

## Annual General Meeting Minutes

29.04.2020

Agenda for the meeting:

1. Chair's Welcome
2. Announcements
3. Annual Officer reports
  - A. Education and School Officers Update
  - B. Activities and Welfare & Liberation Officers Update
4. Annual Trustees report
5. Elections Report
6. NUS delegate report from conference
7. Annual accounts of the Union
8. Affiliations of the Union
9. Motions
  - A. Cancelling Level 4 Exams and Assessments
  - B. Compensation for the students
10. Any Other Business

13:00 Meeting begins

- 1. Welcome and Introduction by the Chair and Student Representation Coordinator**
- 2. Announcement by the Chair. An emergency motion has been submitted by Alen Thomas**

Alen presents the motion.

Emergency motion - Compensation for the students

**Proposers:** Alen Thomas, Anastasia Frost

**The Students' Union Notes...**

With no fault to the university or the staff, the corona virus has take it's toll on the everyday student life. This applies to the majority of the students and especially the arts students. We are required to experiment and create art work which are to the best of standards and not always do we have resources at home nor the space. We feel that as students at this university we didn't get to use the resources properly for the fees that we are paying. Our suggestion is that as a sort of compensation we get some of our tuition fees off or some other way to ensure that we are getting the most our of the education we are paying for. Like I said at the beginning, this is not aimed at any of the staffs abilities. Even though the lecturers and teachers are doing their best to support us online in these unprecedented

times, we feel that it is not as valuable as face and some of the feedback we get are not as best as they could be.

#### **The Students' Union Believes...**

The students should be the core of everything that is at the university and not being able to use the facilities or getting the full support means that as students we are not getting our money's worth.

#### **The Students' Union Resolves...**

We would like some money off our tuition fee, I.e paying for only the months we actually studied at the university for. Or minimum guaranteed grades where the university ensures that all the students who are affected will get a minimum guaranteed grade to ensure that their future won't be put on gamble due to not being able having access to the relevant resources across the university.

Amy Grant comments on the motion suggesting an amendment

Georgia Downs is commenting and supporting the amendment.

A statement from a student from the UOS campus at the London School Of Commerce: the student shares that he is not feeling represented by the SU at their campus – Chair suggests to go back to this in Any Other Business

The amendment for the motion proposed by Amy Grant and seconded by Georgia Downs is instead of reimbursement for the Students' Union to support the National Union of Students in their campaign to get the government to reimburse students as this is more financially viable for the University of Suffolk. Georgia explaining that the amendment looks like again. Change of the wording of the motion is needed.

Questions from attendees are submitted regarding how to vote. Bradley Allsop, Student Representation Coordinator explains again how voting would work.

Attendees vote using the chat function of ZOOM.

13:30 Voting is over

The count was: 26 in favour, 3 against and 2 abstaining – not enough members vote on this to reach quoracy so the amendment does not pass.

Voting on the emergency motion itself moved to later down the agenda (had to wait on count of amendment vote).

### **3. Annual Officer reports**

#### ***a) President – Education and Engagement annual report (Georgia Downs)***

Georgia Downs presenting her report

- Shop SU-

-£15K to set up the shop

-Cost natural until COVID-19

- SOFIA

-SOFIA has been beyond helpful in representing students to delivering feedback with over 200 submissions

- Improve feedback within 3 weeks

-Several courses are piloting different feedback mechanisms such as audio recording. The outcome will inform future practise. 4 week turnaround is now 3 weeks.

- No detriment Policy

Working with the university to establish our own policy that suits the needs of our students. Although currently confidential, I'm really happy with the progress. After Senate approval, the policy should be implemented within the next 2 weeks.

- RAK

-Remaining funding from the foundation board has been used to buy stock from Shop SU and given to students who remain in halls of residents.

Students asking questions regarding the No-detriment policy:

From Issac Owojori : Hello , please does this affect the online students too

Yes

From amy mann: is the no detriment policy for all year groups?

Yes there are support mechanisms for every year but it will look different for every course and level

From Sarah Lane: can someone explain what the senate is please

Georgia Downs explains the importance of Professional Statuary Regulatory bodies for Health students. There will be support mechanisms in place will become more clear in the coming weeks.

13:41 Voting for Student President Report

25 accept , 0 reject, 0 abstain

#### ***b) 13:44 Report from Amy Grant Vice President***

VP – Activities and Welfare annual report (Amy Grant)

- SU Social Space

-This two year campaign is now ticked off. The University invested nearly £400,000 into the space. We are pleased to see it has been well used.

- Silvercloud

-The implantation of Silvercloud has now been confirmed. However we are unable to know the timeline for this due to COVID-19. Regardless, this is a massive student win.

- VC mental health group

- we are working towards developing a wellbeing triaging systems so it is more clear to staff and students where and how to access support.

- SSWA

-I am currently coordinating SSWA's to create reach out to students on social media, offering guidance and support. SSWA's are also recruiting for participants for wellbeing questionnaires and focus groups. [SSWA@uos.ac.uk](mailto:SSWA@uos.ac.uk).

- Activities committee

-Sports and society elections took place last week. We have redefined how the committee roles look and their responsibilities. Membership on the activities committee will be essential as we move towards democratic approaches for our activities department.

Amy Grant making announcement about NUS Liberation Conference – the SU is looking for participants and ideas for motions. Interested students should contact her.

No questions submitted.

13:49 Voting commences via the polls function of Zoom. 50 students accept, 3 Abstain

13:53 The Chair announces the Emergency motion vote

The count is:

50 accept, 3 abstain, 0 reject

#### 4. Annual Trustees report

13:56 The Chair is moving on to the Trustee Report

Georgia Downs explains what the Trustee Board is and presents the report.

**The Trustees held 5 meetings between April 2019 and April 2020, with the following notable decisions:**

- Review and approval of Bye laws: Disciplinary Procedures, Members Code of Conduct and Trustees and Elected Officers Code of Contact.
- Approved write off of historic loan (SU to SUSL)
- Approved financial regulations
- Agreed commencement of Democracy and Governance Review
- Approval of two new student trustees
- Identification of new external Trustee via skills audit

- Required reassurance as to the SU's NSS performance (Q26)
- Oversaw Business Continuity plan review
- Approval of Accounts 2019 including changes to restricted reserves
- Approved £15K loan from the SU to SUSL to set up Shop SU.

- Student Representation

-Elections: We received a total of 910 individual voters (10.63% of the total student body)

-Course representatives: There was a total of 93 course reps elected in 2017/18, we saw an increase of 27 reps in 2018/19, and a further increase in 2019/20 with 180 reps elected to date.

- Student opportunities:

-15 active and fulfilled societies.

-5 competitive teams that are affiliated with BUCS, Sport England and the FA.

- Events & comms

-1,122 followers on Instagram

-3,154 followers on Twitter

-2,020 people like our page on Facebook and 2,127 are following it.

- Advice

-185 students have accessed our services so far (+20%) on 2018/19

14:00 Voting through a Poll commences to approve the Trustee Report

The count is: 50 accept, 3 abstain, 0 Reject

## **5. 14:02 Student Representation Coordinator, Bradley presenting an Elections Report**

30 candidates.

We saw rises in liberation, campus and VP candidates, but declines in School Officer candidates

In general candidates felt well supported by the Students' Union and well-prepared to stand for election, although highlighted the need to advertise key election events and deadlines sooner, and to consider non-traditional student candidates

910 individual voters, a decline on last year, but a rise to 3705 votes (an increase on last year), meaning on average those that did vote voted for more positions compared to last year.

Particular groups of students we need to increase election engagement with are apprenticeship and 4<sup>th</sup> year students, part-time students and voting for Postgraduate and Campus Officer roles.

In our non-voters survey, the key reason for not voting identified by students was not knowing enough about the candidates – something we'll work on for the next election

14:05 asking for questions

Michael, a student from the LSC campus, would like to see more engagement from the Students' Union. Georgia Downs replying that the SU is working to get a campus officer, a student who is elected to represent the campus as a new Students' Union voluntary role.

Sarah Tattersall, CEO of the Students' Union is joining the discussion. Sarah suggests that she contacts Michael to progress this discussion.

Other questions submitted:

When does training for school officer roles start?

July

From Aisha Shuamazzi: How are you planning to increase the engagement of Apprenticeship students?

The SU is looking at introducing a new role within the Student officer committee, representing the Apprenticeship students. A proposal will go to Student Council. If there are students interested in working on this with the Students' Union, please get in touch.

From Chloe Besford: when will the course rep elections be ?

September

#### **6. 14:13 Georgia Downs presents NUS Delegate Report**

No questions submitted

#### **7. 14:15 Sarah Tattersall, CEO of the Students' Union presents the Annual Accounts**

14:22 asking for questions, no questions submitted

14:23 Suffolk Union Services Report presented by Sarah Tattersall, CEO of the Students' Union

14:27 Asking for questions

Sarah answers questions

14:29 moving on to voting. Voting commences through a poll - 40 accept, 4 abstain, 0 reject – not the required quoracy of 50, but can be taken as a clear indicative vote of student opinion

#### **8. 14:32 Sarah Tattersall presenting Affiliations of the SU.**

These are the groups that we are 'affiliated' with – i.e. we are a paying member

SU pays a fee to the National Union of Students.

#### **9. 14:34 Motions**

Proposer of the motion is not present at the meeting. The Chair Alex Gooch presents the motion.

Cancelling level 4 exams and assessments

Proposers: Angel Shaw & Jana Goodchild

The Students' Union Notes...

Cancelling level 4 exams and assessments as all skills and knowledge needed has already been developed. It is unnecessary stress that does not count towards final degree other universities have

let level 4 students progress to level 5 without exams and assessments why can't we. Why a non detriment policy for 2nd and 3rd years when this isn't applicable to all years

The Students' Union Believes...

Letting us progress to level 5 as level 4 is not counted towards degree all skills and knowledge has already been developed and by making us do exams under these pressures is for sure going to disadvantage us as we will fail as there is not enough time to complete everything even with extensions as some of us have jobs and caring duties and we feel we are not being listened to

The Students' Union Resolves...

To push for all remaining (for this academic year) Level 4 forms of assessment to be cancelled and an automatic pass to Level 5 for these students.

Fighting for our voice as many level 4 students have asked for this to be looked into and have been ignored and not supported. The only replies we have got is that it is not possible and we should apply for extenuating circumstances which is no help. Why do other universities and their students get this but we don't. It isn't about knowledge and skills because if we haven't got them now then we won't. The non detriment policy doesn't help in our case because there's no past results to go off what we average what we get in these exams is it. This isn't fair on level 4 students we want the exams and assessments cancelled to relieve the stress that's not necessary. This is the only solution as we feel as if we are not cared about compared to other years we are being ignored. Certain registrations such as nursing and law which are strict can still do this as an example is university of Chester has law courses and they have cancelled level 4 letting them progress to level 5 why do they care about their student but uos doesn't care about us

Daniel Betts raising a concern regarding the criteria for qualification from some regulatory bodies. Georgia Downs joins the discussion.

Alexandra Sivriu: why just Level 4 students assessment should be cancelled? Georgia Downs replies.

A comment from any mann: I don't agree that level 4s have been disregarded compared to other year groups. I feel it varies on each course, so varies but for myself I have had no support at present. im level 6 and at home working with 2 children

From Emily - DPC to Everyone: 02:40 PM

I am a level 4 student and I need that feedback from this year to be able to get better for the years that count

Michael, student from LCE commenting on the motion

From Darragh Briscomb to Everyone: 02:41 PM

Would it be possible then to lower the pass mark for these exams/assessments for lvl4 - the skills are important but personally have been struggling to get help as it takes a week to sort out one issue with the assignment due to email back and forth whereas normally you could go sit with a lecturer for 30 mins

From Christopher Tregedeon-Weedon to Everyone: 02:43 PM

Perhaps continuing with it, but making it formative.

At 14:43 The UOS Students Union announces that if someone would like to make a formal amendment to change the motion, they need to message us with the word 'amendment'

From amy mann to Everyone: 02:44 PM

Amendment: i think it needs amending. I think it should be that students get an average grade based on what they have achieved so far?

From Dan Goulborn to Everyone: 02:46 PM

Each course has an assessment board meeting at the end of the year: they look at various circumstances throughout the year, and adjust grades accordingly.

Both amendments change the motion fundamentally, so they can't be voted on.

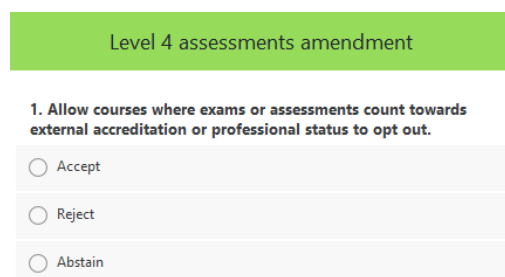
Amendments ruled out. Student Representation Coordinator explains the rule on ruling out the amendments.

From Emily - DPC to Everyone: 02:48 PM

Will we be getting updated regularly on the no detriment policy as assignments deadlines are coming up, so it's getting stressful for a lot of people?

14:50 Georgia Downs answers the question.

14:51 Voting on the amendment to the motion through a poll



Level 4 assessments amendment

1. Allow courses where exams or assessments count towards external accreditation or professional status to opt out.

Accept

Reject

Abstain

From Christopher Tregedeon-Weedon to Everyone: 02:50 PM

Amendment. Perhaps making the assessments voluntary?

14:53 Amy Grant speaking against the motion of cancelling Level 4 assessments.

From Daniel Betts to Everyone: 02:54 PM

If the policy is rejected by Senate will it be amended and resubmitted or completely abandoned?

Thank you

Only 48 people voted and the amendment cannot pass because the quoracy is 50 people.



1 1. Allow voluntary assessments to continue

Proposed by Chris

Accept

Reject

Abstain

We cannot approve nor reject this motion or any amendments to it, or the emergency motion because the participants in the meeting are now below 50. It will be suggested to the proposers that the motions are put to May Student Council

**10. 15:00 Any other business**

Sarah and Michael will progress a meeting regarding LSC representation.

Motions which could not be passed will be discussed at the Council Meeting.

A question From Emily - DPC to Everyone: 03:00 PM

The council in May will be after level 4 assignments if I am correct

If it is still relevant at that point, we will.

Sarah Tattersall – to work with the Chaplaincy to address the question from Aisha Shuamazzi regarding support for Muslim students from the University.

A question From Nicolas Caffin: Will they be any event to celebrate end of year? perhaps online if needed what's also happening with awards?

SU team to get in touch with Nick and other interested students to discuss this.

A question regarding the TIER and rep awards

Those are under review by Georgia Downs and Bradley Allsop.

15:06 Meeting ends

Minutes taken by Gergana Ivanova, Communications and Events Coordinator