



University of Suffolk Students' Union

Student Council Meeting Minutes

February 23rd, 1pm

Attendees: Emily Kilkenney, Calum Childs, Dearbhla Berry, Henry Kiddy, Darragh Briscoomb, Aliyu Muhammed, Marvin Matherson, Patrik Sramka, Laura Bilverstone, Bianca Pintilii, Maya Collins, Chikodi Cyril-Enwefah, Ben Davidson, Kym Older, Uwugiaren Nosakhare, Bernard Harrison, Jasmine Winterburn, Bradley Allsop, Ceri Archer, Charlotte Thomas, Bibi Haukim, Jessie Backhouse, Daniel Bundi, Georgia Harris, Gergana Ivanova, Alex Gooch.

Apologies: Megan Wright

Chair: Shannon Pilsworth

Minutes: Michelle Dack

1. **Welcome/ How the meeting will work**
- 2.

Bradley: We are not quorate we need 15-20 so we can't vote on anything, so if people are happy, we can still discuss the officer reports and things on the agenda and voting will take place at the next meeting instead.

Shannon: Welcome everybody, people in the room and joining on Zoom. Welcome to Februarys Student Council. How the meeting works, people on Zoom keep your mic muted unless you are called upon to speak, if you want to ask any questions or speak in favour you can message in the questions or Zoom chat, or if you would like to speak directly then type 'I want to speak' and you can ask a question.

We are not voting on reports, it's comments and questions.

People in person, raise your hand if you want to speak on something then I will call on you to speak when it is your turn.

2. **Announcements**

Bradley: As I am sure all of you by now we have got officer elections going on, final week of nominations this week Sunday 5pm, we have full time paid roles available if you want to take a year out of studies, training from the SU, loads of things you can do, we do also have

part time officer roles, school officer roles, liberation roles where you represent various different groups across all campuses, also campus officer roles. I will pop my email address in the chat and send a link where you can nominate yourself - su.democracy@uos.ac.uk, uosunion.org/elections-hub,

Michelle: BSL

- The third and final BSL course for the year starts on Tuesday 26 April 2022. This will be an 8-week course, covering 10 learning hours (1h and 15 mins per lesson)
- This course is open to both UOS students and staff.
- The last day of the course would be Tuesday 14 June
- Register at: <https://form.jotform.com/212764510466354>

Gergana: We have rescheduled two of refreshers events because of the weather last week, they are both this Friday, we have go-karting and painting and wine, Anglia Karting - [https://www.uosunion.org/freshers-week/ Tickets for Go Karting and Painting and Wine](https://www.uosunion.org/freshers-week/Tickets%20for%20Go%20Karting%20and%20Painting%20and%20Wine)

Gergana: We are hiring an administrator if you are looking for a full time job or knows someone who is amazing at admin, please send them our way, it is a great opportunity and you get to work with all of us and cross departments, we have a closing deadline of 4th of March, send your CV as soon as you can.

Alex: As you can probably tell because I shout enough about it ready to graduate week is actually happening from next Monday. Four talks through that week and some photo opportunities, the overarching theme of the week is feeling prepared to leave university. Everyone is welcome, come next week everything is free, look on our social media!

3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

Shannon: We can't vote on the minutes, but if anyone has any questions.

4. Motions & Actions Update

Alex: It is on the screen, so I am going to use that, with the drink spiking motion, Wiff Waff were booked but they need to rebook, Cult had their session last week and had good feedback on how engaged they were, Revs have theirs booked in for today, 3 Wise Monkeys resent their booking link but haven't yet picked a new date.

Library opening hours – we got the full £11,373 to extend these staffing hours, it is now open so make sure you use it, tell everyone you know. It needs to be seen as being used.

EDI will be going to the Trustees, but they haven't met yet. I will take any questions?

5. Officer reports

a) President of Education

Alex: We have been working on refreshers and freshers and the summer ball, the date is 13th of May – save the date and buy tickers when that happens in March. Plug for Suffolk + - if you get to Gold, you get a free summer ball ticket.

Ready to graduate is coming.

A big thing raised was to get the thrift fair at Refreshers, that went really well. We are looking forward to getting some feedback.

Alex's Report

Since the last meeting we have been prepping lots of things for Re-freshers, Summer Ball, Ready to Graduate Week and, as this is being written, hosting Re-freshers itself. With this in mind, apologies if this report feels less detailed than previous meetings.

Ready to Graduate Skills· Week commencing 28th February, this is happening! I have organised 4 speakers; an external speaker a talk on public speaking, a finance talk with a look at taxes and life after university, job hunting and the amazing external speaker Lou Chou. There will also be a photographer on campus twice that week, for students to get headshots for LinkedIn.

More Sustainable Campus · The biggest thing to raise here is the Fill a Bag thrift fair happening during re-freshers we have organised in line with my manifesto. Hopefully we will be able to host more like this in future!

More Mental Health Training for Personal Tutors · This Manifesto point is now complete, but as always, I am keeping close to the review process for Personal Academic Coaches

Alex: I will wait and accept questions.

b) President of Activities & Wellbeing

Alex: I will read it as because Meg couldn't be here today.

· Enhancing wellbeing services- Working with the SU, University and the Chaplaincy to promote the health and wellbeing services and coming up with new plans, to put student feedback provision in place. Additionally, My Suffolk now has a wellbeing button on the homepage which then takes students to the 'Disability and Wellbeing' landing page, where all the resources surrounding mental health and wellbeing can be found.

· Green space and secure bike storage- The new health and wellbeing quarter is getting close to the opening and plans to get the student perspective on the designs of the new green space are underway. I'm looking forward to being involved and see the progress of the courtyard outside the SU social space. The new update on the bike storage is they are now here and are located outside the front of the Arts building!

· Collaboration with local businesses- Continuing to provide opportunities for students to engage with local businesses, with last week at Re:Freshers fair and the events we put on that week, including Pennikkity Pots and Anglian indoor karting. The work towards a collaborative sports vision for UOS with the university is still underway, taking on the feedback from students on what they want to see and what they feel works well.

Aside from my manifesto points I have also been working on and been a part of other projects and campaigns.

Alex: Any questions?

6. Motions

Bradley: Why write a motion? I thought I would take this opportunity to have a longer chat about motions, how to write them that sort of thing, we have struggled with quoracy I think because they are no juicy motions and that's what gets people to council. So, in general, the idea behind a motion, you've got officer accountability side of things they give their report and it's a key part, the second key part is students/ reps and officers creating new ideas for change. Basically, if you pass a motion, the reason why it is useful is 1. for Meg and Alex, if they go into meetings, really helpful to say student council have discussed this idea, it's like evidence-based, as they always ask how do you know students want this, it's also for us as an SU a really good way to know what students want as well, we can have 1-2 students say we want this thing, but they don't represent 14,000 students if it goes through council it gives a sense of what students want. That's what the purpose of council is.

When to write a motion – what I would say is particularly if you are a course rep if it is an issue for your specific course, a council motion isn't the way to go if you feel like it is an

issue that extends beyond your course, it's not just your course team it's a bit wider than that, that's when you should think about writing a motion when you struggle to get progress on something. That will be a time when you come to student council, that gives some strong evidence against the university to show what the students want and it's great for telling us something, controversial or political, or if you think we should be doing something, putting something through council is how we decide. What I can do if we have a motion passed through council, I can then make it clear this is something the students want. If you want the SU to adopt a new position.

How – some of this in the SU training, but there is a tab under the council page where you can submit it, it is a form which asks you for 3 fields, the first one notes, believes, results. Notes is where you talk about what the issue is, you would explain what the problem is, believes is where you make an appeal to values where you convince people to vote for the motion. Final bit resolves is key as that tells me what you will do as a result of that motion passing. It's key as it's where you show what you want to happen.

An example of some things that have passed, we have created a number of new officer roles through student council, a lot of people that have come today may not have been, as their roles didn't exist, gender neutral toilets, and the most recent example is library hours. It is a really clear example what a motion can do.

Alex: I think you've summed it up really nice, it might be worth adding, you can always run it past us, it doesn't have to be as dramatic as some of the incredible examples, it can be something to do with university policy/SU policy, it can be big or little and always happy to have a chat about.

Bradley: People always have ideas for motions but stumble at writing, come to us, we are happy to help you. If you have an idea but struggling to get it into that motion format, just come to us.

7. Any Other Business

Shannon: Does anyone have anything else that they want to bring up now? No.

8. Date of next meeting – March 30th, 2022 - The Hold or on Zoom