



University of Suffolk Students' Union
December 16th, 2020 Student Council Agenda

1. Welcome/Announcements/How the meeting will work
2. Approval of minutes from the last meeting
3. Motions & Actions Update
4. Motion to expand Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) membership
5. DPC elections
6. Officer reports
 - a. Education and School Officers Update
 - b. Activities and Welfare & Liberation Officers Update
7. Motions
 - a. Title adjustment for sabbatical officers
 - b. Online meetings bye-laws
7. Ratification of new student trustee
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of next meeting –

Minutes

1. Welcome/Announcements/How the meeting will work

Alex, chair of council, welcomes all Council members and explains how the meeting will work.

- Alex asks if anyone knows of anyone who is struggling to join to let us know. Bradley, Student representation coordinator, needs to resend links to some people who haven't received them. Start of meeting is slightly delayed.
- Alex, announces there will be a couple of changes to agenda
- Keep mic muted unless called to speak. Ask 'questions' in chat if you have any questions
- Please keep your points on topic and brief
- Throughout meeting we will run polls which will be up for 2 mins.
- You can vote to '**accept**' (I agree with this idea/I think this is a good report) or '**reject**' (I don't like this idea/I don't think this is a good report) or **abstain** (I'm not sure about this idea/report) for each report and motion
- Bradley announces that for officer reports the words accept, reject, abstain are used but for all other motions the wording should be for, against, abstain as per the bye-laws
- Alex and Bradley announce we have extra people who have put themselves forward for DPC

Announcements

No announcements to talk about. Dan and Mauro were asked if they had any, still none.

2. Motion to expand Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) membership

Proposer: Mauro Cardoso, VP, Secunder: Dan Goulborn, President

The Union notes...

Recently the scope of DPC has increased, but it currently only has 2 student members, along with one staff member, sitting on it. The bye-laws are not clear about the role of the staff member on the committee.

The Union believes...

It should be clear what role staff play on committees and in Union governance, and that the DPC would benefit from a wider set of student views being able to be expressed in DPC meetings and activity. More members on DPC would also aid it in facilitating elections, as it reduces the impact conflicts of interest may have in terms of DPC members wishing to stand for election positions.

The Union resolves...

To expand the membership of the Democratic Procedures Committee from 2 student members to 5, and to clarify the role of the Student Representation Coordinator as a non-voting, advisory member of this committee. This would involve the following changes to the bye laws (also shown in track changes below):

Amend bye-law 2.3 to add '(as a non-voting, advisory member)' after 'Student Representation Coordinator' and delete 'two individual members' and replace with 'five individual members'.

2.30 The Democratic Procedures Committee shall consist of the Student Representation Coordinator (as a non-voting, advisory member) and five individual members two individual members who shall be elected for a one-year term by Union Council.

Alex states, we currently have 1 member of DPC and it would be good to extend membership.

Alex asks for any questions to be sent in

Question from Hollie – can we clarify what this role actually is?

Bradley answers what the role of the DPC is – DPC makes sure the council runs how it should be and that the chair is following the bi-laws. Bradley shares in depth what the role is.

Question from Emily – If we have 5 elected in this meeting we might lose quoracy because they cannot vote? The wording is confusing as a DPC can't vote but as a course rep you can.

Bradley answers that he's not aware of anything in the bye-laws that says DPC cannot vote.

Emily is given the chance to ask further questions.

No more questions

Poll for this motion is now provided

Results 22 for, 0 against, 4 abstain

3. DPC elections

Chair asks Bradley to talk, Bradley states there are 5 spots, Jamie is already in one so there are 4 available.

2 People put themselves forward prior to the meeting. 1 is Chris and a statement has already been provided to council prior to meeting starting.

2nd is Matthew and he is invited to speak about why he should be elected in. Matthew provides reasons why he should be invited. Chris is invited to speak and explain his statement to council in person.

Bradley asks if anyone else wants to put themselves forward as there are still 2 options. Chair gives them the chance to speak now to council.

Hollie Gregg asks – do all 5 spots need to be filled. Bradley answers, they don't need to be as it can run fine with less but the more we have the better.

Bradley refers back to the discussion about DPC being non-voting and clarifies he can't find anything in the bye-laws which says they are non-voting members. It is only Bradley himself that cannot vote as per the bye-laws.

Alex asks one last time if anyone else wants to put their name forward.

Hollie asks if you need experience to run – she is invited to speak. Says she has no experience but is happy to run and do it.

Alex asks for any objections to come forward to the people running or the process involved.

Emily Kilkenny asks if she can run again, Bradley confirms she can so Emily has also put herself forward.

Emily Kilkenny, Chris, Hollie Gregg and Matthew Brown are all confirmed as DPC members as no objections received.

Chair and Bradley congratulate and Bradley confirms he will be in touch in the New Year.

Daniel – asking for agenda item (6.a. Ratification of new student trustee) to be moved forward. No objections so this motion will be discussed now.

Motion

Title adjustment for sabbatical officers

Daniel takes over as deputy chair, Motion proposed by Alex Gooch and Dan Goulborn is the seconder.

The Students' Union Notes...

Our current sabbatical role titles are President and Vice-President. These titles imply a hierarchy of roles, where in truth, they are equal, but specialise in certain areas. This has also led to some confusion across the student body when it comes to voting as some candidates run for president with the manifesto of a vice president role, or vice versa.

The Students' Union Believes...

With the President mainly focusing on education, and Vice on activities and wellbeing, a new title to reflect these job roles would neutralise the imbalance of the 2 titles and would clarify to the student body who does what thing and who they should direct their queries to.

The Students' Union Resolves...

The resolution for this matter is to change the name President to 'President for Education' and the Vice-President to 'President for Activities and Wellbeing' in order to avoid confusion and promote the equality of the roles.

Daniel asks Dan Goulborn if he would like to speak. Dan speaks in favour of the motion.

Daniel asks for any questions to be put forward. None are received.

Daniel asks for the poll to go live.

Results 25 for, 0 against, 1 abstain

Confirm the motion has passed and the meeting is now passed back to chair, Alex.

4. Motions & Actions Update

5. Officer reports

a. Education and School Officers Update

Dan Goulborn updates council with the following:

Standardise academic feedback – will be working with an audit group, who are meeting to discuss effective feedback, and create standards. I have met with the Head of Quality and Enhancement, who has created a set of 'Principles of Assessment and Feedback', alongside the Learning and Teaching Academic Committee. Working to draft a policy that can be implemented to underline the university's commitment to high standards of academic feedback. Would like it done by the end of the year

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.

Good Night Out campaign – I have re-contacted the GNO team to discuss how we can move the campaign forward in the New Year as the country begins to unlock. I have spoken to the Vice-Chancellor about this campaign, and she supports the idea of creating a safer environment for students in Ipswich - next step of this campaign is to investigate how to fund the training of venues and teams around the town.

Other updates:

Welcomes new course reps in 2nd round and says the course rep forum was really productive. Uni staff in attendance can feedback to deans etc.

Met with landlords of Athena Hall – Dan welcomes any comments that have come back from the letter.

Alex asks for any questions about Dan's report.

Emily states the letter has sparked further anger with Arlingtons, not Dan or the SU. Alex clarifies this in relation to the Athena Hall 4th instalment of rent. And some people being made to pay and some people not.

Question from Sacha – are they legally allowed to have done this? Alex asks Dan to respond. Dan confirms it is legal as the tenancy agreement says you must pay full amount however, they have released some people early which is then creating the inequality.

Alex asks for the vote on Dan's report.

Results 24 accept, 0 reject, 2 abstain

b. Activities and Welfare & Liberation Officers Update

Mauro talks through his report.

Extra – curricular modules alongside degree - With the support of SU staff members, I implemented a survey to discover what types of extra-curricular activities students would like to see at the University. The results of the survey will be taken to CELT where I will ask for the university's support in introducing extra-curricular modules. From informal conversations, I believe there were positive discussions regarding this. In January, I hope to be working alongside university staff in discussing the options further.

I was advised by the Vice-chancellor to implement another survey to build on the results of the first survey, that may be my next step, depending on how meetings in December go.

Networking opportunities between schools, campuses, sports & societies – I am looking to offer networking opportunities in the new year. I believe it will be difficult to get students to engage at the moment, due to the pandemic. The SU attended an event hosted by the University, whereby the teams discussed the employability workshops and events. One of the key points was to offer networking opportunities online with multiple employers, as it is easier for the student and employer to network, especially if the employer is based far away. As a result of this, I aim to work alongside the university in promoting these events online.

Mental health advisor – believes the long waiting times within the Uni to see a mental health advisor has been reduced considerably and having one mental health advisor in the SU wouldn't be ideal due to the topics being covered. So is looking to work on different initiatives and focusing on the 'active bystander' programme. The programme aims to develop a pro-social community and to challenge unacceptable behaviour such as bullying, micro-aggressions and harassment. This Correlates with Uni's dignity and respect at work policy. Student wellbeing is at the heart of this project by mitigating the likelihood and severity of potential harm and supporting peers when needed.

Other comments:

Mauro comments on the work that the officers are doing surrounding mental health and support.

Explains the survey out currently about students with caring responsibilities and encourages people to fill this in.

Alex asks for questions on Mauro's report.

Emily asks where can we find extra information about these programmes – Mauro answers that the Active Bystander programme will be implemented around February and pilot surveys will be run. Mauro confirms course reps will probably be contacted about this in the New Year.

Alex asks for poll on Mauro's report

Result 26 accept, 0 reject, 1 abstain

6. Motions

a. Online meetings bye-laws

Mauro is a proposer, Dan is a seconder.

Bradley confirms motion text is split across two slides and that information has been sent out prior, information explains what the changes to the bye-laws would be.

The Students' Union notes...

Significantly, more meetings are taking place online now because of Covid-19 and that this is predicted to be the case for some time.

The Students' Union believes...

Online meetings should follow set rules

The Students' Union resolves...

The bye-laws should be amended to reflect this and the procedures we have put in place already.

Alex gives chance for any questions. None received.

Alex asks for the poll on this motion.

Results 27 for, 0 against, 0 abstain

7. Ratification of new student trustee

Alex calls Bradley to speak.

Bradley explains the role of the student trustee who sits on the board of trustees. Some are external, Dan and Mauro are on the board and there are also 2 other student roles. Alex takes one of these roles as chair so there is one spare. We ran a recruitment drive earlier on in the year and ran interviews accordingly. Daniel Betts was put forward to board and the board accepted. Bradley says this now needs to be put to council to approve. If it wasn't approved then a 2nd recruitment drive would have to happen.

Alex calls for the poll on this.

Results 25 approve, 0 reject, 2 abstain

This has passed so Daniel has been ratified by council to sit on the board of trustees.

Alex congratulates Daniel.

8. Any Other Business

Alex puts forward the issues surrounding parking. Students receiving fines when they have paid, students who are displaying blue badges are getting tickets when they shouldn't have to pay.

Alex says on facebook he provided his chair email address and has had numerous responses who agree with their point.

Bradley reminds council that we are live on Facebook so to be mindful of comments but welcomes discussion.

Dan is asked to speak on the matter, he says he's aware of the multiple issues that are happening. Some emails he has received have been passed on to the academic registrar and estates team so are in hand.

Mauro comments that it's difficult to resolve as Ipserv are a third party company but the University is aware of the issues.

Dan recommends people contact the academic registrar and the estates team but that the Union will provide support if we are asked.

Dan says we are aware of the lack of consistency with Ipserv's response to appeals.

Alex asks if Dan is attending meetings with Ipserv. Dan says no but it could be arranged if it is asked by council.

Alex directs people to contact fm helpdesk and the Uni in the first instance.

Alex asks for any other business. None received.

Meeting is returned back to beginning, as minutes of previous meeting were never approved.

9. Approval of minutes of last meeting

Poll for last meetings minutes is displayed.

Results 24 accept, 0 reject, 2 abstain

10. Date of next meeting – January 27th

Alex thanks everyone for attending and provides his email address for any further points.

Congratulates new DPC members and new ratified student trustee.

Merry Christmas wishes to all.