

Minutes for Student Council 13.11.19

In Attendance

Initials	Name	Role	Position
GD	Grace Davis	Head of Student Voice	Non-Voting
RTW	Ro Tomlin-Wills	Head of Student Engagement	Non-Voting
MT	Mollie Tuck	Head of Education	Non-Voting
HH	Honour Hewett	Head of Wellbeing	Non-Voting
EH	Eli Hill	Trans + Students Officer	Voting
AW	Antonia Wadham	LGBT+ Students Officer	Voting
TD	Tia Dalligan	Religious & Faith Students Officer	Voting
SDF	Sophiia DeFaia	Disabilities Students Officer	Voting
BE	Bethan Ellis	Events Officer	Voting
OI	Oliver Ingram	Mental Health Campaigns Officer	Voting
IS	Inez Szczepanska	Enviromental Officer	Voting
RW	Richard Westlake	Postgraduate Students Officer	Voting
GH	Gareth Hampton	Warsash Liaison Officer	Voting
SL	Sarah Lkhagvasuren	Internationa Officer (Non-EU)	Voting
DP	Dayanna Panteleeva	Womens Officer	Voting
JW	James Whale	Student	Non-Voting
LW	Leigh Wilson	Representation, Advice & Democracy Manager	Non-Voting
JS	Josh Stevenson	Communications Coordinator	Non-Voting
JOW	Joshua Whale	Representation & Democracy Coordinator	Non-Voting

Welcome & Apologies

Acting Chair **GD** welcomed everyone to the first student council of the year. Apologies were received from Ehlana Godfrey, Christopher Elliot and Jack Kaminski. **OI** had to leave the meeting for half an hour at 16:30 to meet with a lecturer and returned at 17:00. **GD** suggested that everyone present introduces themselves.

At the acting chairs discretion, **JOW** attends council meetings in order to record minutes. **LW**, **JS** were given permission from the chair to attend in advance.

HH asks that **JS** is given speaking rights for the duration of her officer report, as he has been a crucial part of the safe night out campaign and has knowledge on the subject which **HH** isn't sure about. **GD** approves.

Minutes

GD presented the minutes from the previous meeting (04.03.19), which were **unanimously approved**.

Officer Updates

GD, Head of Student Voice (Written Report Included):

Explained that:

Her role had changed slightly last year from SU President to Head of Student Voice, but still covers the same work.

Food on campus: Students have had an opportunity to have input on changes they would like to see via surveys and face to face meetings.

Kitchens on Campus: Kitchens are now in St Marys with Warsash, one put in the Library and one in SM. Hot water provision and microwaves being put in Spark building is ongoing.

Social spaces: Talking to Estates about use of whitebeam, also other spaces around campus but hard to identify places which students want to sit but estates being positive.

More present union: SU offices have moved to JM, much more engagement as students now know where the SU actually is located. Digital engagement is an ongoing project.

Other: Board meetings (academic & student), GD is a governor for the University, currently working on a Register to Vote campaign.

No questions asked.

Report was unanimously Approved

Head of Student Engagement, RTW (Oral):

Held a Pumpkin carving event during Halloween and elections for some light relief

Refreshing farm is coming back to campus on Monday, after it was massively popular last year.

Also has been supporting GD on several boards, including estates committee, environmental committee to name a couple

Report was unanimously Approved

Head of Education, MT (Written report included):

Specialist facilities 24/7 on deadlines: There have been a couple of issues here, mainly around staffing for 24/7 during deadline period, and the financial cost associated with this. Also exploring options for getting resources from the hatch 24/7, exploring ways to do this digitally and try to reduce the queue times as well. Hope to have something in place at some point in the 2nd semester.

Software: This was a really big issue last year, particularly with computer game students. Did a lot of work over the summer to make sure that software was updated in time for the New Year, and so far no issues have come through to us so taking this as a success!

Better feedback: working with the university to try standardise the way assessment feedback is given to students, as you may be getting feedback via different methods based on what modules and courses you are taking. MT is working with the academic staff to create a standard way of feedback so students will have more consistency.

Cheaper Printing: Hasn't started yet, timeline to start in January

Other: Big focus on improving our academic representation system (course and school reps), which has been completely re-organised since MT started her role in 2018. Training is brand new this year and so far the feedback has been positive and training is ongoing. Looking to engage with school

reps over the next couple of weeks.

School cup: This is in development, and is a system where course reps compete against each other within their school to get points. The school with the most points at the end of the year will be named as the winner! Aiming to launch in January

Course issues; there has been 5 major course issues since the start of the year which MT has been working on. MT wanted to thank the course reps for raising issues and using their voice to help create meaningful changes since sept 18.

Question from AW: In regards to the 24 hour facilities – have you looked into getting student representatives to cover the shifts?

MT: So the University have looked into this, the main barrier was debating is to if they were being paid or is this a voluntary role, as the university cannot afford to pay them. MT is looking into volunteers to try reach a resolution

Question from OI: Regarding the school cup, how does point system work? Doesn't think school cup would work due to personal experience from a previous institution, as it would cost resources and could potentially take the university back to a secondary school environment.

MT: It's a fair comment, however it's important to note that the academic rep system has double amount of reps than we have previously had from schemes such as this. Some course reps will like the competition and transferable skills that will be developed in this system. It is also worth noting that this is not mandatory for reps to take part in, it's just designed to be a bit of fun.

As for the point system, the points will be gained by activities which are accessible to all, such as attending course rep training, joining a society etc. It will be monitored by SU staff & MT.

Comment from AW: Some concerns about potential of favouritism, AW has been here 3 years and contact hours are down, carpet being ripped from underneath, courses being shut down, communication isn't being respected or listened to between Uni & students. Worried sports will be favoured more than others.

MT: Activities for the School Cup are across all schools, and are activities that all schools can do & fun things just to get student participating as mentioned previously. Every course rep can get involved as it is easy to do and fun.

Question from RW: Are any of the academic staff taking part in the UCU strikes?

GD: Not that we are aware of!

Comment from GH: Thank you for your report MT. The work you are doing around 24 hour accessibility is really important, however Warsash don't fit university timetabling in terms of examination/assessment periods, especially regarding accessing the library regularly for our assessments, not taking into account the possibility of 24 hour support from the library.

MT: Fully appreciate this is an issue with Warsash and it's something I am working on, in particular trying to raise visibility around the issue to the senior leadership of the university.

I would like to work with Warsash School in order to bring them into academic fold, making sure library is open during your assessment periods etc. It's also a very similar issue to the apprentice student, so will keep you updated on my progress.

TD: What is the relation between the exam period and the library being open?

RTW: During the exam period, the library is open 24 hours a day, but however the specialist facilities some course will need are not accessible out of regular library hours.

AW: This is a real issue in creative courses as there isn't much resources available in the first place and it is a first come first serve culture with equipment.

MT: And this is not fair when library isn't open with the specialist facilities required to complete your work so I am trying my hardest to change this.

Report was unanimously Approved

Head of Wellbeing, HH (Written Report Included):

Anti-Spiking: This is one of my main manifesto points and can be a taboo subject to talk about. We launched Safe Night Out over freshers, some posters have gone out for promotion and we are planning to relaunch digitally in January to try and reach more students who may not be aware of the scheme. For extra promotion, HH has been on radio and has done work with JS on presenting to psychology students and they have an option to do some work with SNO as part of their course, and we welcome all feedback from here. This work is in collaboration with SUSU so far, and we are talking to other unions about branching out this scheme to their local areas. HH has also secured funding for anti-spiking tests which test drinks for a range of drugs which may have been unknowingly put into potential victim's drinks. These will be free in the new SU shop when people want them (next to East Park Deli).

Sexual health tests on campus: This event happened over freshers if the aim on getting students to get tested for STI's and raise awareness around the importance of getting yourself tested, however it didn't work so well as not enough students went down so talking with company about how to approach subject in future and what would work better for Solent students. There are also free condoms available in the SU if students wish to have these.

Mental health awareness: We contacted Radio Sonar about mental health awareness and they put on an all-day broadcast on mental health day on where to get support (locally and in the community), raising awareness around the issue and similar topics. Have also been in touch with Sue Lloyd about having these conversations in the spark.

HH has also been sitting on a number committees/boards, including Extenuating circumstances, wellbeing, student disciplinary boards, student finance, safe Solent. I have attended mental health training, media law, NUS environmental conference, southern union conference, SU's + OPC and the Green Impact Awards.

Question from SDF: I am part of the psychology class and doing our work about your SNO campaign, and I am wondering if you are doing anything to educate students around spiking?

HH: We have produced some posters to get word out about staying safe, and one of the questions in your work will be around how would students like to be engaged about this kind of work, as we would like all of our work to have student input.

EH: Appreciate what you are doing for sexual health, however it is harder to get testing for anyone who identifies as trans+ because you aren't able to receive kits through the post (the option literally doesn't exist for tras+) and hard to get an appointment as it must be at 8am on Monday.

AW: There is a massive problem around gendered sexual health materials and products used for testing sexual health issues etc.

JS: In order to continue sexual health testing on campus, the organisation running the sessions need 50% of people attending to be from protected characteristics, and this wasn't achieved at Solent so they couldn't continue to do the work.

Report was unanimously Approved

Society Committee Update

GD: The chair of the society committee sent apologies so no report was received.

Officer Committee update

GD: Officer Committee hasn't happened yet, no update to receive.

Student Officer Updates

GD: No updates as this is the first session, however it would be nice to hear your aims/campaign ideas for the year.

EH: Last year wrote a trans inclusion policy and want to see it implemented, gender neutral toilets still a priority from last year & want to lobby the university for gender neutral toilets. Working with Tony on doing a LGBT guide to Southampton which is LGBT friendly and highlights places which are safe in Southampton for the LGBT community.

AW: Clothes swap for people who are Trans, as they may not be able to access clothes which make them feel good. Would like to see a Wardrobe rental scheme (kind of a SU charity shop) but this may be difficult to find adequate space and tricky cause you need to know someone who has contacts in the university.

BE: Haven't got any campaign ideas yet, however I do want to get more students to attend union events and become more prominent in the university communications as you don't hear much about events on at university and union and so students are potentially missing out.

SDF: Accessibility in spark is not great especially for wheelchair users, there is very little disabled seating in spark. There is also a lot of students with other mobility issues which aren't and the lecture halls don't accommodate for this, and it makes it extremely uncomfortable for disabled students to sit/stand in lecturers for long periods of time.

GH: Increase the connectivity with university, highlighted that Warsash students are never in same place for too long (due to extended periods of time at sea as part of their degree) which makes it hard to do simple things such as ringing exam team about different pass marks (which are slightly different to regular courses) which can really affect the course, so want to work with SU and University to make operational changes to help Warsash students. Wants to bring back the Griffon icon which is the historical logo of Warsash, as it represents the history of Warsash.

IS: Make the university more environmentally friendly, starting with giving some of the open space back to nature. Filling these empty spaces with plants will improve the air cleanliness, can improve mental health by using these areas as relaxation zones which in turn will increase student positivity.

TD: Building cohesion between religious societies by holding a number of multi faith events. Also build links between the LGBT community & religious groups to find how they can support one each other.

SL: Celebrate International week by create a series of films, where local directors represent the culture of their nationalities. Model UN is a great way to bring awareness and let people know countries issues exists. Playing international music on Solent radio. Excited to start!

DP: Before starting any major campaigns, would like to figure out how to structure aims, and wants to see how student officer/campaigns fit in with the union structure.

OI: Aims are very clear in manifesto. Would like to set up a mental health society. Wellbeing office is great but isn't enough. Feels like whilst students are adults, students still have barrier when talking to staff due to a student/teacher relationship. Society would be run by students, for students. The society would not force students to talk, sometimes they just need a cup of tea/be made comfortable in their own way. Wants to run campaigns that don't glorify & misrepresent mental health issues. Even people who have okay mental health suffer and need support from time to time, so wants to run a campaign which tells our wider community that even if people look fine, that isn't always the case.

Student Motions

No motions received

Policy Update

Amendment to Bye Law 7.1

The term of office for Sabbatical Officers will be for a 12-month period, from 4th July until 3rd July.

In the student council meeting held on 13/11/2018, it was decided that the Sabbatical Officers term length be changed to allow graduating students to receive graduation speeches from the Sabbatical Officers who were in office when they were students. When the Sabbatical Officer term ended on the 3rd July, they did not attend the students they had supported graduation ceremonies, as traditionally, they start around 7th July.

This was unanimously approved through email. Trustee board (23/10/2019) requested a change to wording to read "The term of office for Sabbatical Officers will be a 12 month period ending on the day of the last graduation ceremony."

RW: Will this affect when grad is?

RTW: change if that happens. First thing you do as a sabbatical is a graduation speech for a group of people who don't know who you are/you don't know them.

Motion was **unanimously Approved**

AOB

A election needed to be held to appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair of Student Council for the remainder of the year. Details for the criteria of Council Chair can be found in the bye-laws under section 4.1 (https://www.solentsu.co.uk/pageassets/about/publications/Bye-Laws-V_13-25.03.19.pdf).

Chair election

Nominate Candidates & votes received

JW 8

RON 2

James Whale elected as Student Council Chair

Deputy Chair election

Nominate Candidates & votes received

HH 6

OI 2

RON 1

Honour Hewett elected as Student Council Deputy Chair

Date of next meeting. 09/12/19

Meeting Adjourned