



University of Suffolk Students' Union

Student Council Agenda

30th January, 2023, 4pm, HW028

In Attendance:

Bradley Allsop (BA), Arran Cottman (AC), Alex Gooch (AG), Sam Clarke (SC), Edward Elphick (EE), James Lea (JL), Shannon Pilsworth (SP), Calum Childs (CC), Patrik Sramka (PS), Tyler Payne (TP), Celine Strange (CS), Robert Grey (RG), Emmanuel Afolabi (EA), Kirsty Taylor-Warren (KTW), Emily Betts (EB), Boroji Rich (BR), Joe Lockwood (JL), Conor O'Leary (CO), Ben Davidson (BD), Daniel Gorton (DG), Nicola Robinson (NR), Alex Thompson (AT), Grace Byer (GB), Maya White (MW), Gianluca Cannone (GC).

Chair: Sam Clark

Minutes: Amber Spalding

1. Welcome/ How the meeting will work

SC: We have quite a few things to vote on today, so please be aware of the following procedures:

You can vote 'FOR', 'AGAINST', or 'ABSTAIN' (if you aren't sure about an idea/motion).

AG: We have refreshers coming up, do get involved, tell others to get involved. We've made the majority of events free and accessible.

AG: Careers are holding a week of activities/workshops [6-10 February], aimed at level 4/5 & prospects after university. SU has a talk during this week.

AG: New BSL programme starting 7th Feb – 11th April, every Tuesday, 5:15-6:15pm in the Chaplaincy.

AG: We also have a new Head of Engagement, Arran.

BA: New officer nominations open Wednesday 1st February, 9am. Electing part-time officers and full-time president roles.

2. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

SC: Previous [Emergency] minutes. 20 Approve.

3. Motions & Actions Update

AG: If you aren't aware, there are a lot of UCU strikes taking place, so please be aware of these.

4. Emergency motions

a. Elections bye-law motion

[Motion to Amend Elections Bye-Laws]

SC: Room has no objections to motion.

AG: Our current election bye-laws, mostly contained in bye-law 1, have not been reviewed as a whole for some time. Parts of the bye-law refer to outdated practices such as paper ballot elections. This is important for bye-laws, especially those concerning elections, provide clarity. That the roles of different groups in elections should be clear.

AG: The Voice Team have been reviewing these, as well as Jamie Steele (Health School Officer) has seconded these, and have come up with some changes.

Vote: 23 Approved.

5. DPC Election

BA: Two vacant spots on DPC.

Vote: 23 Approved.

6. Approval of student trustees

SC: Student Trustees sit on our Board of Trustees, who jointly hold overall legal responsibility for the SU. They set the strategy and direction for the SU and make sure we are pursuing charitable objectives. Students proposed by the Appointments Panel are Tyler Payne and Kelly Lambert.

Vote for Tyler: 19 Approved, 4 Abstain.

Vote for Kelly: 19 Approved, 1 Against, 1 Abstain.

7. Reports

a. President Education report

AG: We'll soon be increasing the capacity of the lunch bags that are going out. They are in extremely popular demand. For those who don't know what they are, they are a 'no questioned asked' lunch bags for those who might need them.

AG: As we move into 2023 I've been focusing on what more I can do in my final term as President to support the organisation. I've been doing a lot of networking and recently went on a trip to Scandinavia. Learned a lot from this trip and will bring ideas forward to our five-year strategy.

8. Policy about to lapse

a. Block learning motion

BA: Motion to amend block learning motion passed at student council, 24.02.21. The SU notes that block learning is a new technique within the university, but there are aspects of it that raise concerns for a number of students. Many students that have additional responsibilities and needs are finding the new style of teaching inaccessible, due to the intense teaching style and closer deadlines.

BA: The SU 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. The SU resolves that the Sabbs work with, and feedback to the directorate of learning and teaching and student services to ensure that the student experience is equal for everyone. As well as this, the SU resolves that extensions should be longer on block learning modules to provide a better outcome of results.

Response from the room: It would be useful to change the process of extensions to make them more simple, sometimes you need a response in a couple of days, rather than having to go through a panel.

SC: For example, the course lead agrees that x extension doesn't need to go through a panel.

AG: I can imagine there will be issues around 'quality' and 'assurance' that the university will have. But we could go out and ask these questions.

Response from room: Maybe you might not even need an official consent, but kind of having a response from a course leader, because sometimes you are left in the dark.

BA: I suppose a fourth option for council is, if they decide not to pass this, it could be taken away by Alex. There could be a wider piece of work here.

Zoom poll: 'Amendment for motion: Delete final sentences of resolves and add to first sentence of resolves "and the process for extensions is supportive and" equal for everyone'.

Vote on above: 18 For, 2 Abstain.

Zoom poll: 'Are you for or against the motion to amend block learning?'

Voting: 13 For, 4 Against, 3 Abstain.

9. Any Other Business

10. Date of next meeting – February 28th, 2023, A001 and via Zoom.