



University of Suffolk Students' Union
May 27th, 2020 Student Council Minutes

The meeting starts at 13:10 via Zoom
The meeting is livestreamed on Facebook

1. Chair's welcome/How the meeting will work
Bradley Allsop explains how the meeting will work
The meeting has no quoracy at 13:11 which means that participants will be discussing the agenda items but no voting will follow the discussion and no motions can be passed.
2. Announcements
Bradley Allsop announces Course Reps survey and encourages course reps to provide feedback and suggestions for course rep training for the next academic year.

Link to the survey: <https://form.jotform.com/200512082880043>
3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting
The participants are unable to vote on this agenda item due to lack of quoracy.
4. Motions & Actions Update
5. Officer reports

This is the last student Council meeting for the SU President Georgia Downs and SU Vice President Amy Grant

a. Education and School Officers Update

Georgia Downs provides an overview of the past two years and updates on the following:

2018/2019 Carried over campaign:

- Lecture Capture-Although Lecture Capture is a work in progress, she is confident that the changes COVID-19 will bring about will put us on the right path to increasing accessibility of teaching.

2019/2020 Current campaigns:

- Shop on campus- Complete. Allocated budget from both the Student Officer Committee and Random Acts of Kindness left over campaign money to buy stock from the shop for students in halls of residence. This significantly reduced waste.
- Suffolk Online Feedback In Action SOFIA- Complete. On 1/07/2020 we will get National Student Survey (NSS) results back which we hope will have improved because of SOFIA. Georgia Downs finished reviewing it and is now thinking about what it looks like next year. Considering the possibility of opening SOFIA to other campuses.
- Improve feedback within a reduced time frame- Complete. Assessment feedback went from a 4 week turn around to 3-week turn around as a result of my campaign. Subject to differ during COVID-19.

- Changes to assessment regulations-The university announced a number of changes to support students during COVID-19. Update: Removal of Capped Marks for Late Submission: For components of assessment where the assessment type allows late submission, we are removing the cap on marks if you submit work a little late.
- www.uos.ac.uk/content/temporary-changes-assessment-regulations

Waiting for questions- no questions received

b. Activities and Welfare & Liberation Officers Update

Amy Grant presents an overview of the last two years and updates on the following:

2018/2019:

- 24-hour library: COMPLETE. SLT allocated budget to run a trial throughout last year and this year. The trial was specific to deadline periods. The trial had been due to finish the end of this academic year, however due to COVID-19 it is likely that the final portion of the allocated time frame will roll over to Winter deadline in 2020. Following this all data of the usage of the Library will be analysed, concluding the impact of the 24/7 opening hours.
- Keep Wednesday Afternoons Free: COMPLETE. Through the timetabling task at finish group, keeping Wednesday afternoons free became a priority and was successfully implemented in September 2019. From this success, Wildcard Wednesday was brought into the social sports program. I hope this will continue to be successful in the next academic year.
- Safe Suffolk Student: ONGOING. I hope for this campaign to continue into the next academic year. This campaign included activities such as the 'self care fair', 'reclaim the night' participation, informative goody bags at freshers fair, involvement with the 'Purple Flag' safe night out initiative and numerous mental health awareness promotion.

2019/2020:

- Social space: COMPLETE. This election and re-election campaign was developed in September 2019. The SU are now proud to have a Social Space and Front of house team, providing the SU with significant presence on campus. The space also includes a kitchenette with a microwave which was implemented as a result of a motion brought to council.
- Silvercloud: 90% COMPLETE. The Silvercloud campaign has made significant progress in light of the COVID-19. Budget has been approved by SLT to implement the platform within the student services team, however we are currently at the early stages of this process. The hope is for the platform to be available for students in the next academic year.

Waiting for questions- no questions received

6. Motions

a. School Officer Remits

Georgia presenting the motion

Proposers: Georgia Downs V100971 and Amy Grant

The Students' Union Notes...

The current school officers struggle to represent such a wide range and number of courses in their school. This has become particularly difficult with the restructure.

The Students' Union Believes...

To improve the way school officers represent students within their school effectively. Making remits clear will help with recruitment, representation and help officers understand their roles.

The Students' Union Resolves...

Introduce 2 officers per school not including Business school. Each officer will represent different courses. For example Officer 1 for Engineering, Arts, Science and technology (EAST) school will represent courses that fall within Engineering and Arts. EAST Officer 2 will represent courses that fall within Science and Technology. This formula will be based on number of courses and suitability, using the old university structure to assist. This was piloted 2019/20 academic year by Social Sciences and Humanities Officers Sarah and Hannah. They split their courses within the school based on the old structure which helped them engage reps etc. Whereas Sam School officer for Health has a significant number of students to represent, with the population of health school making a third of our student population. Justification around business keeping only 1 officer is because it is a significantly small school with low student numbers. Additional information of how courses will be devised is not necessary at this current stage being in motion state. If passed, this will become the work of the officer team to implement. To summarize, there will be 2 School officers for EAST, Health and Social Sciences and Humanities but only 1 officer for Business school.

Waiting for questions – 1 question submitted regarding the remit of Postgraduate officer

Georgia Downs and Amy Grant explain that the remit of the Postgraduate officer will not be affected by this motion because the Postgraduate officer role is a Liberation role.

b. Activities Bye-law

Amy Grant presenting the motion

Proposers: Amy Grant Vice President, Georgia Downs President

The Students' Union Notes...

There are gaps within the current activities structures which need to be addressed with new guidelines and processes.

The Students' Union Believes...

Up to date guideline and process are important to ensure appropriate democratic regulation of sports and societies are met.

The Students' Union Resolves...

To adopt the new and revised Activities Bye Law as detailed in the attached document.

No questions received

- c. Support NUS Campaign in supporting students during Covid-19

13:34 Alen Thomas presenting the motion

Proposers: Alen Thomas - S191588, Georgia Downs

The Students' Union Notes...

With no fault of the university or the staff, the corona virus has take it's toll on the everyday student life. Students are struggling to keep up with educational and financial demands. The university has set out it's policy to support students while studying but the government should offer some form of compensation.

The Students' Union Believes...

The SU should support National Union of Students (NUS) in campaigning to get the government to support students, this will include: -National hardship funding -Every education leaver should have access to an additional grant if they are unemployed, which can be used for training and developing their skills.

The Students' Union Resolves...

Contact NUS to support their campaign, putting more weighting on their campaign. By approving this motion, you are agreeing for the SU to be a signatory on the letter to Secretary of State for Education which sets out for universities and colleges across the UK can undertake:

- Additional hardship funding totalling £60m to support students across the Summer, where they would otherwise have found work
- Debt relief for home students, and funding for higher education institutions to reimburse a portion of the higher education fee for those who have paid up front
- A targeted relief package for those completing their qualifications this year, to fund further training and skills development.
- [Full letter can be found in documents sent to Council.]

Waiting for questions

No questions received

7. Graduation Discussion

What should graduation look like this year?

The participants are unable to have this discussion because of confidentiality issues.

Anyone interested in expressing their opinion should email graduation@uos.ac.uk

8. Any Other Business

Chair Alex Gooch thanks Georgia Downs and Amy Grant for their two-year terms at the Students' Union.

Georgia Downs makes an announcement that Staff and Student Awards will be happening online next week.

Amy Grant makes two announcements:

- If students have any suggestions about Freshers Week, please get in touch with the SU
- By-Elections for Sports and Society Committees will reopen on the 8th June. Students are encouraged to put themselves forward

At the end of the meeting, some participants turn their camera on for a final group photo.

Meeting ends at 13:44

Minutes taken by Gergana Ivanova