** University of Suffolk Students’ Union**

**28th April, 13:00-14:30**

**SU AGM Minutes**

**Minutes– Belinda Bradley**

**Host & Questions – Bradley Allsop**

**Chair – Alex Gooch**

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| **Time** | **Items** | **Action** |
| **13:10** | **1a. Chair’s Welcome** | AG: Welcome to AGM 2021. What is an AGM - I’m sure Bradley will chip in if I miss anything? The AGM is an opportunity for students to:* Scrutinise the work of elected officers
* Ensure that they are fulfilling the promises they made during their election campaign
* See how decision making has impacted you
* Ask Questions
* Suggest improvements (called a motion)
* Challenge decisions

So, trustees accounts and affiliations, did someone want to hop in so you get it better than I would?ST: Hi everyone, because the SU is a registered charity, we’re required to have a board of trustees and CEO who is delegated to running the SU and providing accounts about what trustees have been doing. The trustee board is made up of volunteers and students, working towards the aims of our charity.AG: How will the meeting work. Keep your mike muted unless called on to speak. If you want to ask any questions or speak in favour or against something, message the UOS SU account – you can simply post your question in that char or if you’d like to directly speak on the call, type ‘I want to speak on this’. The chair will read your question or unmute your mike and tell you when it’s your turn to speak. Keep your points on topic and brief. We’ll run polls during the call for you to vote on each report and motion – these will be up for 2 minutes. If you can’t vote on the poll, message UOS SU in the in-call chat to log your vote. You can vote to accept, reject or abstain for each report and option. So, here is the agenda (agenda on slide). |  |
| **13:14** | **2. Announcements** | AG: first up I believe we have SU Advice.CH: Hey I’m Claire and charlotte is my assistant; we’ll be giving you an overview of advice.Our main area of supporting students is with academic issues such as:Academic Appeals – a student can appeal the following:Module result (or component thereof).Required withdrawal from a course.A verdict of, or penalty applied in respect of, academic misconduct.A refusal to permit an extension or deferral in accordance with the Extenuating Circumstances PolicyAcademic Misconduct – a student may be investigated by the university for:PlagiarismCollusionContract Cheating – work produced by an essay millFabricationCheatingFailure to have ethical approvalStudent Complaints:This could be about a course, a member of staff, a placement, or a fellow studentFitness to practice:A student may have a concern raised about them, their progress or conduct on placement. We can support students throughout this process including attending meetings with the student.Fitness to study:A student may have a concern raised about them if they are not engaging or progressing successfully on their course. We can support students throughout this process including attending meetings with the student.· Extenuating Circumstances:We can support and advise students on how to apply for extensions or deferrals due to extenuating circumstances – for example they may have a period of ill health, or a change in personal circumstances that impacts on their ability to learn, study or submit work and so they may want to apply for an extension or deferral to give them more time to complete and submit the work due.We have chosen to analyse cases between September and April to allow us to compare over the last three academic years, including the current academic year, for the same time period. 137 up to 27 April 2019Overall, in the academic year 2018/2019 we opened a total of 170 cases:Top three type of cases:o Appealso Academic Misconducto Health and wellbeingOverall, in the academic year 2019/2020 we opened a total of 151 casesDecrease in overall cases opened – in part due to better signposting at drop-in sessions to specialised services such as student services – mental health and disability advisers, Academic Skills Advisers in learning services and the Student Finance team. 105 up to 27 April 2020Top three type of cases:o Appealso Academic misconducto Complaints – in part due to covid-19 – online access, rent/accommodation etco Decrease in health and wellbeing cases can be put down in part to a better working relationship and signposting to Student ServicesSlide Four – current academic yearSo far, this academic year we have opened 113 cases – up slightly on the same time period last year.Top three type of cases:· Appeal· Academic Misconduct· ComplaintsNo change in the top three types of cases compared to last yearIt is important to note is that these are not just one-off appointments, but ongoing cases that we are supporting students with and may include support writing/proof reading appeals, statements, suggested evidence, attending meetings and following up on case progress with OSACC – Office for Student Appeals, Complaints and Conduct.This slide is to illustrate that although Ipswich students remain the highest number of users of the advice service, we are seeing an increasing number of students from LSC, GBS, and UNICAF contacting and accessing support through SU Advice.Please note, the unspecified users are students that have accessed support but have not been able to be identified due to an incorrect student number or not being listed on our database. Rather than delay or withholding the service from them we have supported them and are now in the process of working with the partnerships team, OSACC and the university to identify them and capture what campus they are students at.I will now pass onto my colleague CharlotteCW: Thank you Claire. Although we are working remotely, we are fully accessible to studentso Virtual appointment Students can have a virtual appointment with us – either a Teams video call or a telephone callo Virtual drop-in sessionso we started this in February 2021 via zoom, no appointment necessaryo Slow uptake so faro These will resume in May 2021o Email – students can email us for advice, and we will respond within two working days Monday to Fridayo New appointment booking system was launched this academic year, so students can view and book available appointments via our websiteo Feedback formso We want to hear what users of the service thought and what we can improve on. We will be sending the short form out to users starting in May 2021.Thank you for listening. Any questions?AG: This is your opportunity to take questions, also the emails to contact the advice team are on screenAR: Is this the same organisation as what we have with the teachers. BA: Are you based on another campus?AR: YeahBA: Yeah, this is separate to those meetings, but this meeting is for the SUAR: Amongst students, right? If I have problems later on and I need help, I can come to you right? That would be okay?BA: Yeah there’s a chance at the end of the meeting or if it’s specific to you, our officers can help you.AG: Non-voters surveyBA: That’s me, thanks chair. We hold our elections for officer team, you get to elect who represents you, hold those in March. If you didn’t vote, we want to hear from you and find out how to improve and engage more students. The link there is how you get to the survey. We want your thoughts on the survey, and everyone who fills it out is entered to win a SU hoodie.AG: Link in the chat. Onto SU Awards, Gergana?GI: Yes, the SU awards are an annual celebration of your achievements. Nominations have been open for two weeks and close tonight at midnight, you still have time. We have 9 categories for staff and students, but if you know someone who had been amazing this year, pleas nominate them you need to write a short description of why they’re amazing. There will be an awards night on 24th may where we announce winners. The event is great fun and great opportunity to celebrate what everyone has done. We encourage you to submit nominations. We want to hear about their story. Link in the chat and look forward to seeing you there. BB: Belle advertised Activities Elections |  |
| **13:29** | **3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting** | BA: We don’t have quoracy, but you will hear reports, form sabs, and you can comment on them |  |
| **13:30** | **4a. Annual Officer Reports – President Education Update** | DG: Hi everyone, I’m going to start with my election’s campaigns. 1. Standardise academic feedback.After a review, I decided this campaign was best adapted to promote standards of academic feedback, as opposed to a policy of standardised feedback. This was implemented in the Student Charter, which now not commits the University to “provide students with high quality feedback on their work.” The Charter was passed at Senate on 3rd March.2. Set up group wellbeing sessions.As Covid-19 restrictions were extended, I was not able to hold the in-person drop-in sessions that I had initially envisaged. I was, however, able to ask the Suffolk Student Wellbeing Ambassadors to help me to achieve this campaign goal. After meeting with them in January, Meg and Andy were able to transform my idea into the monthly ‘Just Brew It’ sessions – a wellbeing focussed online discussion on the Icebreaker platform.3. Introduce the Good Night Out Campaign to Ipswich.The Good Night Out Campaign is a national organisation that was set up to stop sexual violence in nightlife settings. As there has been no ‘nights out’ so far this year, I have only been able to organise this campaign, rather than see it in action. Funding has been agreed, and venues are being contacted, with a plan to start the training before the end of June. This campaign is ongoing and will be completed by September 2021.4. Course Rep ForumThe Course Rep Forum is a new meeting model, inspired by the use of breakout rooms in online meetings. The SU have been able to hold informal course rep catch-ups, with updates from the President and the Director for Learning and Teaching. The online meeting means that we are able to group Course Reps into their academic school areas, to hold a School Officer Forum with School Officers. The Student Experience Ambassadors also attend this meeting, so they are able to give updates to the SU and reps at the same time.The new meeting has often been used to hold discussions on current issues, pending motions to Student Council, or just to extend the visibility of the SU and School Officers to reps. It has been a success this year, and I hope it will continue next year.5. Challenges of Covid-19The impact of Covid-19 has been widespread throughout the year, both for the SU and for students. One of the key areas of interest has been the temporary changes to assessment regulations. I have worked with the University to make sure that students will not be disadvantaged in their studies due to the ongoing effects of Covid-19.I have also been in close discussion with the Health and Sports Science School, to ensure that students on placements in the NHS are being made safe. I have also advocated for students that are advanced in their studies, and are working independently, to be financially rewarded for their commitment.6. GraduationThe impact of Covid-19 also reached graduation. I have been involved in making sure that the Class of 2020 get the best possible experience under the circumstances: an in-person celebration, in a timely manner. Whenever possible, we represented student views on graduation. As a result of this, the university have decided on an in-person event to mark the achievement of Class of 2020, with a scope to have a larger graduates celebration in the future.7. Students in accommodationStudents in accommodation have had a very difficult experience this year, and around the country, they are feeling abandoned by the government and universities. This is why we have been working to introduce Accommodation Reps to the SU structure, to make sure that situations like this do not arise again. The reps will be a clear link between the SU, students in accommodation, and the providers, to make sure everyone has a good experience.The SU have also been working hard to give something back to students in this difficult year: when the university were given funding by the government for hardship purposes, we recommended that it should go to students in accommodation. A £500 hardship bursary was created to support them.8. Collaboration with the universityIn my role of representing students to the university, I am given opportunities to do this at all levels of the university structure. This year, I have been involved in recruiting the Student Experience Ambassadors, the new Dean of the School of EAST, and a new Head of Careers, Employability and Enterprise. This makes sure that the SU is ensuring that the student experience is at the forefront of the recruitment process throughout the uni.Another way in which I have collaborated with the university, is in the creation and updating of policies, such as the Student Charter, the new policy on student representation, and the changing assessment regulations through the year.The SU have also encouraged the university to take a more open approach on social media, being more responsive to live feedback. This is something that caused significant tension on sensitive subjects and attending to social media posts is an increasingly important part of the more digitally focused year we have had.We attended a university committee which organised the induction and transitioning process for new and returning students. Here we were able to give feedback from our past experiences and what the student body had told us. As representatives from the SU, we made sure you had opportunities to hear about us, who we are, what we do and how you can get involved. As a result of this, you may have seen us in your lectures early in the academic year. It’s an important part of your journey so we hope to always get your feedback so the university can give you a smoother experience.9. Freshers/RefreshersThis year Freshers and Refreshers were delivered primarily online. Events included educational, social and well-being activities: Discover Ipswich Hunt, a Welcome Quiz, comedy nights, mindfulness sessions, a Cook along, Cocktail and Mocktail Making, a Coffee Master class, walks in Felixstowe and in Christchurch park.10. Student CouncilThe Vice-President (Activities & Welfare) seconded a motion proposed by the SU’s LGBT+ Officer in support of the ban on conversion therapy. The motion was passed at Student Council and commits the SU to release a statement to this effect - affirming our commitment to equality for all students and supporting those who have had negative experiences of conversion therapy. The Student Officer Committee have written and released the statement. The SU are proud of our members for raising this issue with us, and we are proud to be able to support everyone in this way.The SU full-time officers have supported suggestions from the student body to retitle the Sabbatical Officer roles to reflect a growing SU; give equality to the job title and remove an implied hierarchy; clarify the roles of the two Sabbatical Officers.A motion, proposed by the SU SWCR Officer was seconded by me and passed at Council, petitioning the Sabbatical Officers to work with the University to amend Block Learning, as it is believed to affect some students negatively. This motion is being followed up with listening sessions, aimed at certain groups that are understood to have more difficulty adapting to the new type of learning. This will enable the University and the SU to directly address the issues with Block Learning and resolve them quickly.The SU have been updating the duties of the Part Time Officers, to embed the roles more centrally within the SU structure. The desired effect of this should be that part time officers will feel more engaged with the SU, and as a result will be better able to represent their voter base.11. NUSEvery year, the two Sabbatical Officers attend the NUS Lead and Change event. This is an introduction to life as an elected officer and gives the opportunity for networking with NUS staff and Officers, as well as creating links with other SU’s around the country.Phoebe (NUS delegate) and Mauro had the opportunity to represent the UOS SU on a national level at the NUS National Conference. We had three days of attending a range of workshops that had different aims. Some were solely for digging deeper into policies and having discussions with the proposers, to either suggest amendments or have a better understanding. Other workshops were put in place to encourage networking which is beneficial as we were able meet Sabbs/delegates from bigger/smaller SU’s.Personally, we have found networking at NUS great as we are able to give each other ideas. For an example, the “Give it a go” initiative the SU are implementing, was from a conversation we had at NUS.There were many policies that passed including policies relating to sexual violence, mental health, student housing and more. You can see what we voted for on behalf of the student body, on the SU website.I was able to attend the Conference as an observer. This means that I could take part in workshops, discussions, and policy creation – though was not able to vote on the issues. I attended sessions on student rent, the cost of living as a student, discussions on tuition fees, and a seminar on ending sexual violence. This ties in closely with my role as President and relates to my election campaign to introduce the Good Night Out Campaign to Ipswich. AG: Any questions for Dan?BA: We can’t vote official, but we can give a vote to give a sense of how students feel. Can’t formally vote.AG: Open up to any questions, also let us know on the chat if you want to speak on the report. Thank you, Dan... I reckon silence is a good thing – no one will call you out for having an awful year.AG: Jade wants to know your favourite thing to work on this past yearDG: I’ve enjoyed this year, not expected but positives to take away – favourite thing got to be working with the amazing team at the SU but I think its overcoming the obstacles that we’ve faces and actually you know what, I wouldn’t be able to do it without the support of team and students. AG: Question coming in -Who is going to receive the good night out training?Dg: Can’t confirm venues yet but I’ll update that for many council fingers crossed.  | **24 Approve****Reject****1 Abstain** |
| **13:46** | **4b. Annual Officer Reports – VP Activities and Welfare Update** | MC: I’ll take my report as read but present specifics of my remit. 1. Our role in the Induction processWe attended a university committee which organised the induction and transitioning process for new and returning students. Here we were able to give feedback from our past experiences and what the student body had told us. As representatives from the SU, we made sure you had opportunities to hear about us, who we are, what we do and how you can get involved. As a result of this, you may have seen us in your lectures early in the academic year. It’s an important part of your journey so we hope to always get your feedback so the university can give you a smoother experience.2. Freshers/RefreshersThis year Freshers and Refreshers were delivered primarily online. Events included educational, social and well-being activities: Discover Ipswich Hunt, a Welcome Quiz, comedy nights, mindfulness sessions, a Cook along, Cocktail and Mocktail Making, a Coffee Master class, walks in Felixstowe and in Christchurch park.3. Athena RentDue to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, many students in accommodation have been struggling to pay rent, due to the lack of traditional student-jobs, such as bar & restaurant work. As a result, we have been working to find a solution throughout the year, especially with the owners of Athena Hall. Our main focus has been on Athena Hall this year as it is the most expensive, and the largest accredited accommodation provider. The landlords have offered a discount to students that have not been using their rooms during the third lockdown. In addition to this, the Students’ Union were consulted by the university to create a hardship fund for students in accommodation.4. 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NUSEvery year, the two Sabbatical Officers attend the NUS Lead and Change event. This is an introduction to life as an elected officer and gives the opportunity for networking with NUS staff and Officers, as well as creating links with other SU’s around the country.Phoebe (NUS delegate) and I had the opportunity to represent the UOS SU on a national level at the NUS National Conference. We had three days of attending a range of workshops that had different aims. Some were solely for digging deeper into policies and having discussions with the proposers, to either suggest amendments or have a better understanding. Other workshops were put in place to encourage networking which is beneficial as we were able meet Sabbs/delegates from bigger/smaller SU’s.There were many policies that passed including policies relating to sexual violence, mental health, student housing and more. 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Other activitiesExtra-curricular modules alongside degree – I am involved in a task and finish group led by the university, which focuses on employability. Here, I am looking to implement extra-curricular modules. With the support of the SEA’s, I gathered more information on extra-curricular modules as my survey in December had a low number of respondents. In addition to this, we offered students an 8-week Spanish course which was really popular. Due to the success of the 8-week Spanish course, I am currently researching whether we could offer other short courses such as sign-language.Active Bystander Pilot – I am co-leading the Active Bystander Task and finish group which involves staff members from the students’ union. We are running a pilot on the 21st April which consists of a range of people who have student facing roles. Active bystanders are trained to identify inappropriate behaviour or situations of concern, recognise that these situations do not represent the social norm and are equipped to respond with direct action through any combination of responses. The aim is to promote a pro-social community. After student consultation, it was concluded that the current issue students are facing relate to communication, loneliness, anxiety and stress. As a result of this, we have created 4 specific scenarios that the participants will discuss on the training day.Networking opportunities – I am meeting with a few Student Experience Ambassadors in implementing networking opportunities for students. At the moment we are focusing on how students can network online and stay connected. For an example, increasing the awareness of our societies as students can meet people with similar interests and build relationships. In conjunction, the SU are implementing a social media strategy where the aim is to give societies an opportunity to engage with students by social media takeovers, Q&A’s etc. Moreover, we are looking at introducing more coffee catchups with the SEA’s to give students a place to give feedback, receive information and to socialise, which I think a lot of people have missed this past year.* BHM/Listen-up sessions
* Give It a Go
* Sports Facilities

10. Officers* Arranged free sanitary products for students to collect – Women’s Officer
* Set up and started the Women’s Liberation Society – Women’s Officer
* Set up and utilized the Women’s Officer Facebook page to increase engagement – Women’s Officer
* Organised LGBTQ+ History Month – LGBT+ Officer
* Held a trans day of remembrance vigil – LGBT+ Officer
* Created a selection of resources for LGBTQ+ students - LGBT+ Officer
* Worked with the university to get support in place – Policies, Carers page on intranet etc. – SWCR Officer
* Hosted social events – SWCR Officer
* Worked with external charities (Gaddum) to support LGBTQ+ carers (mostly Manchester campus) – SWCR Officer
* Looking to set up social media page to increase engagement – SWD Officer
* Initiated discussions around implementing accessible social sports, such as archery, seated volleyball etc. – SWD Officer

AC: Give it a go, something similar with music?MC: It’s kind of sporty at the moment but doesn’t have to be sporty in the future. I’ll put my email in the chat.AG: It’s about stepping out of comfort zone and trying something you wouldn’t normally do.  | **22 Approve****Reject****3 Abstain** |
| **13:54** | **5. Annual Trustees Report** | MC and DG take turns: Trustee Board Meetings April 2019-2020The SU has four External Trustees (Jen Mackness, Lou Chiu, Andrew Crowe, one vacancy), two Student Trustees (Alex Gooch, Daniel Betts) and two Sabbatical Trustees (President Education and Engagement Daniel Goulborn and Vice-President Activities and Wellbeing Mauro Cardoso). Trustees oversee the performance and corporate governance of the organisation, delegating day to day responsibility for the running of the SU to the CEO.External Trustees serve a term of three years, with two terms possible. Student Trustees serve two years or until they are no longer a student. All trustees are volunteers. Though Trustees may submit expenses relating to their role, none have done so in this financial year.We will have one vacant student trustee role in May 2021 and will have two vacant external trustee roles by September 2021. We have promoted these vacancies and the preferred candidates will be proposed to Student Council and the Trustee Board in May 2021. Sabbatical Trustees will propose Lou Chiu as the incoming chair of the Trustee Board from September 2021. You can find more information on our Trustees and the Trustee Board Minutes on the SU website.The Trustees held 3 meetings, two online updates and one Development session between April 2020 and April 2021, with the following notable decisions:· Received regular updates from the CEO and Sabbatical Officers and offered constructive criticism, solutions and guidance· Reviewed the SU’s NSS scores (and increase from 53.19% to 58.67% satisfaction!)· Approved transactions of >5k, including for a strategic review of the SU· Supported the CEO to obtain financial support from the University relating to Covid 19 and Shop SU· Identification of incoming student trustee and new potential external Trustees via skills audit· Oversaw the SU’s Risk Register, including staffing structures· Supported the SU to recruit new staff· Oversaw the budget and management accounts· Approval of Accounts 2020 for the SU and SUSL· Supported the SU to achieve the discretionary element of our block grant· Approved Bylaw changes as agreed by student council· Approved a paper bringing SU staff salaries in line with those at the University.· In addition, Trustees attended an external training session with SU staff ‘Making Sense of Ally ship’ which was also provided by our External Trustee, Lou Chiu.AG: Busy, once again, we’re opening questions about what the trustees have been up to. I’ll keep questions open, but this report doesn’t need voting on.  |  |
| **13:59** | **6. NUS conferences reports** | MC: Every year the two sabbs attend NUS Leading Change Event. This year phoebe and I had the chance to represent SU. Three days of attending workshops, some solely for policies and others to encourage networking which is beneficial we met sabbs from other SU’s and for me, the Give it a Go initiative, I was inspired by another SU by it when I attended. Many policies passed; you can see what we voted form on the SU website. DG: We attended quite a few, I attended as an observer, but I couldn’t vote. So, I went to sessions on a range of topics. So, this tied in closely with my role as president and crucial part of my campaigns. MC: Similarly, the liberation officers attended the Liberation Conference and policies passed. You can find the link to our reports on the SU website.  |  |
| **14:04** | **7. Annual accounts of the Union** | \*Sarah Tattersall can provide summary upon request\*ST: Any questions at all, happy to go into length about them. AG: Tell your friends to buy meal deals to kept hr shop around. If you want to keep the shop, use the shop. |  |
| **14:15** | **8. Affiliations of the Union** | \*Sarah Tattersall can provide summary upon request\*AG: Hollie has asked, rather than change, might there be add on affiliations?ST: please do suggest new affiliations”Bb: England Netball and FA are affiliated – not sure cost but can updateBA: I will post updated document on page about how people can raise questions. |  |
| **14:18** | **9. Advertising veto list of the Union** | \*Sarah Tattersall can provide summary upon request\*ST: We have a veto list which is a list of categories where we wouldn’t want to work with that organisation or accept business form them. It’s important that you know, it’s not where income would come through. I’ll let you read at your leisure but if you would like to add remove or change, there is a process and we’d be more than happy to support you through that process.This is a standard list is adopted by other SU’s and initiated by nus.  |  |
| **14:27** | **10. Motions** | \*No motions\* |  |
| **14:27** | **11. Any Other Business** | Victoria Veitch: \*inaudible\* How do I enquire about health and wellbeing – an email would be helpful. ST: My colleague has put a contact in chat, uni would be suitable but SU advice is a good place to start.Ac: Question from Abbey Clarke in chat regarding lack of access for texts online- Uni of Suffolk doesn’t pay for extra texts that we need for research; is there a way this could be dealt with?ST: Abbey, I think we need more info but definitely something Dan and Mauro can bring up in their regular catch ups with the director of learning. Give us more info about what you want to access so we can go forward. DG: On this point, I came across this as a student and asked this a lot – if the journal or article is essential reading, it should be provided by the Uni, and accessible to you. If it’s additional, that will come down to permissions that the library has, which are under constant review. Send me an email, we can pick this up at a later time. AG: Thank you for coming – next student council May 26th 13:00-15:00. Thank you for coming.  |  |