would attend.

h. Trans+ Students' Officer:

EH explained they were working on:

- Has been working on a motion, which is on the agenda today.
- Has also written a Transgender policy.
- Looking into poster ideas for toilets, about trans students going to the toilet that is most suitable for them.
- Will design some posters.
- **DC** asked **EH** to send to SU so we can put them up, **RTW** also suggested talking to the Comms Office.

i. Undergraduate Students' Officer:

Was not present to give a report.

j. Warsash Maritime Academy (WMA) Liaison Officer:

PL explained they were working on:

- Will be going into sea phase soon, and has found a replacement for their role. **PL** asked how this would work, e.g co-opting, to ensure that there is representation from Warsash on Student Council.
- There are Reps to represent all the Engineering classes. Would be nice to have options of Deck students.
- Passed a motion to install a microwave, but nothing has happened. **MT** will chase this up, will invite **PL** to the next Exec Committee.

k. 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.

10. Any Other Business

a. Vacant Student Officer roles:

DC asked whether we should co-opt students or do we want to run new elections? **RW** said that it's March, and that there might be only 2 more meetings. **PL** said that co-opting someone to the Warsash role when they were at sea would be good. The consensus was that there are various similar roles, some of which could be removed. **SS** suggested removing students as officers when they do not turn up to X amount of meetings. **DC** mentioned that a motion would need to be put forward for this. **PL** said that there should be a joined up approach when working on events etc. **RW** suggested that all council members bring ideas back to the next meeting. **PL** said that it is a necessity to have students in the Warsash role, and it would be good to have 2 students for every role in the future. **EH** suggested keeping a record of who came second in the elections so that when Student Officers resign, we can still approach a second student to fulfil the role.

Idea to approve co-opting students into Student Officer positions that have not been filled (starting from the 2019-20 academic year) year was unanimously approved by those in the room.

VOTE to approve co-opting students into Student Officer positions that have not been filled (starting from the 2019-20 academic year) was approved via email on 11/03/19.

Idea to approach runners-up in elections if Student Officer positions become vacant was unanimously approved by those in the room.

VOTE to approach runners-up in elections if Student Officer positions become vacant was approved via email on 11/03/19.

b. Other

FM reported that the toilets in SM are in a poor condition. **RTW** replied stating that the University are repairing these over summer.

FM also asked if we can introduce a Parent Students' Officer. **RTW** said that we have a Carer Students' Officer.

RTW said it would be good if the Student Officers could share the SU/Officer posts, and to ensure that students vote.

FM asked if it was easier to vote this time. **DC** mentioned that we have a large number of candidates. **RW** fed back that there has been some work on this.

FM asked if there was a reward scheme for students who do particularly well academically on their courses. **MT** said that students usually get a recognition on their degree transcript but not aware of any financial reward.

RW reported that SSASH still exists- this was asked at the last meeting. **RW** explained what this is.

The AGM is on March 14th at 13:00. There will also be election results and snacks. **DC** encouraged everyone to attend.

11. Next Meeting Date Confirmation

The next Student Council was scheduled for the 20th March at 4pm.

END OF MEETING