



University of Suffolk Students' Union
Annual General Meeting Agenda
31st May, 2023
Held in A001 and Zoom

Attendees: Alex Gooch (AG); Rozz Richardson (RR); Emmanuel Afolabi (EA); Patrik Sramka (PS); Henry Kiddy (HK); Tyler Payne (TP); Robert Grey (RG); Shannon Pilsworth (SP); Maya White (MW); Ana Makhdum (AM); Grace Byer (GB); Oluwakemi Akintan (OA); Nicola Quinton (NQ); Amber Ferguson (AF); Nicola Robinson (NR); Boroji Rich (BR); Jamie Lea (JL); Katie Pickard (KP); Oluwaseun Boluro-Ajayi (OB); Luke Mayo (LM); Lewis Woolston (LW); Joe Lockwood (JL)

SU Staff: Amber Spalding (AS); Ancha Joof Prior (AJ); Arran Cottam (AC); Jumara Stone (JS); Jacob Love (JL)

Chair: Sam Clarke

Minutes: Amber Spalding

1. Chairs Welcome/how the meeting will work

SC: We don't have enough (50) to run the AGM, but are quorate for Student Council, meaning we can vote on the two motions today – one from the SU and one from our Postgraduate Officer.
to vote on the two motions.

We are going to run this similar to a student council, but we will be running another one in the next academic year (earlier on to maximise attendance).

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

a. 2022 AGM Minutes

b. 2021 AGM Minutes

c. Previous Student Council Minutes (March 23)

SC: Though we are not quorate today, we can still vote to approve these minutes, and then at the next AGM we can vote without being backdated.

AC: Just so you are all aware, when you are voting you are voting on an accurate record of minutes, looking to see if anything is wrong. You aren't looking for an exact account of the meeting and/or inaccuracies.

Vote for 2022: Passed with 1 Abstention.

Vote for 2021: Passed with 1 Abstention

3. Announcements

SC: The SU are running Part-time Officer elections in October [next academic year] and the following roles available include: Part-time; BAME; Mature; Students with Caring Responsibilities. Please email a.cottam@uos.ac.uk for more information/guidance, or talk to the current officer team for advice.

SC: Course rep elections are also happening too – in September. Have a think about re-running as course rep, speak to your cohort – this is particularly important for those cohorts currently without reps, or need further support in your cohort.

4. Motions

SC: The first motion has been proposed by Alex (current President of Education), and seconded by Lewis Woolston (upcoming President of Education), in which they ask the SU for a by-law change over the summer.

The Union Notes...

The SU runs in accordance to our written bylaws – they state the boundaries and rules that we operate through. These by laws have not been updated as a whole document for a number of years but they have received many small amendments. Good by laws should promote involvement and be democratically robust whilst not hindering membership engagement in the SU.

The Union Believes...

That our current by laws are over complicated in some areas which therefore hinders engagement, while in other areas they are not democratically robust enough to stop members abusing the rules for their own benefit. Because it has received multiple amendments over a number of years it is no longer a coherent document and has lots in it that causes confusion, creates problems without solutions and doesn't allow for students to easily get involved in the SU.

The Union Resolves...

To ask the SU elected officers and Engagement team to work together over the summer to create new by laws that can be bought to student council next academic year.

These new by laws should aim to simplify the rules to significantly reduce the barriers to participation whilst remaining democratically robust enough that they can't be abused.

AG: I'm the proposer of this motion so I'm more than happy to take questions. There have been conversations with SU staff members and Lewis regarding this, recognising that our by-laws are not always accessible for all, and there are some unnecessary hurdles.

AC: If you decide to approve this motion, the SU team and officers spend the summer looking at our current by-laws, and the issues we have, and then proposing the new changes at council at the beginning of the next academic year. Reflecting this back to the student body.

Vote: Passed with no abstentions or rejections.

5. Emergency Motions

SC: This motion would usually be included in the previous discussions, but it was submitted past the deadline, put forward by Emmanuel, our Postgraduate Officer.

EA: Hi everyone, this motion is hopefully self-explanatory, to make Postgraduate students a part of a school, rather than liberation group – they don't belong to a marginalized group unlike the other liberation roles.

AG: This is less of a question – but this is to commend Emmanuel’s motion, and suggest that this transition takes place within the new by-law changes.

Vote: Passed with one abstention and one rejection.

6. President of Education Annual Report

AG: This report is for what I’ve done in the last academic year (22/23).

AG: I’ve worked a lot on COL campaign, won a bid of £20 to put on initiatives, i.e., lunch bags, teas and coffee, initial free sanitary products, microwaves, free dinners, free parking for the academic year, clothes. I also met with Ipswich’s Local MP, Tom Hunt (conservative) and got a letter sent to the Secretary of State, regarding the increase in maintenance loans in line with inflation, and how the household income cap hasn’t increased.

Since the last AGM, I’ve been working hard to support our CEO and the strategic development of the union. Big part of the block grant increase – which is our annual budget, to achieve a 50% increase with staff support. Completed an organization restructure. In my first term, there was a flat structure, meaning the CEO was line managing 9 staff, but now we’ve introduced a role where CEO can work strategically. Lots of recruitment since last AGM, hiring interim, CEO, turnaround board, led on student panel for hiring chair of the board, working with Ipswich Central (university committee) to improve things about Ipswich (nighttime safety, accessibility, events etc.)

Completed an audit of the university’s campus’s accessibility and is waiting for a response. To contact the new President, Lewis, in due course.

Vote: Passed with no abstentions or rejections. [Not quorate]

7. Annual CEO Report

JS: I’m Jumara (she/her) the new CEO for the SU. Since the last AGM, the organisation has seen a lot of change; from an interim CEO over the summer period, to the biggest increase in the block grant, and structural changes within the organisation. I started in my position as CEO on Monday 26 September 2022 and have since then been focussing on three key areas to strengthen the SU for its members:

- *Block grant submission* – currently in block grant processes and hope to be successful, lots of structural changes for the SU to grow.
- *Strategy*
- *Turnaround and Board of Trustees* – turnaround means we go through a structural phase where we get specialists in for growth and change.

AC: In regard to voting, when you vote, you aren’t saying you accept or reject the paper, it’s just to say that you’ve received Jumara’s paper.

Vote: Passed with no abstentions or rejections. [Not quorate]

8. Annual Trustees report

AG: This report is just to show you what the trustees have been up to – sharing this with our members. You can find the finer details on the report that has been shared with you.

Vote: Passed with no abstentions or rejections. [Not quorate]

9. Annual accounts of the Union

AG: The trustee board has had oversight of the this over the last academic year – just a bit of transparency with our finances.

AC: This report is the annual accounts for 21/22, and when you vote, it for your approval/to hold the union to accountability, to make sure we are financially sound.

Vote: Passed with three abstentions. [Not quorate]

10. Affiliations of the Union

AG: Once again, if you have your phones in front of you, this is the SU's affiliation list [NUS Charity, NUS UK, Wonke, Advice UK, BUCS]. Happy to take questions – Arran does anything else need flatting re affiliations?

AC: Every year as part of the AGM, the by-laws say we need to submit a list of membership affiliations. NUS Charity is the branch of NUS that helps us as an SU; NUS UK is the political side. Advice UK allows us to offer advice as an organisation, and Wonke (sector body), focused on thought leadership in HE and SU's and provide Full-time Officer support and briefing and HE policy landscape. BUCS – support sports fixtures and competitive training.

Vote: Passed with two abstentions. [Not quorate]

11. Any Other Business

RR: *Are we going to have free parking again next year?* Struggle to find car parking spaces – is it open to the public?

AG: Everyone using the car park is a staff or student, no public. Anyone who doesn't park there will be fined – and is heavily monitored. Regarding cost, it's looking unlikely that it'll be free, but if COL continues to be a problem there could be future conversations there. Parking and capacity is only going to get worse, trying to work with council to improve public transport. Wharf car park still has capacity if needed.