



University of Suffolk Students' Union

Student Council Agenda

25th October 2023, 5pm, W129

Attendees:

Ancha Joof Prior (SU Staff); Amber Spalding (SU Staff); Chloe Appleford (SU Staff) Lewis Woolston (LW); Katie Pickard (KP); Sam Clarke (SC); Rozz Richardson (RR); Jeremy Thomas (JT); Matthew Griffiths (MG); Emma Carrion (EC); Lizz Reed (LR); Ludmila Jaros (LJ); Shannon Pilsworth (SP); Stephen Avis (SA); Amruthavarshini Vellalu Anandagiri (AV); Carolyn Marsh (CM); Hannah Sykes (HS); Henry Kiddy (HK); Isobel Seaman (IS); Layla Alani (LA); Lisa Benson (LB); Leesha Daniels (LD); Alfie Grove (AG); Rebecca Herbert (RH), Martyn Dyke (MD); Jamie Robers (JR); Marta Santos (MS).

Minutes by: Amber Spalding

1. Welcome/ how the meeting will work

AJP: Hi everyone, welcome to the first Student Council of the year – thank you all for being here and for reaching quoracy so we can vote on papers and elect a new chair. Katie and Lewis are going to be taking over for the beginning of council to elect a new Chair of council – who will then take over from here.

LW: We have quite a small agenda today – usually chair would be doing this, but since we need to elect one, we're just taking over until this process happens. We're just going to suggest we amend the agenda slightly to accommodate this.

You can vote one of three ways: For [you approve the minutes, in that their contents are correct]; Against [you are not approving the minutes]; Abstain [when you confirm that you are abstaining from voting, it means you are voting neither for or against the minutes].

4. Elections

a. Chair of Student Council

LW: The Chair of Council is responsible for the leadership of the Council and making sure it is run effectively, correctly, following all by-laws. Does anyone want to put themselves forwards?

SC nominates herself for the role, as well as MD.

Council votes SC as new Chair of Student Council [17-4]

b. Deputy Chair

SC: Thanks everyone – we'll get started with the rest of the elections and meeting.

The deputy chair plays a vital role in supporting the chairperson and promoting the overall well-being and interests of the student body, thereby contributing to the effective functioning of the student council. The main responsibilities include: acting as the second-in-command, assuming the responsibilities myself in my absence and ensuring the continuity of the council's activities.

JT, SP and MD all nominate themselves as Deputy Chair.

MD is elected as Deputy Chair.

c. Democratic Procedures Committee

SC: The DPC in a Students' Union is responsible for ensuring that the democratic processes within the union are fair, transparent, and inclusive. Its primary role revolves around maintaining the integrity of the democratic procedures and ensuring the elections run smoothly.

AV and JT put themselves forward to be on the committee and are elected [Unanimous vote].

5. Motions

SC: Usually at this stage we would have motions to vote on, but this month there isn't anything to review. But have a think and scan the QR code to propose a motion ahead of our next meeting [AGM]

6. Reports

a. President of Activities and Wellbeing

KP: Hi, I'm Katie, your President of Activities & Wellbeing. Since starting the role earlier on in the year, and we've been working hard on achieving our manifesto points.

Since starting the role, a priority was reopening shop SU. This ensured students would have a convenient and cheap location to purchase food and drinks. The reopening saw a change in products, better quality items and good deals. Shop SU so far has made a great difference in the social space, and we are excited for more developments to come in the next few months.

My main campaign this year is called Home Away From Home and focuses on helping students in accommodation and international students. The idea is to give these students the opportunity to attend events and meet people who are in a similar situation, creating a sense of community and belonging among students. So far Home away from home has provided, black history month lunch and learn, puppy playdate, su dinner club and toddlers and tea. Each month different events will be hosted, and all relevant information can be seen on our social media.

Plans for regular student social and wellbeing events are well underway. Meetings with clubs and societies are ongoing to provide them with the support they need to make these happen. The SU has met with external partners to organise a specific student night as well as start plan for socials throughout the year. The next monthly social is bottomless brunch on the 4th November.

Council approve KP's report.

b. President of Education

LW: Work on improvements to PAC is well underway – almost finished. Training has gone out to staff now, this should enable pac's to deliver a more polished and effective product which benefits students more. This feedback is going to continue throughout the year, semi regular meetings are to be held to discuss how feedback can be acted upon. I have also opened discussions on how students can contact their pac's in a more effective manner, as students have previously reported long wait times for replies to emails etc. An online form seems it could be effective however these discussions are still ongoing.

We will be releasing a survey for students who would like to feedback their experience of EC's, this should give us data highlighting the key difficulties students face. I have also been in contact with the extenuating circumstances team regarding the policy and will be meeting with them in the near future to discuss student feedback, most likely once the survey data has been collected and analysed.

Similarly to EC's I have split this piece of work into two. One part focussing on the part time employment of students who are currently studying. The SU is now offering more student-staff vacancies than before giving students an increased opportunity to earn some money. As well as this we're currently reviewing our approach to SU event staffing and looking at implementing flexible student-staff roles to increase our offering. I've also been in contact with the careers team, I am going to increase my contact with careers to discuss how we can further support students in applying for full time roles post UoS, this makes up the second half of the piece.

Council approve LW's report.

3. Previous meeting minutes

Council approves the minutes [11 For, 1 Abstain, 8 Abstain]

2. Announcements

SC: Results of the 23/24 Officer By-Elections will be announced on Friday 27th October. Voting closes tomorrow at 5pm.

The Voice Team will be hosting monthly drop-in sessions for course reps, the first being on Monday 30th October.

Just a reminder, Claire and Tim from the SU advice service are running drop in sessions to support students with any academic issues, misconduct, appeals, etc. The first drop in will be on Thursday 2nd November, from 1-3pm.

7. Any Other Business

8. Date of next meeting – 30th November 2023, 5pm, A001 – AGM