



University of Suffolk Students' Union

Student Council Minutes

30th March, 2023, 4pm, HW028

Attendees: Sam Clarke (SC), Jamie Lea (JL), Edward Elphick (EE), Alex Gooch (AG), Leesha Daniells (LD), Katie Pickard (KP), Patrik Sramka (PS), Amber Ferguson (AF), Lewis Woolston (LW), Rozz Richardson (RR), Jack Johnstone-Moffat (JJM), Conor O'Learly (CO), Shannon Pilsworth (SP), Joe Lockwood (JLo), Tyler Payne (TP), Ben Davidson (BD), Kirsty Taylor-Warren (KTW), Nicola Robinson (NR), Maya White (MW), Henry Kiddy (HK), Daniel Gorton (DG), Lisa Brown (LB), Lisa Benson (LBe), Nicola Quinton (NQ), Sharon Fullilove (SF), Boroji Rich (BR), Hana Skalova (HS).

Chair: Sam Clarke

Minutes: Amber Spalding

1. Welcome/ How the meeting will work

SC: Hi everyone, thanks for coming today. This council is an important as we have two motions to vote on, two months' worth of minutes, plus Alex's presidential reports.

I think all of you know this by now, but when it comes to voting, you can vote 'for' (I agree with this idea/I think this is a good report) or 'against' (I don't like this idea/I don't think this is a good report) or abstain (I'm not sure about this idea/report) for each report and motion – show of hands for in person, polls on Zoom.

[Announcements]

AG: The university are recruiting for Chair of the Board. It's a great opportunity to get involved in the student segment of the day. You must be available on April 21st, 9:30-3:30, so please let me know if you are interested and I can send more information you way.

We are also reviewing the Student Charter. If anyone would like to input ideas for anything they would like to change about what is in there, please email me at alex.pres@uos.ac.uk.

2. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

a) January 2023 minutes

b) February 2023 minutes

SC: Comments or changes needed on the minutes? Anything unclear or incorrect?

Council approves previous minutes. [21 FOR]

3. Motions & Actions Update

a) Changing LGBT+ officer role name to LGBTQ+ officer

[The Students' Union Notes... Changing LGBT+ officer role name to LGBTQ+ officer

The Students' Union Notes... The problem is that the current language used is outdated and not as inclusive and I think this would be more inclusive for students

The Students' Union Believes... I think it would make students feel more included as it is more inclusive and progressive language and it is more commonly used language used by the community

The Students' Union Resolves... I am asked that the LGBT+ officer role changes to LGBTQ+ officer]

JL: When running for LGBT+ Officer, I noticed that the language (of the officer title) is outdated. I wanted to add the 'Q' to make it inclusive – what people identify as/with.

LBe: Can I just ask what the 'Q' means in LGBTQ+?

JL: 'Q' refers to Queer or Questioning. In the past, queer has been a derogatory term, but nowadays it is common to use queer as an inclusive term.

LBe: Could we spread the word about this? There may be other people – like myself – who would like to be refreshed on the correct terminology.

Vote on officer title: 20 FOR, 1 ABSTAIN – **Motion Passed.**

b) Motion to use Revolutions Ipswich for future student events.

[The Students' Union Notes... Due to previous conduct from Revolutions the student union decided in 2021 to ban the use of Revolutions for all student events. This motion was submitted due to lack of safety concerns from revolutions staff and due to the increased spiking incidents across Ipswich. However, with recent closures of other night life venues across Ipswich, there is very limited venues available that are both accessible and big enough to safely fit in all students.

The Students' Union Believes... Student led initiatives/ freshers events are becoming harder to plan due to the lack of suitable venues available in Ipswich. This has resulted in fewer students wanting to participate in planning and attending student union events. With Freshers and monthly socials being a main attraction for students at university, Suffolk university is becoming less desirable to attend for students who want an active social life. We believe we should be working with all suitable venues across Ipswich to increase student engagement and provide a better experience for students. It is well known that students attend events at Revolutions due to it being one of the only night life venues available. For this reason we believe it would be better for us to work in partnership with Revolutions to ensure students get the best deals whilst looking out for their safety.

The Students' Union Resolves... Revolutions have agreed to undergo training hosted by the student unions CEO Jumara Stone. This training will ensure student safety is a priority on nights out. We will also research and then strongly encourage Revolutions to invest in anti-spiking measures in their venue and make sure they are present on student led nights. If this motion is passed we are able to provide this training to the venue and ensure they are taking on all safety measures possible.]

SC: This motion is to re-instate the use of Revolutions Ipswich as a venue for SU events. In May 2021 they were banned, due to issues surrounding nightlife training, incidents of spiking, treatment of customers from doorstaff.

KP: Re-instating Revs is a controversial issue. It has a bad rep – historically – but as students, we need cheap accessible venues for future social events. We would ensure that Revs would undertake strict, safety training by our CEO, Jumara Stone. We have no other nightlife venues, students go here regardless of these safety measures, so we need to make sure they have the safest possible experience – reducing spiking, sexual harassment etc.

CO: What does the training entail? Is it just some online training or is there some equipment involved, such as Anti-Spiking Lids and/or test strips?

KP: The training will be in person with our CEO.

AG: I wonder if this could be an amendment – details of the training.

HK: How will this be monitored in the future – i.e., how do we know if they've stuck to their word?

LD: I'd like to start by saying that I am not against this motion, but emphasise that Student safety is the priority here and this should not be sacrificed for the sake of holding events.

Firstly, I question what Revs has *actually done* to improve their safety measures since the motion was passed in 2021 to stop using them.

For example, following the high number of spiking incidences in October 2021, Revolution Ipswich released a statement via Instagram stating that they would increase searches before people enter the venue. From personal experience I can tell you that bags are searched occasionally, people are rarely searched and it is predominantly men that are searched if they do take place. Not everyone that enters Revs is checked.

The issues with Revolution lie not solely with their staff but with their bouncers. I'm sure we have all heard of incidents where they have been needlessly aggressive both verbally and physically. I believe the SU needs to find out which company revs sources their security staff from to understand what night time economy training they have received if any. and whether they are appropriate for SU events.

I am optimistic that there is progress, simply by Revs accepting the prospect of being trained by Jumara you can see a change in mindset. But, we should wait until there is a change in behaviour, until they have taken in the training and Revs is a noticeably safer venue and until we understand the policies of the security staff that they hire before we trust them in hosting our student events.

Therefore, I call that we abstain and return to this motion once revs have completed the training and until we visibly see more safety measures in place such as visible welfare staff and signage about initiatives such as 'Ask for Angela'. Again, the most important factor here is student safety and we must ensure that the venues that the SU partners with hold customer safety at the forefront of their business.

PS: Didn't Revs have training previously?

KP: We want to give Revs a final opportunity to prove to us they're concerned about Student Safety and will/have taken appropriate measures to ensure this. From personal experience – and conversations – they seem willing to undertake training and work with us in the future.

LB: Why just Revolutions – are there not other venues in Ipswich with similar incidents?

AG: In the past, there were multiple venues the SU was trying to work with. Those who did not undertake training/messed us around, were banned at council May 2021.

LBe: Did Revs do other safety training? At the time Revs were having major issues in-house, so perhaps they didn't want to do extra training with us because they had already done their own. Is there capacity to set something up for feedback on this – trial run?

LB: At SU events, why is it the venue's responsibility for security – can't we get our own?

KP: At SU events SU staff are present, but for student-led events we can't hire our own security for many reasons – budget, accessibility, capacity – so often this means venues are responsible for the safety of our students.

LD: SU staff have had a taster session of Night-time Economy training, but there's a wider conversation as to whether they receive full training from the council – and whether this is adequate, or whether this comes from an external supplier.

AG: Just to explain Katie's point, so this motion is about us (as an organisation) working with Revs. So, at present, the SU can't promote the use of said venue. Students can still go there, like Katie said, but we cannot promote revs and/or work with them directly.

LD: Can Jumara do the training first, then bring this back to council so we can re-discuss?

AF: When there are student events and alcohol involved, there's only so many things venues can do to mitigate incidents happening – bad things are going to happen wherever students go.

RR: Can we put a timeframe on training for Revs staff?

KP: We want to provide the training ASAP, as we're hoping to use the venue for an event at the end of May 2023.

JJM: In terms of spiking (talking about personal experience with security at Revs), it wasn't just Revs who were experiencing these issues, it was widespread across Ipswich. In terms of holding events – on a personal level – I've had guarantees there, they promised to have more security on the door for safety.

AG: I think the concern here with Revs, is that there was negligence over students who were spiked, people left out on the street alone (vulnerable people), security being aggressive (throwing people out), lack of safety precautions/measures.

[To KP] Does this training include door staff? As often these are external bodies.

JJM: Security are contracted out by Bridgegate – who take reasonable precautions.

LB: What are we *actually* voting on here? Students are going there anyways, so when we vote FOR, we are ensuring better safety, better deals, more student involvement?

AG: We could potentially do an emergency student council to review this – if this does not get passed/needs amendments.

CO: Is there any chance the SU could also sell some anti-spiking measures (such as lids and test strips) for students that do go out to Revs and other venues?

AG: During Freshers+ReFreshers, we did buy our own lids and strips, but it wasn't something we gave out to every student due to the expensive nature of the product.

Vote on Motion: Re-instatement of Revolutions Ipswich

[FOR]: 6; [AGAINST]: 1; [ABSTAIN]: 3; [FOR WITH AMENDMENTS]: 8; [VOTE IN EMERGENCY COUNCIL]:3

Motion Passed with Amendments (attached in separate document)

4. Emergency motions

5. Reports

a. President Education report

AG: I won't go into this too much, but as written in my last report to council, I have begun to focus more on the changes I can make and where I can support the incoming strategy of the organisation. I have continued to network with the sector including having catchups with NUASU President Jazz and Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer Aaron, and have been to 2 conferences this month. NUS conference in Harrogate - along with three student representatives, discussing policies, campaigns, accountability and what NUS is working on in the next year.

Vote on Alex's report(s): 21 FOR. **Report Approved.**

6. Any Other Business

7. Date of next meeting – May 31st, 2023, 17:30