



## University of Suffolk Students' Union

### Student Council Meeting Minutes

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1pm

**Attendees:** Amber Atkinson, Robert Grey, Ben Davidson, Kym Older, Bianca Pintilii, Jasmine Winterburn, Jessica Howard, Alex Gooch, Belinda Bradley, Calum Childs, Daniel Gorton, Bibi Haukim, Jessie Backhouse, Melanie Stride-Noble, Jamie Thurogood, Sharon Fullilove, Anna Girling, Jack Cater, Shannon Pilsworth, Henry Kiddy, Patrik Sramka, Hannah Brown, Christine Hall, Laura Bilverstone, Maya Collins, Emily Knock, Darragh Briscomb, Chikodi Cyril-Enwefah, Michelle Dack, Nosakhare Uwugiaren, Bernard Harrison, Prince Yeboah, Bradley Allsop, Ceri Archer, Nathan Laville-Farrant, Tajinder Singh, Alice Lenton, Charlotte Thomas.

**Apologies:** Megan Wright

**Chair:** Shannon Pilsworth

**Minutes:** Michelle Dack

#### 1. Welcome/ How the meeting will work

**Shannon Pilsworth:** Just to say it is being recorded, so if you don't want your face being shown, just turn your camera off. If you want to ask any questions, you can simply post your questions in the chat, or you can type directly in the chat. I will read out your question. We will run polls to vote on each motion, everyone can vote to accept, reject, or abstain. Keep points brief and on topic.

#### 2. Announcements

##### **We're looking for student leaders – [uosunion.org/elections-hub](https://uosunion.org/elections-hub)**

**Bradley:** Hi everyone, we have officer elections, nominations are now open for our full time and paid roles, the brand spanking new hub is available to help you know if that role is for you. Nominations are open until the end of February 27<sup>th</sup>, voting is 9-13<sup>th</sup> March, if you want to know anything about any of the roles, if you have any questions to ask, drop me an email, we are also holding workshops throughout February, but our first workshop is next week, February 2<sup>nd</sup> which is all about letting you know what it is to be an officer. Please consider running, we want to see all those roles filled and lots of contestant elections as well.

**CHAT: Bradley Allsop:** Elections questions? [su.democracy@uos.ac.uk](mailto:su.democracy@uos.ac.uk)

WORKSHOP 1 - IS BEING AN OFFICER FOR ME? (FEB 2ND, 13:00)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZEqfuGgrjlsEtUw-5A5q8CwerultCUOGtjl>

## Refreshers Fair

**Gergana:** This is the refreshers 2022 program, it has not been released anywhere yet, so you are the first to have a sneak peek. There is a variety of different things you can try. Just brew it, the refreshers fair, pub quiz .... so lots of different things. Some events will be paid, and the tickets will go on sale soon and the others are free, and everyone is welcome. Any questions suggestions, comments, please let me know now or in the chat or later in an email. We hope you will attend, tell your friends, events are lots more fun when more people are there, we have promised lots of snacks, cake and great memories. **Email:** [g.ivanova@uos.ac.uk](mailto:g.ivanova@uos.ac.uk)

All info will be released soon on <https://www.uosunion.org/freshers-week/>

## Shop SU

**Jessie:** Nothing much to add other than what is on the screen, the details are in the social space, we value your feedback so let us know if you have any. We need your feedback – please email [su@uos.ac.uk](mailto:su@uos.ac.uk) and let us know.

## Swimming vouchers

**Belle:** It's just a reminder that we have swimming vouchers in the SU shop, please do buy them, you can buy them anytime they don't expire until December this year, you get 2/3rds off. Valid for Crown Pools and Fore Street as well so it's a really good offer. They are one-time vouchers, but you can buy as many as you want.

## SOFIA

**Bradley:** This is just a reminder for reps about how useful SOFIA is for us. We have made some changes to SOFIA this year so all students can fill it out and reps can fill it out. You should be getting an automated email when someone from your cohort submits something. Just as a reminder really encourage them to use SOFIA. As much feedback as possible is going in once place and it is easier for us to see trends across the University. Any questions email me.

### **3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting**

**Bradley:** We are on 20 excluding you and staff, so we are at quoracy. We will double check Zoom attendance.

**Bradley:** While people are voting there was a question for me, someone ask if you can see your feedback has been seen, no, but we encourage staff – if you submit something on your module or course we will submit it to the SEA, you won't see directly, but we encourage staff to follow up and the Student experience Ambassador team – there's not a way for a staff member to get their email address and reply to them, but they are trying to promote what has changed in various different feedback routes. Short answer no, but there are ways we are getting around this.

#### **Approval of minutes:**

**20 - accept**

**2 – abstain**

**Pass**

### **4. Motions & Actions Update**

**Shannon:** The drinking spiking motion, does anyone want to talk about that?

### **Anti-spiking**

**Jessie:** You can see Cult and Wiff Waff have their training booked in, 3 wise monkeys had to postpone and have been sent a new booking form and will get a new date as soon as possible. There is a slight update on Revs since we made the slides, their manager had been on annual leave, they have been sent across from GNO the dates they are going to select, we have actually offered Revs two of the slots as Unit 17 pulled out. GNO suggested that Revs is such a big venue, they have two slots to get the most out of the training. Hopefully they will book in as soon as possible and hopefully we will get this tied up for refreshers for Cult and Wiff Waff and after for Revs. We are then complete on that task, if anyone has any questions feel free.

**Shannon:** Thank you for that, next we have the library motion so Alex, do you have anything you want to say on this?

### **Library motion**

**Alex:** The bullet point is actually very good at explaining what has happened since the motion came in council December, I've been in contact with Learning Library Services and managed to speak with Mohammed as well as Ellen Buck Director of learning and teaching, with speaking with them, Ellen was able to go away to look at costing, to extend library hours to pre-pandemic hours. I wrote a paper to go to the Student Experience Taskforce where I was able to ask that meeting and the members for £11,373 to cover the costs of security and staffing to bring those opening hours back, so that was approved.

It is really important to note now that it should start on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, but I will chase that, as soon as we know that it is open, make sure people are using the extended hours, make sure your friends, people on your courses stay for longer, if we ask for it and people don't use it, they will take it away again. So just make sure we are using it.

**Action point:** Alex to check when new library hours start and confirm.

## **5. Officer reports**

### **a. President Education report**

Manifesto points

- Ready to Graduate Skills
- More Sustainable Campus
- More Mental Health Training for Personal Tutors

**Alex:**

Thank you chair, as you will have seen from my report that has been circulated there has been some movement on ready to graduate skills. Since the last meeting, that date has changed, we are now looking to have a range of 1-hour talks the week commencing 28th of February, to cover life skills, finance, careers, to give a better real-world understanding of taxes, job hunting, finance, things like that. I put out a poll on my Instagram to gauge what time of day is best for students to attend things

on campus, we are thinking of 4-5, if there is a best time, let me know. More sustainable campus, I am quite happy with the progress made on this and have done everything planned, at the same time I will carry on there is always more to do, hopefully, we will take some things to the NUS conference end of March. As well as meeting up with the University board and chair to share how ambitious our plans are. More mental health training, I am quite happy to say more training was had by staff and there has been a lot of positive feedback. As you will see there are other things I have been up to as well.

**Alex:** I'm happy to take any questions, thank you chair.

**Shannon:** If we are able to open some kind of poll, so we can see if everyone agrees with what Alex has said.

**President of Education Report:**

22 - accept

1 – abstain

Pass

b. President Activities and Wellbeing report

Manifesto points

- Enhancing wellbeing services
- Green space and secure bike storage
- Collaboration with local businesses'

**Bradley:** Meg has had to send her apologies for this meeting, my suggestion is that the report has been circulated and we can take it as read and vote on it, if anyone has any questions, Alex or staff may be able to answer them, or we can put them to Meg and get a reply to you after the meeting.

**Shannon:** As Bradley said, if you have read Meg's report, so I think if everyone's happy to, we could go ahead a do a poll.

**Bradley:** The poll is live, if anyone has any questions, drop it in the chat and we can get a reply to you.

**President of Activities and Wellbeing Report:**

20 - accept

4 – abstain

Pass

**6. Board of Trustees Report**

**Alex:** I will read what is on the slide.

- At their additional November meeting, Trustee Board agreed to the provision of Associate membership for students at organisations where the University of Suffolk is not the 'lead' for Student Finance purposes
- The Bye law relating to this change was approved and is live from July 2022

- At the February 2022 meeting Trustees will receive a substantial report on Shop SU which has been financially impacted by Covid and subsequent low footfall. Following Board, we will share this report with council.
- Trustees will also receive and debate the following at the February meeting:
  - Manifesto updates and progress from our Presidents
  - The Updated SU Risk Register
  - Draft block grant proposals for 2022/23
  - CEO operational report covering Re-Freshers and all other activities
  - Progress on the Governance Review
  - Proposals for a new external trustee

**Shannon:** If we are able to, can we open up a poll please.

**Bradley:** Yes, let's just give it a chance to see if anyone has any questions first chair.

**Bradley:** Just while we are voting on that, there was a question in the chat from our officer team asking about captioning and voice notes for these, apologies it is not something we have normally enabled for these meetings and I don't think it is something you can capture half way through, but what we will do is make sure they are in place for the next meeting, if anyone needs them, the minutes will be uploaded after this, but we will make sure the voice notes are in place for the next meeting.

#### **Board of Trustees Report:**

**22 - accept**

**3 – abstain**

**1 - reject**

**Pass**

## **7. Motions**

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup Motion.**

**Shannon:** Next is motions, Darragh.

**Darragh:** It's primarily to establish an Equality Diversity and Inclusion workgroup in the SU, the Union notes that we do not currently have a policy or statement regarding equality, diversity, and inclusion and lack a group of students to discuss the important things that may arise due to being a minority student at a large uni. The union believes that ensuring EDI remains at the heart of the SU and is incredibly important and to do this it is vital to ensure that students are leading the conversation. As a result, I am proposing that the Union create an EDI workgroup, this group will meet 6 times in an academic year to maintain and create an EDI policy and release other statements surrounding EDI and offer advice for anything that comes up at council, for example, I said they may author a statement around black lives matter. The membership of this group would include the liberation officers other than the part-time, mature and post-grad officer, it would then also have students from those liberation groups. This group requires a by-law change and that's added in the report for further details. I am happy to answer any questions.

So, the main reason I wrote in the exclusion for mature, part-time and post-grad officers, is the idea is that this group would be based on the protective characteristics, this is something I thought would be controversial, so I am not opposed to amending it to include all of the officers, but my primary reason for that was going through the protected characteristics so it's focused on those liberation groups.

**Shannon:** Like Darragh says, if you have any questions about it, you can put it in the chat or email Darragh.

**Darragh:** If it is a motion, the questions would need to be discussed here,

**Darragh:** The workgroup budget would be decided later on but this motion would grant them a budget.

**Shannon:** So if there isn't anything else, I think we can open up a poll so people can vote on this motion.

**Bradley:** I would like to check as there were questions around the officers. If they want to come in on this or are they happy with Darragh's answer?

**Shannon:** So if any of the other officers have a certain view feel free to speak up now or forever hold your peace.

**Bradley:** What I will suggest is that Darragh says more on it and if someone wants to – basically the motion is what the motion is, unless someone wants to suggest a change to it.

**Darragh:** It's kind of a complicated issue, so when I looked at the equality laws in the UK, they list a selection of protected characteristics and our liberation groups some fall in, and some don't so the focus of the EDI group would be equality, inclusion and diversion, so I based it on these protected characteristics, it doesn't mean we can't amend it. This was just my initial thought process that LGBT, BAME etc students are disadvantaged by a characteristic they can't control whereas part-time and post-grad are a mode of study, so their needs are slightly different.

Protected characteristics, let me get them up. The one that I was definitely on the edge about was about mature students as age is a protected characteristic, basically that was one I was very unsure about and I am very happy to amend that to be put in.

**Alex:** May I suggest, we vote on an amendment to include all liberation officers, then we would have a clear indication of what the consensus is in council.

**Darragh:** That sounds good to me.

**Shannon:** Are we able to put a poll up Bradley, so we can vote on the amendment they just mentioned.

**Bradley:** So just to check everyone is happy the vote working is – are you for or against amending the EDI motion to include all liberation officers?

**Darragh/Alex:** - Good with me.

**Bradley:** We are voting on the amendment first so it will change what that motion is.

**Bradley:** For or against amending the EDI motion to include all liberation officers?

**18 - accept**

**2 - against**

**5 - abstain**  
**(Pass)**

**Darragh:** Just before we do the vote on the amended motion, are there are any other questions?

**Bradley:** Are you for or against the EDI motion?

**18 - accept**  
**2 - against**  
**4 - abstain**  
**(Pass)**

Just to note it requires by law changes so has to go to the board of trustees, when the board meets we will feed back that as well.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup**

1.1 The Equality Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup shall be responsible for:

1.1.1 The creation and maintenance of the Union's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.

1.1.2 Campaigning and representing the Union on issues relating to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

1.1.3 Speaking on matters relating to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Student Council, when invited to do so.

1.1.4 Being available to advise other members of the Union's democracy on matters relating to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

1.2 The powers of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup extend to:

1.2.1 The creation of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.

1.2.2 The ability to liaise with other Union groups to organize campaigns, or to work alone on a campaign.

1.2.3 Submitting motions to council.

1.3 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion workgroup shall include the Liberation Officers, excluding Part-Time, Mature and Postgraduate, in accordance with Bye Law 3: Student Officer Job Descriptions, and a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3 students from these liberation groups as voting members. In addition, President Activities and Wellbeing and a Union staff member as non-voting members.

1.4 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion workgroup shall be conducted in accordance with Bye Law 2: Code of Conduct of Union Meetings and the workgroup shall meet at least once a calendar month during term time.

1.5 The chair of the workgroup shall be elected during the first meeting of the academic year, by the members of the group.

1.6 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup has a monetary budget given to them, and they are required to produce a budget breakdown.

1.7 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup is accountable to Student Council and is required to produce a report that is read at the AGM.

## 8. NUS Conference discussion

**Alex:** So you may or may not have seen, myself and the two other NUS delegates will be attending the national conference in Liverpool at the end of March. They were elected a few months ago. We are proposing bringing two ideas to the national stage to basically shift NUS's attention onto working on these ideas. So, idea 1. Plastic-free shop stock, as you may know, our shop is supplied by the NUS so therefore if we want things to be plastic-free it would make sense take to NUS to push for this plastic-free agenda, it breaks down "What is the issue facing students", "why is this important to us as a movement", and "what would the world look like if we solved it?".

We need to answer those questions. So far I have: A common piece of feedback is that we reduce our plastic from our shop, why is it important, student unions rely on the NUS to supply SU shops, therefore a national body that organises many shops, the NUS has the influence product packaging, what would the world look like if we solved it, I go into how much plastic is used each year, we could make a dent on this. That is that idea, I will ask for any questions or anything people would add or change in the chat.

Idea 2. Is to campaign to cap rent increases per year in privately owned student accommodation nationally. The big issue is students are subject to rent increases and sometimes these are higher than the increase on their maintenance loan. At universities that do not own any accommodation, private companies are able to up prices and leave students with little money.

I am happy to take any questions, any additions, counter argument.

**Robert:** What will we replace plastic with?

**Alex:** I am not great with material science, but there are other alternatives and other things being developed whether that be derivatives of paper. A lot of companies are changing the amount of plastic they use.

**CHAT: Anna Girling:** It's a push, but if the NUS would consider reviewing their product offering, could a need for Fairtrade on chocolate be included?

**Alex:** That's an amazing addition. I was also speaking about what we are trying to achieve with this idea, and we were speaking about shop range, but we didn't want to go down that route as we want to tackle sustainability.

**CHAT: Emily Knock:** If they can't do plastic free, then at least have a collection point for industrially compostable plastics, so it can actually be composted.

**Alex:** That is also an amazing addition.

**Alex:** Calum: I am not sure about the situation of other accommodation providers but at Athena Hall – could stop this situation happening be brought up at NUS. That could be a good thing to include, deposit has been brought up before and this has changed. I think what we have always said this is just advice, to get in contact with your accommodation provider and you can postpone your payments until you get your maintenance loan. As a national thing to change properly, that would be really useful.

**CHAT: Tajinder Singh:** Amazon has recently started using thick papers instead of plastic which is durable and can be recycled. You may notice when you order something from amazon.

**Alex:** Yes, so that is one example, although I am not a massive Amazon advocate but that is great. The deposit is 650 then the upfront rent. More vegetarian vegan gluten free for food.

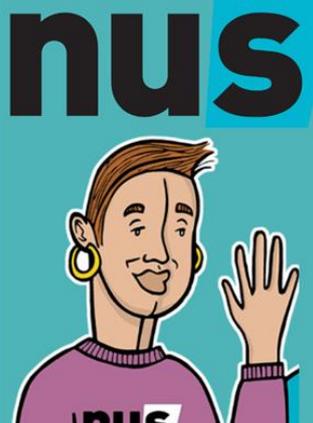
**Alex:** I think I will put my email in the chat and if anyone has anything they want to add let me know.

**CHAT: Alex Gooch:** I realise I didn't leave my email, so here you go! [alex.pres@uos.ac.uk](mailto:alex.pres@uos.ac.uk)

**Bradley:** There's not really a process about how we submit stuff and what we decide to submit to conference, so in general the delegates take the lead of it. It was a sense to see if people are broadly ok with the things Alex has put forward.

**Robert:** I am dubious about the plastic thing, but I trust Alex.

**Bradley:** The deadline is Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, so we can update at the next council.

 <p><b>ALEX GOOCH</b> PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION AND NUS DELEGATE</p>	 <p><b>KATIE PICKARD</b> STUDENT AND NUS DELEGATE</p>	<p><b>THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS (NUS) IS A NATIONAL UNION THAT REPRESENTS HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT STUDENTS' UNIONS FROM UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IT WORKS TO TACKLE NATIONAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT STUDENTS.</b></p>
 <p><b>MEGAN HAYES</b> STUDENT AND NUS DELEGATE</p>	 <p><b>MEG WRIGHT</b> PRESIDENT OF ACTIVITIES AND WELLBEING AND NUS DELEGATE</p>	

## 9. Any Other Business

**Shannon:** Anyone else have anything major that they want brought up?

**Robert:** Do you know when we are going back into the very large well-ventilated Hold building?

**Shannon:** I think the Hold will have the student council in February.

**Bradley:** Our hope is to continue with hybrid for the rest of the year after this meeting.

**Alex:** Also, just to let you know, everyone, we are having a live Q&A on Instagram tomorrow, myself and Mohammed will be together in the social space streaming live answering any questions you have about the university, your experience, things you want to change, get in contact with any questions you may have, make sure you tune in tomorrow.

**Bradley:** Nosa:

**Nosa:** I'm Nosa the part-time students' officer I have some AOB, first and foremost Bradley knows we have had a lot of issues regarding the part-time students by law changes recently and I have tried to reach out to your guys to see if we can have a meeting with the partner institution. They are the ones who can change things like having live modules in our lectures. I would appreciate it if you can make those meetings happen. I really need to drive this manifesto through them. Secondly, which is issues with the inability to log into the account, people are complaining, we cannot access our SU accounts. It is becoming too long, it is something that should be resolved, I would appreciate it if you can work on that. Thirdly, the last meeting, I need to update our members about what is happening, I was looking for the last meeting that you submitted in the SU account, so I have sent some messages to Bradley. Lastly, I just want to say I am sorry if I have made life difficult for anyone.

**Bradley:** Nosa no need to apologise, you are doing your job as an officer, regarding the first point, issues with partner institutions, I did get to speak with some members at Unicaf, because we want to talk to them more widely, they have agreed to meet with us, once I get a date sorted out with them, I will be inviting yourself and anyone else who wants to attend. The second point around the data issue, we are as frustrated as you, all our data comes from the university, the issues we have come from the stream from the university, they are aware of it and it is out of our hands. I am hoping we get some resolution in the next week or so.

**Nosa:** And the third?

**Bradley:** Can you remind me what that was again?

**Nosa:** The last council meeting recording is not available on the website.

**Bradley:** The minutes will be, the recording may be on the watch live page and I will make sure that they are moved over.

**Bernard:** Thank you, some students came back from Xmas break on 4<sup>th</sup> of January and I got a few complaints that they couldn't get a cup of coffee anywhere, I myself went to the student's union and I couldn't get coffee there, went to the Atrium and couldn't get coffee there. Just a matter of letting people know there was a bit of frustration on that.

**Jessie:** Ideally, we would have the self-service 24/7 coffee machine on in all breaks and unfortunately it was broken, out of our control, because this is a supplier, we had to wait for them to come, we are equally as frustrated as you. It should be there and should be a year-round service. Paddy & Scott's etc are completely out of our control, the machine by the kitchen should have been

running but through no fault of our own and we will continue to work with our supplier to make it better.

**Bernard:** Thank you Jessie.

**Calum:** Just one thing, recently the SU released the new sports timetable, I noticed that some, all sports give it a go and borrow a bike, I am not sure about that.

**Belle:** Those are our casual sports so it means we don't have them timetabled on, but we do have the resources to make them available, we have borrow a bike ready to go when the weather gets better, we have also been in touch with coaches who can do outdoor running and swimming lessons. It is a case of a one off event where you will be contacted on social media.

**Calum:** I've heard a few people that outside of fresher's week the SU doesn't do a lot of non-sporting events like extracurricular activities. Most of the activities the SU does tend to be sport-related and not everyone is into that kind of thing.

**Gergana:** We are very happy to organise other events if we know that there is a demand for them, if you know someone who has an idea I am happy to do that. In the past when we have trialled events they haven't been well attended, but that doesn't mean we can't do them again. This year we have society events and they have a grant to put on events giving them the power and budget to set something up and to lead and organise events. They have all been emailed and know that there is this pot of money they can apply for, but again, I will give my email in the chat and very happy to set up an event if someone has a specific idea. **Email:** [g.ivanova@uos.ac.uk](mailto:g.ivanova@uos.ac.uk)

**Calum:** Sounds great thank you.

**Darragh:** I just wanted to let everyone know next month we are doing a range of events for LGBTQ+ History month, keep an eye out and come along.

**Chika:** Why I raised my hand was about the issue Nosa raised on the by law for part time students, while I understand the area he is trying to come from, I differ a bit, maybe after I have spoken with him, I differ from the aspect from the conversation happening with the partners. I think it is something that should be handled from the university. I will share more details with the part time officer and if needs be we can bring it on board again

**Bradley:** Thanks for that, if you want to talk about it further, myself, Alex anyone else is happy to meet and talk about your concerns.

**Shannon:** If anyone doesn't have anything else to say, thank you everybody for coming, I know it is a bit different to how we were in Council in December, I do applaud you all and adapting to the unforeseen circumstances, next student council meeting which is hopefully going to be in the hold is on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. Thank you everyone for coming and listening to everything.

**Robert:** Thank you for sharing, I have some matters to bring up but I will save them for next month.

**Belle:** We can try and help you recruit.

**Robert:** If you know of someone who can step up as secretary.

**Belle:** We wouldn't know anyone, but we can help you advertise it.

**Robert:** I will take your email and get back to you after I have spoken with Christian.

**10. Date of next meeting – February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**