



## University of Suffolk Students' Union Student Council Minutes November 10th, 2021

### 1. Welcome/ How the meeting will work

**Meeting started at: 13:10**

AG: Hello to everyone, welcome to council. This is an opportunity for reps to rep their cohort. All of you who are on zoom, keep your mic muted. The chair will read out your question. We will run polls during the call.

In person – raise your hand if you are in the flesh with us, we will then call you to speak when it is your turn.

Everyone – you can vote to accept, reject, or abstain.

### 2. Elections

#### a. Election of Chair

AG - Chair – runs the meeting, is there anyone here online or in person who would like to nominate themselves as chair. **Nominees:** Shannon Pilsworth (Zoom), Robert Grey (In-person).

Robert why would you like to run?

Robert Grey: Hello I'm Robert Grey the second-year rep for History. Currently I have not got many responsibilities so I can dedicate my full efforts and be a good chair and make sure everybody has a say. I have a very good shouty voice. I am also a mature student so have experience in the workplace and with workplace matters.

Shannon Pilsworth – Running student council is very important to me, I think I would be good as I have previous experience as I was rep for the arts and design course and head of the student council at Suffolk College. Yes, you want it to be serious, but you also want it to be fun. The fact I have more of an openness as I am on an arts led course, I am used to voicing my opinions.

**BA – confirmed Shannon Pilsworth elected via vote.**

#### b. Election of Deputy Chair

AG: Is there anyone who would like to run for deputy chair? We have a hand in the room. We have one person.

Bianca Pintilli – (In person) - I am Bianca, I am in my last year of psychology and criminology, I am also student ambassador and want to work with everyone to make a better place for you, students. I am trying to make everyone's life enjoyable at uni, not only year 1.

**BA – confirmed Bianca Pintilli elected via vote.**

#### c. Election of DPC

AG: Finally, DPC, so they make sure that student council is factual, engaging, student led, accessible and fun. If anyone wants to run, make yourself known.

AG – Here are some of the candidates who have applied for DPC (As per information emailed prior to meeting).

BA – This is from Elvis: Please vote for me so that we can make University of Suffolk a place to be. This my response to the intensive implementation of COVID-19 measures due to the increase of infected new cases in Suffolk. Understanding the root cause of students issues and providing a sustainable smart solutions.

AG: If anyone hasn't managed to vote announce it in the chat, or in the room. (Robert Grey). For those in zoom, the way we have resolved in person, is to come and let Bradley know. If anyone is desperate to vote, make sure you email [su.democracy@uos.ac.uk](mailto:su.democracy@uos.ac.uk) and let us know in the chat.

**BA – confirmed all 5 candidates elected: Alice Lenton, Elvis Awung Nkeze, Prince Yeboah, Shannon Pilsworth, Stacey Leanne Turner.**

**Note: Shannon Pilsworth will be required to choose between the position of Chair and DPC – the additional role will be discussed and elected at the next council.**

BA – If everyone comfortable I will run the chair this time as it is difficult for chair to do via Zoom. Offered to Bianca for deputy, but agreed to offer training first. No objections from the meeting.

### 3. **Motion – Hybrid bye-law changes**

BA: Thanks everyone, well done to those that have just been elected. This motion is a discussion about how you would like hybrid councils to run.

AG: Essentially, we are doing hybrid. We are asking you if it is ok to do hybrid council meetings. The default is to have it in person, but as we are technically still in the pandemic and have members who were not able to attend, we have made a hybrid approach.

BA: Open to questions, Robert?: How does not being able to vote via the internet work, are you going to have physical votes?

AG: From now on, votes on motions and reports, those of you in the room will be able to do it via raising hands. Those online can vote on polls on screen.

### **Hybrid Student Council bye-law changes**

**Proposer:** Alex Gooch

**Secunder:** Megan Wright

### **The Union notes**

How Student Council operates is fairly tightly prescribed by our bye-laws to ensure fair and democratic debate and voting. However, with the onset of Covid-19 and the need for new ways of holding meetings (first online and now 'hybrid' meetings where a meeting is both in a physical

location and joinable online) a number of practical challenges emerge in running these meetings in a fair and accessible way. This highlights the need for updated governance around running Council meetings.

This process was started with the set of bye-law additions created to govern online meetings of Council, approved by the Board and Council last academic year. This gives us the basis of how the online portion of a hybrid meeting will work, and the original bye-laws tell us how the physical portion should work – what is currently lacking is how these work together in the same meeting.

### **The Union Believes**

Student Council should be as open and accessible as possible to all students – having meetings run as ‘hybrid’ helps facilitate this.

There should be clear guidance in the bye-laws on how Council should operate in the new ‘hybrid’ era, giving us a clear foundation in which to enable participation from those isolating or uncomfortable attending large gatherings, and those students studying at partner institutions.

### **The Union resolves**

To introduce the below clauses to bye-law 2, which effectively make hybrid meetings the norm for Student Council, and outline how the physical and online portions of the meeting interact and should be chaired. There is also a clarification of the existing requirement that 5 working days' notice be given of a meeting moving entirely online – this may not be always be possible due to emergency lockdowns, which is now reflected in the amendments below.

#### **To be added to bye-law 2:**

“2.1 UOS Students’ Union democratic meetings shall by default be ‘hybrid meetings’, in which a physical meeting is held with the option for participants to join remotely if they wish, subject to bye-law 2.33.

2.1.1 Hybrid meetings shall follow the rules laid out in the rest of bye-law 2. The participation of those joining a hybrid meeting virtually shall be governed by the ‘online meetings’ portion of bye-law 2, with the exception that the Chair shall order speakers on motions and reports according to bye-law 2.1.2

2.1.2 Members of the Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) shall assist the Chair is managing the online portion of a hybrid meeting, including muting and unmuting participants as directed by the Chair, aiding with technical queries and queueing questions and speakers that come in from the online participants. The Chair shall, as much as possible, intersperse speakers from within the physical meeting and the online participants.

2.1.3 All those entitled to attend the particular democratic meeting shall be given the usual notice period, with details of how to join both physically and virtually. Attendees will be able to choose to join virtually or physically, but they may not attempt to join via both of these ways at once.

2.1.4 As much as possible meetings will run in such a way as to enable equal participation between those attending physically and those virtually.

2.1.5 Voting for the online portion of a hybrid meeting shall be through the mechanisms laid out in bye-law 2.40 – voting in the physical meeting shall be by show of hands. These two votes will then be combined to give the overall vote of the meeting – DPC members shall assist the Chair where necessary in counting this vote.”

And the addition to 2.34 (addition highlighted in red)

“2.34 Notice shall be given to the student body, via the SU website, that a meeting has changed to an online format at least 5 working days prior to the meeting, except where there is a pressing health

and safety need for the meeting to be held online, to be determined by Chair of the Trustees and Chair of Council”

**Accept – 17 (in person) 16 (zoom) - Total = 33**

**Abstain - 2**

**Reject - 0**

#### 4. Announcements

AG: We currently have elections for Post Graduate Officer, in theory everyone in the room should be eligible to vote for the NUS delegate as well.

We also have a strategy survey and all you need to know is there is free stuff available if you do the survey. Essentially it is to undergo our strategic direction.

SOFIA - this is a feedback tool. This is a tool that was previously only open to reps, but is now open to all students. Whether it be about parking, lectures, the SU, anything good or bad.

Governance review working group – Make our SU better. The SU are about to embark on a review on how we operate, making sure everything we do is accessible.

Give it a go – Next Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>, we are going to AVID, tickets go on sale later today. Tell your friends if you don't fancy it. I am really excited for this.

Christmas Market - we also have a Christmas market – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. It is also open to students and small businesses. If you know anyone that would like to come to that. Any questions speak to us or Gergana at [su@uos.ac.uk](mailto:su@uos.ac.uk)

Recharge week is happening next week. It is a whole week with multiple drop-in sessions and events for you to get involved with. SU are holding 'Just brew it' Thursday 1-2, another big night in and we are going for Shrek on Wednesday 5-7.

#### 5. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

BA: These were sent with the papers, speak now if you have got any issues with these. Nothing coming through on zoom.

**Accept – 17 (in person) 14 (zoom) - Total = 31**

**Abstain - 3**

**Reject - 0**

#### 6. Motions & Actions Update

Meg Wright – Baby nurture room – the room is now open in the waterfront building. Gender neutral toilets – on estates radar.

Darragh Briscomb: Just to add on gender neutral toilets - signs for the ones in the library and other buildings are in production.

### 7. Officer reports

a. President Education report

AG: Main things I have been working on:

## **Alex Gooch, SU President Education – Update 10/11/2021**

### **Ready to Graduate Skills**

AG: Since having introductions across the uni, I have decided to have an event in semester 2.

- The vision for this manifesto point, since having introductions with various teams across the university, is to have a week of Hybrid events in semester 2 which will help students feel 'Ready to Graduate' through advice on how to Rent or get a mortgage, job hunting, and more. This semester the Student Experience and Engagement Officer, Georgia Downs, is planning Recharge Week in November which the SU will host events on and that we shall support and spectate as this too will feature multiple teams across the university. By supporting and spectating Recharge week, we will be able to gain a good idea of what works well and what works less well when planning Ready to Graduate Skills week.

### **More Sustainable Campus**

AG: With this I was originally trying to get eco refills and second-hand clothes fair.

- The hope for this manifesto point was to bring Eco Refills and 2nd hand clothes onto Ipswich campus to help reduce consumption of new products whilst also offering great products for students. Whilst unfortunately the Eco Refills had to pull out, the SU had a 2nd hand clothes stall at our Eco and Wellness fair in the SU Social Space during Freshers' Week which proved popular. We will soon investigate the viability of bringing back 2nd Hand clothes in the future as well as Eco Refills.

- Meg and I wanted to reduce the amount of single use coffee cups in the SU so brought in our new heavily subsidised SU branded vacuum coffee cups to purchase from Shop SU and potentially to win on Suffolk Plus when volunteers log their hours.

AG: We spent £11 on each one but they are selling for £9.00

- Through sitting on the university's board, I have raised questions around if we can be more ambitious in our goals to hit net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The university, however, is on target to be carbon neutral by 2030.

- We are eagerly monitoring COP26 and I have made social media posts and hosted conversation around this to increase community debate, collect feedback and increase awareness.

### **More Mental Health Training for Personal Tutors**

AG: Through conversations I had before with Mohammed and Ellen Buck, I have spoken to them about getting more training.

- Ideally this campaign would support students after a tough 18 months in and out of lockdowns which left many students isolated and stuck behind screens whilst writing essays, revising and working on the frontlines of the pandemic through giving their Personal Tutors better training around mental health and the initiatives offered at the university and in the local areas. The transition to Personal Academic Coaches is a great opportunity to set a new foundation for mental health training

for the role, so prior to my start date in my role as president, I was able to highlight the key areas that needed improving to the director of learning and teaching, which should hopefully be tackled through these new Personal Academic Coaches. I will be joining meetings in future to monitor the progress of Personal Academic Coaches.

Also, some other stuff, parking issues, accessibility, shop SU, EAST/Integrated care academy, waterfront chairs, block, partnerships, recharge week, strategic review, give it a go, anti-spiking, Christmas and refreshers.

BA: Questions/comments on President of Education's Report.

Anna Girling - Shop SU – Are there any plans to look at more ethically and sustained products, there are no Fairtrade snacks.

AG: That is something we have raised and are looking at in the background. We are partnered with the NUS so what we order in and can select is from their stock, we are constantly nagging them to see what they are going to do

Robert Grey – You mentioned that you are working on anti-spiking how is that going?

AG: Meg will have more on that as she has been working on that. We have put out a statement ourselves and have been monitoring it. We have a good night out campaign and Meg has been doing a lot of work with venues.

BA: Poll for everyone and zoom colleagues.

**Accept – 17 (in person) 17 (zoom) - Total = 34**

**Abstain - 0**

**Reject - 0**

#### b. President Activities and Wellbeing report

#### **Meg Wright, SU President Activities and Wellbeing- Update 10/11/2021**

· **Enhancing wellbeing services** - I am in regular conversation with members of the Student Life Team, having conversations around the mental health services that are provided by the university and the Students' Union. Additionally, looking at how these services can be easier to access and more visible on the various platforms. Also, conversations surrounding the new health and wellbeing quarter project and what this looks like in terms of more mental health support and provisions.

· **Green space and secure bike storage** - I've had a tour around the renovations of the EAST building this month and I've been in conversations with the Estates team around the renovations of this building and the green space, including the courtyard space outside of the SU social space. Working on how the student body can have a voice on what they would like to see with regards to these new green spaces. More conversations with Estates around secure bike storage, with the update being that there is two secure environmentally bike storage units on order, one for by the east building and one at the back of Waterfront building; although they do not have much capacity the more they get used the more likely we can ask for more.

· **Collaboration with local businesses** - During the Freshers period, I have started conversations with local businesses' such as Pennikkity Pots, a local ceramic painting business, in which the SU held a successful fresher's event at. Looking at the discounts they can offer our students. Similarly, a working relationship with AVID climbing has been formed, with the SU holding a 'give it a go' session in the near future. This will be to look at the engagement from students and if it is popular, looking forward, AVID providing our students with a discount. Also looking at partnerships with places like the HOLD and what they have to offer work experience wise for students. In relation to a partnership with a local sports facility, we have begun working with Inspire Suffolk, however, there have been a few teething problems which the SU is working with university to resolve. Aside from my manifesto points I have also been working on and been a part of other projects and campaigns.

**Report was not able to be delivered in the meeting – report was put online with Council members given chance to vote through the website – 11 accept, 0 reject, 0 abstain**

## 7. Motions

BA – We had an emergency motion – anti-spiking. We do have a motion if everyone agrees. Does anyone have any objections to hearing this motion? **No objections in person, zoom no.**

**Proposer** – Poppy Ball

**Secunder** - Megan Wright

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

There have been reports of drinks spiking and spiking using needles in national and local venues. This is an issue of real concern to students. SU staff have followed up Ipswich venues who are supposed to be undertaking our 'Good Night Out' NUS training (Wiff Waff, Revs, Cult, Three Wise Monkeys and Unit 17) but so far no venue has completed this training. Furthermore, Revs (as the main club used by students) have yet to respond to an email sent on 01 November by Poppy Ball asking them to outline the anti-spiking measures they have taken.

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

That we should do everything in our power to encourage venues to complete Good Night Out training and to take the issue of spiking very seriously. This should include the following:

- The SU to ensure all venues complete Good Night Out before promoting them, supporting their events or receiving income from them.
- A full email response from Revs outlining the measures they are taking to keep students safe from spiking to be satisfactorily received by the SU
- The SU to run social media on what to do if you think you've been spiked including Sexual Health with contact information for advice

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

To put the above into practice, noting that this could have an impact on ReFreshers (this could mean we are unable to run a Bar Crawl) and income to the SU.

BA: Everyone has seen the motion, I will read it out.

Sarah Tattersall: I am happy to read it out.

I discussed this motion with Poppy. As you all know spiking has been rife recently. Poppy is a student who believes we should be doing everything in our power. We work with these venues and wouldn't want to lose our support, the proposal is to ask all those people to have good night out training.

Questions/comments: Marvin Matherson: Looking at the new notes, there are 3 clubs which should be added including Bar 21 for good night training.

AG: A little bit more on the goodnight campaign, this was a motion from the previous president. From us approaching multiple venues, I believe Ipswich Central – those are the venues who are willing to work with us, it was wider scope to begin with, but these are the ones who came back to us, and we are still having to push to get the training done.

Marvin Matherson: Would it be possible for the union to go into the venues and set up a meeting with all staff members together? Would that be an idea?

AG: That is potentially worth bringing to the meeting and voting on that. I would word it as we would try to get involved in that, but if we were able to, it would be worthy to have a member of SU staff included on the training days so we know what was done and facilitated.

BA: Vote on adding into the motion:

Robert Grey: Do you have any idea on what this training entails?

AG: We haven't been given it.

BA: We can send that out if you are interested.

Robert Grey: That would be good, if we can see what training these places are doing.

**Action Point: BA confirmed will send out info on what the training entails.**

Marvin Matherson – the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph says – revolution is currently going through a refurb, the other thing I heard, they have now implemented.

AG: We would like to see additional collaboration and hear it from them.

BA – Vote - amendment is to add - **SU to attend training sessions.**

**Accept – 16 (in person) 16 (zoom) - Total = 32**

**Abstain - 0**

**Reject - 0**

BA: Now we are going to talk about the motion including the amendment.

Darragh: When the SU does events, what plans will the SU provide? If a venue doesn't do the covers, are we taking on responsibility?

AG: Gergana and Sarah are looking into it and test strips.

ST: If an event is at a venue, it is their responsibility.

Darragh: But if we have got our name on an event, it is our responsibility to make sure the venues are doing what they should be.



BA: Do you want to suggest change in the motion? Darragh: I think it is covered by it already.

Jessica Chudleigh: I wanted to suggest about possibly considering selling or pointing students in the direction of buying emergency keys, cup covers, testers, on many different sites. Offer at the shop or advertise to have that added support to students, to know they have these resources available.

BA: if you are suggesting something additional, we can vote to add to the motion, or are you happy leaving it as a suggestion.

Jessica Chudleigh: It is a pure suggestion.

AG: If you have suggestions, feel free to talk to us at the end.

BA: Any other comments, no.

BA: Vote on the motion as amended:

**Accept – 17 (in person) 14 (zoom) - Total = 31**

**Abstain - 1**

**Reject - 0**

a. Free Hot Water Facilities motion

BA: Another motion on free hot water, Cheryl and Kym.

Kym: it was Cheryl's motion, I just backed her because I feel we should be entitled to hot water.

BA: Anyone wishing to speak on this motion, for against, comments? Anything from zoom?

Student: When she says about a pot noodle, does this mean actually buying a pot noodle.

AG: If you go to the coffee machines within the zone of the shop, if you bought a product like porridge or a pot noodle, you can get free hot water.

Connor Parish: So just to clarify the motion is to make the hot water free, if I bought my pot noodle from home, we are voting to get free hot water?

BA: The SU would approach the Uni to provide free hot water machines. Any other comments?

ST: Just to note that the shop is in a tricky financial position at the moment, and those 50p's do help to keep it available, I would like the motion to be to approach the university.

Vote: (In person) In favour – 3, against – 8, abstain – 6 Zoom – 7 accept, 6 reject, 2 abstain.

BA: Faviur 10, against 14, 8 abstain

**Accept – 3 (in person) 7 (zoom) - Total = 10**

**Abstain – 6 (in person) 2 (zoom) - Total = 8**

**Reject – 8 (in person) 6 (zoom) - Total = 14**

BA: Unfortunately, this does not pass, there is not a majority. A suggestion to who proposed the motion, you are welcome to come in a chat with the SU team or Alex and Meg.

**Proposer:** Cheryl Chandler

**Secunder:** Kym Older

**The Union notes**

The students do not have access to hot water unless they pay 50p per cup, or purchase noodles etc from the SU shop first.

**The Union Believes**

Students would highly benefit from having access to free of charge of hot water to make their own drinks, make their lunches etc. The cost of buying coffee and tea every day is huge and can amount to around £40 a month for an average student. Students are on a limited income usually and this would help them to use their money for better course related purposes.

**The Union resolves**

It would be greatly appreciated if the SU could approach the university to request for a hot water machine to be fixed to the wall giving students access to hot water when they need it for free. Although it might be more cost effective, I presume kettles may pose more of a fire hazard. This would be a good alternative though at the least. Thank you

8. **Any Other Business**

BA: Darragh – there is a couple of us who are thinking of a motion to extend the hours of the library and wanted to gage if any students find the library isn't open long enough.

Bianca Pintilli – I agree with that, especially on weekends for the library to run longer, I have a full-time job and find it hard to go in, in working hours. I would also like to add, I would like to stay at the library longer with a member of staff as I know some people left the library. If it is possible for the volunteer to be there and keep it open for the students.

AG: Good suggestion, thank you. I can provide some insight because this was a motion in my first year. I am completely for it, but I'm worried about going to the uni about this, because it wasn't in their minds a good trial. We did a trial for 24 hours and the issues were around costs for security. The trial came back negative that not many people used it. The SU at the time were encouraging students to make the most of this trial period and use the library out of hours so we can keep it, it didn't happen as wasn't popular enough. I am for the motion coming again.

Andrada Marcu - Could they at least extend the hours?

BA: Comments or questions by zoom chat?

Marvin Matherson: My first and second year the waterfront building was open all night.

AG: 24 hour access, I think it is still 24 hour access.

Darragh Briscomb: Have they thought about redirecting the security from the waterfront to the library?

Dearbhla Berry: Could we suggest doing another trial again?

Connor: We have changed to another learning style, so it is a different environment so surely it is a good time to have another trial.

BA: Lots of stuff for Darragh.

BA: Another piece from rep unable to attend – Summer Ball – (BA read out)

AG: I think it is ok to say, it is something Meg and I are passionate about, we have put through a bid to the annual giving fund, which is going on to the second stage. Take everything with a pinch of salt, so it might happen and if it does, it might be a private venue.

BA: Any other questions?

ST: The summer ball bid was not successful, but we will be rebidding for the students fund from the university and staff are fully committed to a summer ball next May.

ST: Board of trustees is an organisation that looks after our strategy and our legal side for the SU. They held 5 meetings, they review our finances on a monthly basis, through that, they have approved some admin support, audit terms, they have a strategic review and thanks so much for those filling in that survey, they will be reviewing the SU Shop function in January, most importantly, they will be coming to a development day next **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> in the SU social space 10.30**, if you want to meet our board and have a coffee, I will extend that invitation to everyone, you are welcome.

BA: Any questions or comments?

Robert Grey – Can you provide the dates for these in an email?

**AG/BA: Confirmed date for the meeting is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> in the SU social space @ 10.30.**

Zoom: Noskahare – Thank you for having me I am the part time officer, part time students and those taking masters are not sure what the future holds for PhD. They drew our attention to this and want to know what the future holds for them – is it possible for them doing masters if they can proceed to a PhD afterwards?

BA: What I am going to suggest, perhaps you pick that up with Alex after this meeting and see what we can do for colleagues at Unicaf.

BA: Send me the details an email.

BA: Thank you everyone for coming and bearing with us for teething problems.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

**December 8th, 2021**