



University of Suffolk Students' Union
November 11th, 2020 Student Council Agenda

1. Welcome/Announcements/How the meeting will work
2. Elections -
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice-chair
 - c. DPC
3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting
4. Motions & Actions Update
5. Officer reports
 - a. Education and School Officers Update
 - b. Activities and Welfare & Liberation Officers Update
6. Motions
 - a. Course rep quotas motion
 - b. Accommodation reps
 - c. Activities bye-law
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of next meeting – December 16th

Minutes:

1. Welcome/Announcements/How the meeting will work

Bradley, Student Representation Coordinator, welcomes all Council members and explains how the meeting will work.

- Keep your mike and video muted unless called on to speak
- If you want to ask any questions or speak in favour or against something, message the “Questions” account – you can simply post your question in that chat, **or if you'd like to directly speak on the call, type 'I want to speak on this'**
- The Chair will read out your question (if you've put it in the chat) or unmute your mike and tell you when it's your turn to speak (if you've asked to speak)
- Keep points on topic and brief
- We'll run polls during the call for you to vote on each report and motion – these will be up for 2 minutes. If you can't vote on the poll, message Questions in the in-call chat to log your vote.

- You can vote to **'accept'** (I agree with this idea/I think this is a good report) or **'reject'** (I don't like this idea/I don't think this is a good report) or **abstain** (I'm not sure about this idea/report) for each report and motion

Announcements:

Bradley announces Course Rep Elections. More information can be found [here](#).

Mauro Cardoso announces the survey currently running. More information can be found [here](#).

Belinda Bradley announces the Social Sport opportunities currently available. More information can be found [here](#).

Gergana Ivanova announces a vacancy at the Students' Union and encourages students to apply. More information can be found [here](#).

- Elections** - Bradley, Student Representation Coordinator, explains what the role of Chair, Vice-Chair and DPC is and how students can put themselves forward for these roles.

Chair – runs the meeting, controls who speaks, decides on procedural motions

Deputy Chair – stands in for the Chair if, for any reason, they are not able to run the meeting

Democratic Procedures Meeting (DPC) – checks that Council runs in line with the bye-laws and Articles, helps order the agenda and procedural motions

- Chair

One candidate only – Alex Gooch

Council members vote: Alex Gooch is elected with 22 votes for and 0 against, 0 abstain.

- Vice-chair

Daniel Betts is the only candidate for Vice Chair.

Council members vote: Daniel Betts is elected with 24 votes for and 0 against, 0 abstain.

- DPC

Jamie is the only candidate for DPC.

Council members vote: Jamie is elected with 24 votes for and 0 against, 0 abstain.

- Approval of minutes from the last meeting**

21 accept, 1 abstain, 0 reject

4. Motions & Actions Update

5. Officer reports

1. Education and School Officers Update

Standardise academic feedback: The SU are progressing on the plan to promote a standardised academic feedback plan with the Director of Learning and Teaching.

Group wellbeing sessions: Due the Covid-19 pandemic, this campaign has been re-developed to utilise the online facilities available.

'Good Night Out' NUS campaign The Good Night Out campaign organisers have been contacted with a view to implement this training program across Ipswich. They will help the SU liaise with venues and premises to create a safer environment for our students based around the Ipswich Hub.

Working with the Office of the Academic Registrar to review the assessment regulations for the whole university

Second round of course rep elections is under way. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, it's proving a challenge to elect the number of reps that we would normally expect.

Part Time Officer elections have gone well however, and we now have an Officer representing each School area.

Collaborating with the uni to work on improving the student experience.

Other updates:

Dan will be recording a video explaining how assessments work. He will review assessment regulations.

Dan reminds members about the second round of course rep elections and reports that part-time officer elections have gone really well.

He updates on his collaboration with the student experience ambassadors, who will be working with the part-time officers, balancing a course team approach and taking the pressure of a lot of admin tasks.

1 question received from Keeley: How close are well-being sessions to being organized? Are they going to be for all students?

Response from Dan: They will be for all students. It is really early stages, we had to rethink it because of COVID. I wouldn't expect them before March.

Results:

Accepted with 23 votes

1 abstain

2. Activities and Welfare & Liberation Officers Update

- Black History Month - With the support of the SU, our BAME officer Jay, had organised a month's full event programme. Ranging from collaborations with Suffolk libraries and online talks to competitions and black excellence celebrations. Furthermore, we have

- also reached out to the local community and asked them to share their stories and achievements. We also supported the VC/DVC in their 'listen up' sessions for BHM.
- Mental health advisor within the SU' - This is my priority as I think it is so important. Life has been completely different since March and that could have affected someone's mental health. I spent the first few months of my role learning about mental health and the services we offer. I also sit on the catalyst project with many members of the university. The aim of the group is to use innovative and intersectional approaches to target mental health support for students. Therefore, it is imperative the SU and University work together when it comes to poor mental health. I do not want to duplicate any initiatives that already in the works, therefore I do a lot of networking with different sabbatical officers so I can find out what other universities are doing for their students.
 - 'Active bystander' programme on our campus
 - 'Offer free extra-curricular modules alongside degree' - I have completed a survey which will be going out to all students (4th November). The Survey will allow me to gather information which I can use when trying to get additional courses. Secondly, I am working alongside Business Development Manager (CPD) Debra Gingell in achieving this part of my manifesto.
 - 'Offer networking opportunities for schools, sports, societies & campuses'- This is planned for later in the year as I planned on hosting in-person events. Eventually, I will have to plan for virtual academic and social networking opportunities. In the meantime, I want to endorse other networking opportunities offered by the university

Other comments:

Just released the survey, results will be submitted to a university working group.

Imperative that the university and SU work together on well-being projects.

Bystander will pilot early next year. The initiative will train officers and students to help other students on issues specific to campus/uni life.

Questions received about how to access the survey and was it sent to all students?

Question is answered and links are posted in the chat.

Results:

22 Approve, 1 abstain

6. Motions
 - a. Course rep quotas motion

Proposed by: Daniel Goulborn, President **Seconded by:** Mauro Cardoso, Vice-President

The Students' Union Notes...

- Currently there is no formal system in place for determining how many course reps are apportioned to each individual course. Over the past few years a rather informal process has developed whereby a member of the course team, or sometimes students or reps themselves, will request additional reps for their course, and the Students' Union tends to respect this and adds the additional reps.

The Students' Union Believes...

- Course reps are not just academic reps, but also representatives that sit on the formal decision making body of the Students' Union – Student Council. If some courses have multiple reps and others only one, some courses will in effect gain additional voting power in Student Council, amplifying the voice of some students over and above their peers. Each 'vote' in Council should, ideally, reflect roughly the same number of students (the way parliamentary constituencies aim to roughly hold the same number of people), whilst still holding to the principle that each distinct grouping of students (i.e courses) has individual representation.
- There should be clearly defined reasons for why a course gets the number of reps it does because a basic requirement for democratic elections is clarity in the roles available. Arbitrarily being able to add or remove rep spaces for a course, at any point, undermines the functioning of democratic elections for these positions. (Example – a student comes second in a 1-position election, but a second role is created a month later and that student then fills this role, having recently lost an election).

The Students' Union Resolves...

- That we should develop a clear set of criteria around determining how many course reps a course is given, based primarily on the number of students on a course.
- Introducing a second rep when a cohort hits double the mean number of students on a course. Additional reps beyond two would then be attributed in multiples of this number.

Dan Goulborn presents the motion

A question from Hollie – Is this across all years of the same course?

Answer: Each year group of each course (so each cohort). In practice, if a cohort has 29 plus students they are eligible for a second rep

Jade Read- what happens if there is a large cohort but only one person stands for course rep as no one else wants to stand

Bradley Allsop explains

Melissa Drury – my course has just over 60 students, a second rep would be acceptable

Results:

20 accept

2 abstain

b. Accommodation reps

Proposed by: Mauro Cardoso, Vice-president

Seconded by: Daniel Golbourn, President

The Union notes

That time spent in student accommodation is a significant part of the student experience, but as a union we currently have no way of gaining a representative view of issues faced by students in their accommodation.

The Union believes

That there should be a representative system in place whereby the Students' Union is able to gain insight into the student experience in accommodation and effectively represent students on these issues.

The Union resolves

To add the following to the bye-laws, after the 'Liberation Officers' section of bye-law 3:

"Accommodation reps

3.31 Each University of Suffolk accredited halls of residence shall elect a number of reps proportional to the number of university students resident in that accommodation.

3.32 These 'accommodation reps' shall function in a similar way to, and sit at the same level as, course representatives, representing the students in those halls. Their remit shall be purely on issues to do with the accommodation experience of those students they represent. In addition, these reps will help engage students in halls with SU activities and events, and work with the hall providers and the SU to facilitate appropriate social and community events for their halls throughout the year.

3.33 Accommodation reps shall report to the Vice President Welfare and Activities and have a monthly meeting with the VP where accommodation issues are discussed. With the support of the VP and the Student Representation Coordinator, accommodation reps shall also work closely with relevant university staff and the halls providers themselves to raise issues relating to their halls of residence.

3.34 Accommodation reps shall be elected at the start of the autumn term, their nomination and election period coinciding with that of course representative elections. These elections shall be conducted along the same lines as the elections regulations outlined in Bye-law 1.

3.35 Accommodation reps shall sit on Student Council as full voting members."

Accommodation Reps motion

Mauro presents the motion

Increase engagement

Create a family feel in the accommodation

Chair clarifies that this motion would mean adding a full voting members to join Council to represent the voice of students in accommodation

Questions:

Daniel Betts question – Would we look at getting reps for students who rent private accommodation?

Since they have their own unique issues

Mauro and Dan answer, explaining what would be the practical challenges into implementing this

Keeley: How will they be appointed?

Chair reminds that members can speak in favour or against a motion, and add opinions/
reinforcements

Will be elected at the start of autumn term

Comment in the chat from Daniel Betts: Completely in favour considering the various issues
students in accommodation have raised on social media. Reps who can take forward issues
rather than students having to separately seek answers should be beneficial.

Results:

22 accept

1 abstain

c. Activities bye-law

Proposed by: Mauro Cardoso, Vice President **Seconded by:** Daniel Goulborn, President

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The Students' Union Notes...

There are gaps within the current activities structures which need to be addressed with new
guidelines and processes.

The Students' Union Believes...

Up to date guideline and process are important to ensure appropriate democratic regulation of
sports and societies are met.

The Students' Union Resolves...

To adopt the new and revised Activities Bye Law as detailed in the attached document

Activities By-Law Motion

No questions received

Results:

18 approve

3 abstain

7. Any other business

Reminders about sharing survey with your cohort

Course rep elections

Question: From the beginning of the year we have big problems with internet on 2nd floor atrium.

Andrada Marcu is raising an issue with accessing One Drive. Dan has meetings with Estates Team, Dan can raise it with IT.

Students to get in touch with Dan if they don't get responses from IT Helpdesk/ Estates. Sarah, CEO will pick these points up with student experience group.

Question: Games Design and Games Programming are similar courses and we co-operate together all the time. But none of the programmers want to run for a course reo position. They said they would agree with me representing the mas well.

The student is asked to email Bradley.

Announcement: Next meeting is on 16th December. It is on Zoom, so please attend

Question received: How do I send a message to my whole cohort with the info from today? (Keeley)

Alex and Bradley suggesting options regarding communication with cohort.

Andrada can't access SOFIA or find it on Brightspace. Bradley explains where SOFIA is, a link is posted in the chat. Discussion on can it be added as a module on Brightspace.

Next meeting – **16th December**

Minutes taken by Gergana Ivanova, Communications and Events Coordinator.