

## Minutes UOS Student Council 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Chair:** Alex Gooch

**Minutes:** Viki Simpson

	Item	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome/ How the meeting will work</b> Alex Gooch (Chair)</p>	
2	<p><b>Announcements</b> Alex Gooch (Chair) Meeting live on Youtube. Bradley Allsop We have less than 21 attendees so can hear motions but cannot pass them in this meeting.</p> <p><b>UPDATE FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATION COORDINATOR FOLLOWING THE MEETING:</b></p> <p>Quoracy is the minimum number of representatives needed to be present at the meeting – at this Student Council there was some confusion as to whether we had quoracy or not, as 21 reps were present but this included the Chair (who is also a course rep) but the Chair does not vote (except in the case of a tied vote). We voted on all business anyway and deferred the issue to the Democratic Procedures Committee, who ruled on whether we were quorate or not.</p> <p>The relevant bye-law here is:</p> <p><i>“1.27 Business shall not be conducted by the Student Council unless over 20 representatives are present at the meeting”</i></p> <p>DPC ruled that, given that there were 21 representatives present in the meeting, then by the current wording of the bye-laws we were quorate.</p> <p>Officer Elections 2021 are now open Jan 18 Nominations Open Feb 28 Nominations Close March 8 – 4 Voting Week March 15 7pm Results Night</p>	
3	<p><b>Approval of minutes of the last meeting AG</b> Approved 20 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions</p>	
4	<p><b>Motions and Actions Update</b> None</p>	
5A	<p><b>Officer Report President Dan Goulborn</b> <b>Education and School Officers Update</b> <b>Campaigns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standardise academic feedback: Awaiting a meeting with the Assessment and Feedback audit group. I have met with University representatives to review the Student Charter, which affirms the commitment the University make towards a high-quality student experience. A point was added to make sure of a commitment to a high quality of feedback, which will be approved at the next Senate meeting.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group wellbeing sessions: Still re-shaping plans to fit around the Covid-19 pandemic. Mental Health and wellbeing are high priorities for both the SU and the wider university, and in meetings with staff, I have discussed ways to try and implement the ideas of this campaign.</li> <li>• ‘Good Night Out’ Campaign: After a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, the SU have been invited to attend a meeting with local businesses to give views on the experience of students in Ipswich. I intend to suggest the campaign to them, and gauge support for the idea before asking for funding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Assessment regulations</li> <li>• Course Rep Forum – verbal update.</li> <li>• More contact with the landlords of Athena Hall, making sure they are continuing to support students in the best way possible. The SU have been assured of an announcement ‘shortly’.</li> </ul> <p><b>AG – Open to questions</b> None received</p> <p><b>Update accepted – 19 accept, 0 reject, 1 abstain</b></p>	
5B	<p><b>Officer Report VP Mauro Cardo</b> <b>Activities and Welfare &amp; Liberation Officers Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am co-leading the Active bystander Task and finish group which involves staff members from the students’ union. In my previous updates I have mentioned the programme whereby 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 response (addressing the behaviour directly, supporting the victim, referring the concern through the appropriate University procedures). The aim is to promote a pro-social community. At the moment we are reviewing what the current trends are so we can develop a programme that is specific to our students.</li> <li>• Offering free extra-curricular modules alongside degree - As a result of my survey I will be involved in a task and finish group led by the university which is around employability, Here I will be looking to implement extra-curricular modules. It is looking really positive as the university like and agree with my ideas. In addition to this, the SU are offering a free 8-week Spanish course for 10-12 students as students stated in my survey they would like to learn a new language. Depending on the feedback we receive, this might be something I would like to introduce regularly in the future as it is a great opportunity for students.</li> <li>• Additionally, I am meeting with the student experience ambassadors and the careers team in making sure students are aware of the careers team services, opportunities &amp; events. We have also had discussions around networking strategies within</li> </ul>	

	<p>the university and externally as that is crucial in gaining employment opportunities. With COVID-19 and lockdown, it is difficult to receive engagement due to the amount of content which is already online. Therefore, we will be having regular catch-ups to figure out how we can improve engagement with the careers team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGBT+ Officer- During February, the SU in coalition with the university and some external organisations will be putting on a range of events for LGBTQ+ History Month which include talks, movie nights and socials.</li> </ul> <p><b>AG – Open to questions</b> Can sign language be included as another language to learn please? <b>MC –</b> Yes this is being considered.</p> <p><b>Update accepted –</b> 20 accept, 0 reject, 0 abstain,</p>	
6	<p><b>Board of Trustees Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed and approved papers relating to the 20/21 Block grant and supported the CEO to achieve grant funding of £360,000 in December 2020</li> <li>• Discussed and approved papers relating to the shop's financial position (relating to the enforced closure during the three lockdowns). Supported the CEO to achieve financial support for the shop of £15,000 which is needed to prevent its closure</li> <li>• Agreed temporary secondment to DPC to support the SU's governance</li> <li>• Approved one new student trustee, now recruiting for two new External Trustees</li> <li>• Agreed risk assessment related to SU operations during COVID-19 and for standard operations</li> <li>• Discussed and approved monthly management accounts on an ongoing basis</li> <li>• Approved the SU's annual accounts for the year 19/20 including audit process and provided a trustees report (Due to be signed off in April 2021)</li> </ul> <p><b>AG – Open to questions</b> None received</p> <p><b>Update accepted</b></p>	
7A	<p><b>Motions</b> <b>Motion to Amend Block Learning</b></p> <p><b>Proposer:</b> Axel Medcalf (S202903) <b>Seconder:</b> Dan Goulborn (SU President)</p> <p><b>The Students' Union Notes</b> The Students' Union notes that block learning is a new technique within the University of Suffolk, but there are aspects of it that raise concerns for a number of students. Many students that have additional</p>	

	<p>responsibilities and needs are finding the new style of teaching inaccessible, due to the intense teaching style and closer deadlines.</p> <p><b>The Students' Union Believes</b> The Students' Union believes that all students should have an equal opportunity to their learning and should have access to the same learning environment as their peers. With the lack of adjustments – other than that of the time frame of modules – to this new style of learning, students who have disabilities and additional needs are being disadvantaged.</p> <p><b>The Students' Union Resolves</b> The Students' Union resolves that the sabbatical officers work with, and feedback to the directorate of learning and teaching and students services to ensure that the student experience is equal for everyone. As well as this, the Students' Union resolves that extensions should be longer on Block Learning modules to provide a better outcome of results and less stress on the students.</p> <p><b>16 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions – whether this reaches quoracy is being discussed by DPC</b></p> <p><b>Update – DPC ruled it did not meet quoracy, and so was resubmitted to the next Student Council, where it passed (see Feb meeting minutes)</b></p>	
7B	<p><b>Motions</b> <b>Motion to introduce part-time officer reforms</b></p> <p><b>Proposer:</b> Dan Golbourn, SU President, <b>Seconder:</b> Mauro Cardoso, Vice-President</p> <p><b>The Union notes...</b> Part-time Officers are a crucial part of the work the Students' Union does in representing students. However, our current bye-laws are quite vague on the role and responsibilities of part-time officers, and issues such as guidance, support and accountability of part-time officers could be improved.</p> <p><b>The Union believes...</b> Accountability and support are key to any representative role functioning.</p> <p><b>The Union resolves...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To introduce the bye-law changes detailed in the attached document, which would broadly have the effect of:</li> <li>• Making it clear which officer roles exist, and how to add new ones, and broadly clarify what their responsibilities are.</li> <li>• Introducing the concept of termly part-time officer reports that students vote on, and clarifying the vote of no confidence process</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion passed – 18 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions</b></p>	
8	<p><b>AOB</b> <b>DG – Student experience ambassadors' role is becoming blurred; any comments from the council members?</b></p>	

	<p><b>EK</b> – What are their roles? They are bombarding us with questions, invitation to meetings and there’s no reason for us to go, an email would have been enough.</p> <p><b>DB</b> - The SEA for business is collecting lots of information but nobody knows why.</p> <p><b>AG</b> – we will continue this outside of this meeting.</p> <p><b>CH</b> – Why can’t postgraduate students apply for the technology bursary?</p> <p><b>DG</b> – It’s been raised previously and is in-hand.</p> <p><b>BA</b> – Course Reps are now on the SU website and you can update your profiles on there as you see fit.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Next Meeting Date:</b> February 24 <sup>th</sup> 2021	
<b>10</b>	<b>Meeting Closed at 13:56 (AG)</b>	