



University of Suffolk Students' Union

February 24th, 2021

Student Council Minutes

Chair – Alex Gooch

Deputy Chair – Daniel Betts

Minutes & Questions – Belinda Bradley

Livestream – Gergana Ivanova Foster

Host – Bradley Allsop

Time	Items		Action
13:00	1a. Welcome	<p>AG: Hello, we are livestreaming. Have a couple of minutes to get yourself together and we'll start.</p> <p>BA: Yeah, we're a couple off quoracy at the moment chair.</p> <p>AG: We'll give it a few minutes. We're just waiting for a few more people to come in.</p> <p>BA: Let's start and see if we meet quoracy.</p> <p>AG: Hello and welcome to council. If you have a question, please message Bradley Allsop.</p> <p>BA: My name has been changed for me.</p>	
13:04	1b. How the meeting will work	<p>AG: If you want to ask or speak, message questions or you can simply post questions on the chat. The chair will read out your question, unmute your mike and tell you when to speak. Keep your topics brief, remember you're representing your cohort - not your personal opinions. If you can't vote on the poll, message questions. You can accept or reject or abstain. Okay, onto announcements!</p>	
13:06	2. Announcements	<p>BA: Yeah Folks, these are our last week of nominations, I'll keep telling you until you nominate yourself. You have until 11:59 on Sunday. We've got lots of officer roles, full time paid positions, both president roles. That would basically be your full time job, you get training, £19,000, you get to be a trustee. *inaudible*. Talk to Dan and Mauro for more. Also got part time officers such as reps, liberation roles who run campaigns. The part time officers would be happy to chat to you about that. And we've got campus officer roles who represent students from different campuses, bury and east coast college officer. Had a few ask about other campuses, we don't have those roles in byelaws, but if you're interested, drop our pres Dan an email. Might be something that goes to council. Everyone is putting their emails in the chat. It would be</p>	

		<p>great to see course reps in this call go to school officers. Very happy to have a chat to all.</p> <p>AG: Thank you Bradley, just reminding everyone that this is live streamed to youtube, and the link is only available to course reps.</p> <p>BA: You should have received a link to access Suffolk Plus which is replacing course rep awards, it's open to all and we want to recognise everyone. You should have received an email and you can set your profile up, log any hours you spend. Sorry Gergana, just waiting on registration approval and we'll meet quoracy.</p> <p>So yeah, then you can log any hours you spend on a su role and you can combine them, if you happen to be a course rep and pres of a society you can combine hours. You've got bronze, silver and gold. You can accumulate hours across your whole uni experiences. 10 hours, future me and reflective piece for bronze, discussing what you've learnt and where you'll go next. So that's Suffolk plus, each level gets better roles. Happy to answer any questions chair.</p> <p>AG: Well done for plugging elections. So refreshers, whose plugging, Gergana?</p> <p>GI: I'll go and be quick. If you haven't get involved, have a look and sign up. It's free, something for everyone painting, esports social sport, movie nights there is something for everyone. Get involved and it's all free.</p> <p>AG: Yes get involved, thank you.</p>	
13:09	3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting	<p>AG: So minutes.</p> <p>BA: Sorry I've been asked about what hours count (for Suffolk Plus) we're happy for any in this academic year to count. From sept onwards, happy to help</p> <p>So minutes: Accept, reject or abstain.</p> <p>BA: That's everyone.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Accept</p> <p>0</p> <p>Reject</p> <p>0</p> <p>Abstain</p>
13:11	4. Motions and Actions Update	<p>AG: Moving on to actions update, who is taking it?</p> <p>BA: Guess!</p> <p>AG: Is it you?</p> <p>BA: Haha – yeaah - I thought I'd give everyone a big update, so recently we've made a lot of changes to byelaws. It says in the byelaws that Student Council can change byelaws with trustees. They pretty much always approve it. You will, notice at https://www.uosunion.org/yourvoice/bylawsandstrategy/ they have all been updated with the exception of last council as trustees haven't met since but all previous ones have been updated. Accommodation reps met with Dan and Mauro and hall providers. Byelaws say we'll elect this sept for new accommodation reps. We did look at this electing this term but there was a lockdown and students were told not to go back to students halls, lots of students are not back so it wasn't the best time to introduce it. Lots of practical things meant we couldn't like we need a list of</p>	

		<p>students in halls but the uni doesn't have that either. Dan and Mauro can say more but they're putting stuff out and we're meeting with them to talk about partnership and how they can facilitate. Update is nothing this term but we are working on it. Dan and Mauro, want to add anything?</p> <p>MC: Yeah, our meeting today was really good, we know it's important that we gets reps inside and we have them involved in student experience. On campus experience is completely different right now. The reps roles will be to support students, get feedback and in the future it will improve engagement, they can attend events, create events and provide feedback. Dan want to come in?</p> <p>DG: Yeah we've got another meeting with accommodation providers and we're waiting to get back to it. We've got a great working relationship and are excited for what the SU can do for students in accommodation.</p> <p>AG: Thank you, you three. I will open up to questions for anyone who wants to ask about accommodation or the actions update. I'll give you a moment for questions and – oh, I've got something...</p> <p>EK: Will there be one rep for each accommodation provider?</p> <p>AG: Who wants to take it?</p> <p>BA: Yes, the motion we passed will be proportional. Smaller ones there will be one rep, bigger ones there will be several - so we've not looked at exact numbers, but maybe 3 or 4 for Athena. Then we'll elect for each accommodation.</p> <p>AG: Like the elections?</p> <p>BA: Yeah this is why we need a list of students in halls but we will set up on website and run at same time as course reps in sept, so yeah they can run like any other election.</p> <p>DG: Will there be one rep for each hall?</p> <p>AG: We've answered this already.</p> <p>DG: Oh sorry, I was trying to send a link.</p> <p>AG: Any other questions?</p> <p>DG: Sorry I -</p> <p>BA: I've been asked what's happening with the return to uni, Dan and Mauro? And asked what accommodation reps do. I can answer that first - They're like a course rep for halls, gather feedback about experience, report problems, have more input in halls and we thought it would be nice for accommodation reps to lead social events. We'll provide support for that. Dan and Mauro, you'll know more on this, return to uni?</p> <p>DG: We know everything you do so keep looking on uni website, all we've got is advice from boris on Monday</p> <p>EK: The uni sent an email on Monday with advice.</p> <p>AG: Something incoming.</p> <p>DG: I didn't know about the email.</p>	
--	--	--	--

		<p>AG: It just says there will be another email when it's worked out.</p> <p>DG: I didn't get an email, I've not been- *inaudible*</p> <p>AG: Yeah, it was sent-</p> <p>DG: I've not been part of that conversation but I'm fully confident the uni will put students first.</p> <p>BA: The vice chancellor said they will provide more information, more details than boris's statement. Short answer, hopefully more soon.</p> <p>AG: Lets move on so we don't talk about the government.</p>	
13:17	5. Last Council Quoracy Update	<p>AG: Moving onto officer reports.</p> <p>BA: Wait, I made a note about quoracy in the last meeting. The current wording is 'over 20 reps for business'. We did have 21 reps but one was our chair. There is a dispute about chair counting so we brought it to dpc and they decided it was quorate. They've also provided a motion that changes the wording so we can be sure.</p> <p>I've just noticed more have joined since we started. Last motion was about block and blended learning, there was some dispute about this but dpc decided it wasn't quorate, but we'll put it forward again.</p> <p>AG: Yeah we'll recap later. Onto Dan's report.</p> <p>BA: Anyone have any questions? Happy to answer.</p> <p>AG: Dan. Go.</p>	
13:26	6a. Officer Reports – President Education Update	<p>DG: Thanks I've been waiting patiently – Chair if you're happy for me to leave this as read, I'll leave it as is.</p> <p>AG: Yeah – you can read *inaudible*</p> <p>DG: I've met with the business improvement district and got some support and feedback. It looks promising and I've spoken with vice chancellor who is supportive and we can put in place hopefully sept- maybe even June but there's lots of hoops. I've confident I can achieve this campaign goal.</p> <p>AG: Thanks – Jay?</p> <p>JC: I wanted to ask Dan a question - because we saw a short report at rep forum. After the meeting what was the feeling? I just want a brief report of your own views.</p> <p>DG: Which meeting, which campaign?</p> <p>JC: Forget about it, I'll ask you separately</p> <p>DG: I'll pop my email in the chat, happy to answer questions.</p> <p>AG: Bradley, any questions?</p> <p>BA: None to me.</p> <p>AG: Ready for poll.</p> <p>GI: Okay!</p> <p>AG: Mauro?</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Accept</p> <p>1</p> <p>Abstain</p> <p>0</p> <p>Reject</p>
13:33	6b. Officer Reports – VP	<p>MC: Like dan I'll take it as read. I'll talk about Active Bystanding - we're meeting, launching active bystanding</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Accept</p>

	<p>Activities and Wellbeing Update</p>	<p>and tomorrow we'll meet where we can create scenarios for students</p> <p>I'll be involved in task force, did a survey at Christmas and successfully got onto the group where I'll be pushing it. We're offering Spanish lessons, they're half way through. Students want to do a sign language course, but I have to research who can do it. I'm meeting with student experience ambassadors to focus on networking and staying connected which has been our challenge. Trying to increase awareness pf societies where they can build relationships.</p> <p>Liberation officers working with student life team, making info accessible and on the website.</p> <p>The SU and uni are arranging events with lgbtq+ month - our officer here has been working hard. Event today, 26, and 28th I'll be there also.</p> <p>Give it a go lets students try a new sport month; I'm working with wellbeing ambassadors in creating this. If you have any activities you want to do, please contact me</p> <p>Lastly, we had our first Activities Committee which was well attended – in my remet of Vice President, I cover Activities Committee and put forward motions, assisting student groups. Happy to take any questions.</p> <p>AG: Thank you, questions?</p> <p>CH: With Active bystander, what type of situations are you exploring, how will you select participants?</p> <p>MC: There's three things there, it's a pilot so myself and Dan, we face a lot of students, liberation officers will be involved. We don't want to give course reps too much to do, but we'll include personal tutors though. We still need to discuss who. In terms of scenarios, uni and SU staff agreed on themes to explore which were communication, loneliness, anxiety and stress. Took it to course rep forum and they agreed that those themes affect mental health at uni. Using those themes we need to come up with scenarios, we'll see if beneficial. I'd like to see in in place for induction week.</p> <p>CH: That sounds great, can I talk to you about more specific area, that I've talked to the Women's Officer aout. Don't want to get to specifics now.</p> <p>MC: Yeah we're looking for specifics now, don't want to say names but was going to ask liberation officers for scenarios.</p> <p>CH: Thanks, I spoke to the Womens Officer about a scenario that gives me anxiety, so yeah.</p> <p>MC: Please do speak to me yeah.</p> <p>EK: Would it be worth considering front of house staff?</p> <p>MC: Yes but it's a pilot so we need to prioritise, we'll select around 40 people and then branch out. One day the whole uni will have gone through the program.</p> <p>AG: Thank you.</p>	<p>0 Abstain 0 Reject</p>
--	---	---	---

13:40	7. Motion to amend quoracy levels for Student Council	<p>AG: Who does this belong to?</p> <p>BA: Matthew’s motion but his mike isn’t working.</p> <p>MB: Can you hear me? So yeah on the last student council, we found it wasn’t clear around the byelaw and when reps hit quoracy so we said to reword it. So, the Union believes: Bye-laws and governance should be as a clear as possible to ensure the smooth functioning of democratic meetings. The Union resolves: Reword bye-law 1.27 to make it clear that 20 reps are sufficient for voting on business, but that the Chair does not count towards this quoracy, unless voting on a tied vote. This would mean changing: “1.27 Business shall not be conducted by the Student Council unless over 20 representatives are present at the meeting” to: "1.27 Business shall not be conducted by the Student Council unless 20 or more voting representatives are present at the meeting, this excludes the chair who is unable to vote unless a tied vote occurs”</p> <p>AG: Any questions? This is a motion Bradley referenced earlier to avoid confusion around quoracy.</p> <p>BA: This has been proposed by dpc members and is supported by dpc, well, endorsed.</p> <p>AG: No questions? I’ll give it a moment in case people still typing.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>For</p> <p>1</p> <p>Against</p> <p>1</p> <p>Abstain</p>
13:45	7.b emergency motion to amend block learning	<p>AG: Thank you Matthew. This next motion has been brought forward because we didn’t hit quoracy.</p> <p>AM: We’ve been looking at amending block learning. We don’t want to get rid of block learning, just want to change it so it’s more accessible.</p> <p>DG: Thank you for including it in this council, I just want to add that it’s come off the back of multiple people coming to me saying it doesn’t; fit their individual needs, like disabilities or part time students. Question is what is block learning? – It’s condensed modules where your module is in 4 weeks instead of the semester - not 3 long modules.</p> <p>AG: Only used by level 4s currently, how many courses are going to take it on?</p> <p>DG: Only by level’s 7s.</p> <p>AG: Ben said it’s intense.</p> <p>DG: It is, doesn’t suit some people.</p> <p>AG: It’s like Marmite. Holly says all level 4s are positive about this motion and unhappy.</p> <p>BA: Students are saying some courses are a lot better with balance but some getting it very wrong</p> <p>DG: It’s posing new challenges - with extensions or personal circumstances, it throws up a challenge. Doesn’t impact straight away but in three weeks down the line, it can prove tricky and that’s why we’ve introduced it.</p> <p>EK: Some students haven’t known anything else. But</p> <p>SB: I like it.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>For</p> <p>2</p> <p>Abstain</p> <p>0</p> <p>Reject</p>

		<p>EK: But it's for those with additional needs.</p> <p>DG: The uni conducted a study and majority found it good but there are demographics its massively negatively impacting, my opinion that's inapposite.</p> <p>BD: Hence why we are looking at tweaking and not disbanding.</p> <p>BA: Can I clarify what happens?</p> <p>AG: Go ahead.</p> <p>BA: Key bit is last paragraph, it's effectively a policy. It becomes SU policy, so we know what our stance on block learning is and officers can refer to this motion when having conversations about block learning. It informs officers some guidance on the subject. In terms of passing, that would be the impact of this.</p> <p>Ag: Steph send your vote to questions. I've got an important phone call. I know Daniel is preoccupied. I'm sorry – I need to take it, it's important.</p> <p>BA: Okay, I can't move the slide so we'll wait until he's back.</p> <p>AG: I am back, it clearly wasn't important.</p>	
13:52	8. Any other Business	<p>AG: That brings us onto any other business? I haven't been made aware of anything Anything else?</p> <p>MC: LGBTQ+ month</p> <p>BA: Please nominate yourself in elections!</p> <p>DG: Elections...</p> <p>BA: Please if you're not standing, I sent an email about ways you can help us promote. If you have a friend you'd think would be great in the role, tell them. Sometimes telling them is enough. Just drop them a link, any help you can give us. Social media has changed how easy is to promote content this year. Some asked about deadlines, about manifestos, it's the 5th march. You'd have a hard job of that. There is no 29th feb. It's the 5th march.</p> <p>AG: Head's up, elections week commencing 8th so make sure you're ready to read manifestos and answer awkward questions. Happy for any other business?</p> <p>BA: Thanks</p>	
14:01	9. Date of next meeting – March 31st	<p>AG: Thank you for coming, next meeting is march 31st. Stay for any questions, I'll be here and so will us lot. Dan hopefully you'll be here, Mauro, Questions, whoever takes the role of questions.</p>	