



## University of Suffolk Students' Union

### Student Council Agenda

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

To be held in the Hold Lecture Theatre and via zoom

**Attendees:** Tali Atvars (TA), Alex Gooch (AG), Meg Wright, Jessie Backhouse, Michelle Dack (MD), Claire Holland, Tim Cater, Bradley Allsop (BA), Katherine Pickard, Dearbhla Berry, Bianca Pintilli, Alice Lenton, Shannon Pilsworth, Laura Bilverstone, Aliyu, Muhammad, Henry Kiddy, Patrik Sramka, Ceri Archer, Maya Collins, Camilla Bunn, Nosakhare Uwugiaren (NU), Robert Grey, Jessica Howard, Gabor Janos Bajnoczi, Georgia Harris, Dearbha Berry, Kym Older, Ben Davidson, Emily Knock, Bib Haukim

**Chair:** Shannon Pilsworth

**Minutes:** Tim Cater

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

**CH:** Outlined the procedure for those online and in person to speak and ask questions via the message chat or in the hall.

The meeting is not at quoracy, so no voting will take place on agenda items.

#### 2. Announcements:

##### **Governance Review Survey:**

**BA:** Informed Council that the SU has commissioned a review of its governance procedures, with the aim of how to improve democratic decision making and how things like Council can work better. This has involved hiring an external reviewer to look at anything that needs to change. As part of this review, students will be invited to take part in a survey, which will seek students views on how they want to be involved in decision making. BA will email information about this to Course Reps and ask them to help promote it to their cohorts and encourage them to respond.

##### **New Interim CEO:**

**CH:** The SU has appointed a new Interim CEO: Tali Atvars, who is present at today's Council meeting.

**TA:** Introduced himself and announced that he will be working at the SU for 5 months, until September.

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

**CH:** There will be no vote on these, but any comments or questions can be taken, if anyone feels there are errors or issues that need to be addressed. A formal approval of the minutes can be taken at the next Council meeting.

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

From the last AGM:

##### **Badminton England Affiliation:**

**BA:** A query was raised at the last AGM regarding what the SU gains for its paid affiliation with Badminton England. An action point was made to present findings on this for the next Council Meeting.

These findings were presented to Council, in the form of a PowerPoint slide listing all the benefits the SU obtains from membership of Badminton England, as follows: Liability Insurance, Access to GO Membership Tool, Club Finder, Newsletters, Club Toolkit: Best Practice Resource, Access to: Partner resources Badminton England Programmes, Exclusive discount on courts.

##### **Good Night Out Training (GNO):**

**MD:** Provided an update on where the following bars/clubs were with completing the GNO Training:

**Cult:** They have finished the training and have been accredited by GNO.

**Wiff Waff:** Has completed the training and GNO has been asked to confirm if they have been accredited.

**Vodka Revs:** They have singed out of the training. They were given a second chance to complete the training, but there has been no response from them. As a result, GNO have not accredited them.

**Three Wise Monkeys:** They will be completing their training on the 26.05 and, following this, will be accredited.

Once Three Wise Monkeys complete their training and join Cult and Wiff Waff then the SU can promote these venues to students in June, alongside Ipswich Central and the GNO Campaign.

#### **5. AGM approval**

Due to insufficient quoracy being reached, there was no voting on any of the following matters:

##### **Board of Trustees annual report:**

- Annual accounts
- Union affiliations
- Officer reports

**AG:** However, he explained that he was happy to take any questions or comments from the floor, but none offered. He said that he was happy to take them as being read and leave these to be voted on at the next council meeting.

## **6. Presidents Reports**

### **President Activities and Wellbeing report**

**AG:** Outlined the work that MW has been involved in the following areas:

Enhancing the provision of well-being services. Due to many students going home, the student well-being group has been paused, but will re-start in September.

The development of the Green Space next to the Social Area. Work is being done with the University Estates Department on its development.

Ensuring secure bike storage. This now ready to go and the code for the secure lock is available from security.

Collaborating with local businesses on activities provision. This has been an opportunity for students to engage with businesses through Freshers/Re-Freshers and Give it a Go activities.

### **President Education report**

**AG:** Announced that he was very happy with the appointment of our new Interim CEO and how he would be able to lay the foundations for the appointment of a permanent CEO soon.

During the interim period of appointing Tali, both AG and MW time has been spent fulfilling responsibilities that would normally reside with the role of a CEO e.g. staff payroll and handing financial payments.

AG and MW have met with Helen Pankhurst, the Vice Chancellor, to have a general discussion about the direction both the University and SU are taking. They felt this was a very open and useful conversation to have.

AG expressed a big thanks for all those who attended the recent SU Summer Ball and hoped to see those who didn't come next year. He said it was a good evening and was very happy about how it went.

Lastly, he reminded all students that, although the academic year was finishing, the SU remains open throughout the Summer, so if anyone needs information or support during this time it is available.

## **7. Motions**

### **a) Motion to amend Activities Bye-law**

“There have been a number of changes that impact Activities related Student Union services from interna; staff changes to national government legislation, that is not currently reflected in the Bye Laws.”

**Proposer: MW**

**Secunder: AG**

**AG:** Introduced the motion and presented a powepoint slide that listed the various changes to the SU Activities Bye Law. He explained that the motion introduced some structural changes that were required, due to the changes in national legislation, as well removing some existing rules that have been deemed to be overly harsh e.g removal of a student’s sports/activities membership due to missing only two student Council/AGM meetings.

Due to insufficient quoracy being reached, there was no voting on this motion. However, there was an oppportunity for any attendees to ask questions or make comments on the motion itself. Any of these can be taken back to the SU Team to consider for the next meeting. None were recorded.

**BA:** Explained that the motion can be brought back before a future Council meeting, but he was happy to arrange a meeting with anyone who wanted to discuss the proposed changes before any future vote.

### **8. Any Other Business**

#### **a) Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA)**

**AG:** AG and Mg met with the Vice Chancellor, Helen Langton, to see if the University is willing to sign up to the NUS NDA pledge, that some other universities have already signed up to. AG informed Council that the University’s response was that they weren't willing to sign up to the pledge, as they

had some issues with its wording. However, he said the Vice Chancellor did give reassurance that the University does not use NDA's in such a way as to stop people from reporting their concerns.

Following this meeting, AG, MW and Darragh Briscoe (DB LGBTQ+ Officer) met with Tim Greenacre-Chief Operating Officer and Secretary to the University of Suffolk Board, to discuss whether the University would be able to make its own pledge, with the wording of this to be presented to Council for discussion and approval. DB suggestions for the wording of a pledge was then presented to the Council via a slide.

AG explained that the wording of this pledge was being worked on by DB and, if anyone had any questions or comments on its wording, then please let either of them know.

#### **b) Part-Time Students**

**NU:** Raised a concern that he had previously made, regarding what he felt was a lack of opportunity for part-time students at partner institutions to fully participate in the affairs of the SU. In this regard, he expressed the view that, if the UOS has accommodated partnerships, it should give opportunities for students in partner institutions the opportunity to express themselves. He expressed the view that part-time students were not able to vote and, as a result, felt they were only onlookers to events taking place within the Union and so not fully participating. He felt this not appropriate and wanted to reach out to the University about this.

**AG:** Responded by saying he was happy to set-up a meeting with NU, outside of Council, to discuss his concerns. By way of clarification, he explained that, as a group part-time student have not been disaffiliated from the SU, but the status of some students has changed, because what the Union provides to certain students is dependent on the partner institution they study at.

**NU:** Felt that part-time students were being ostracised from the system and questioned why, in today's world, these students did not have a forum to express themselves.

**BA:** Clarified there was no restrictions on part-time students voting on SU matters. However, student participation rights do depend on which partner institution the part-time student was studying at. He explained this matter had been clarified by a motion passed by at a previous Council meeting, which has made a distinction between which students have Associate membership and those with Full membership status.

**b) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group (EDI)**

**BA:** Informed Council that, Darragh Briscoe has, for the last two months, been working on creating an EDI working group. At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, this work was presented. The Board approved the work, but asked for a change in the title of the group to the following:

Permanent sub-committee of Council.

**c) Chair**

**SP:** Told Council that she has enjoyed the role as a chairperson and found a new passion for the activity. She expressed her gratitude for the patience shown by Council attendees and said she would like to run again for this position.

**BA:** Reminded Council that the position of Chair will be available, as will that of deputy Chair, for election in September. If anyone is interested in these or other Union roles, then please email him for more information.

**Date of next meeting – To be decided – likely early November 2022**