



University of Suffolk Students' Union

Student Council Agenda

November 9th, 2022

Attendees: Alex Gooch (AG), Meg Wright (MW), Bradley Allsop (BA), Amber Spalding (AS), Chloe Appleford (CA), Claire Holland (CH), Jumara Stone (JS), Ben Davidson (BD), Kerrie Charlton-Trude (KCT), Sam Clarke (SC), Nicola Quinton (NQ), Steven Avis (SA), Petrina Dube (PB), Dina Bedwell (DB), Sam Steele (SS), Adrian Villar (AV), Doug White (DW), Lilly Durrant (LDu), Kinga Gill (KG), Lisa Benson (LB), Eloise Vine (EV), Katie Fuller (KF), Emmanuel Afolabi (EA), Maya White (MW), Rachel Gladding (RG), Omoboroji Rich (OR), Luke Mayo (LM), Lisa Brown (LBr), Abigail Johnson (AJ), Laura Gonzalez (LG), Leesha Daniels (LD), Emily Betts (EB), Rozz Richardson (RR), Matthew Brown (MB), Patrik Sramka (PS), Hannah Skalova (HS), Edward Elphick (EE), Shannon Priestly (SPr), Julie Shooter (JSo), Jamie Steele (JS), Aaron Riley (AR), Calum Childs (CC).

Chair: Bradley Allsop facilitating council on behalf of Chair, Shannon Pilsworth

Minutes: Amber Spalding

1. Welcome/ How the meeting will work

BA: Outlines the procedure for those attending online and in person. For those on Zoom, to use that chat and/or microphone for questions.

The meeting has achieved quoracy, so voting will take place on agenda items.

2. Elections

a. Election of Chair

BA: Outlines the role of the Chair of Council; they are responsible for the leadership of the council and making sure it is run effectively, correctly, and following all by-laws.

SP: Expresses her interest in being re-elected as chair.

SC: SSH Officer, current Chair for Activities Committee, nominates herself as Chair of Council.

SC: Elected as Chair by council, with 33 votes in total.

b. Election of Deputy Chair

BA: Outlines role of Deputy Chair; they fulfil the role of Chair if the Chair is unable to make the meeting, has a conflict of interest or is removed from their role.

Only JS stands for the role, no objections received. The Council elect **JS** as Deputy Chair.

c. Election of Democratic Procedures Committee

BA: Outlines the role of DPC; the committee works towards making democracy at the SU fair, fun, engaging and accessible to all.

SP: Expresses her interest.

SPr: Expresses her interest, too.

LD: Puts herself forward.

OR: Nominates themself.

All four students have been elected for DPC by council. **Action point – BA will be in touch with DPC for training and support.**

3. Announcements

17th November 15:00-17:00 – W119 - Compulsory committee member training. Please note: If there is a specific reason that you will not be able to attend this training, then you must let **JB** know in advance.

23rd November 13:00-14:00 – W418 – Activities Committee.

AG: Gives a Cost of Living update; invites the council for free dinner on the 15th November @6pm, in which he will be running a campaign meeting at the same time.

Refers students to SU website for more details.

AG: Welcomes new team members: Jumara Stone (CEO); Chloe Appleford (Comms and Events Manager); Amber Spalding (Student Voice Coordinator). JS introduces herself via the chat

4. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

No comments or questions raised. Council approves minutes from last meeting. 33 accept. 1 abstain.

5. Motions & Actions Update

21st November 12-1pm – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee – BA explains that this was mandated by a previous Council motion passed last academic year.

KCT: Expresses interest in joining the EDI

6. Officer reports

a. President Activities and Wellbeing report

MW: New CEO, staff restructure and officer training; free social sport; SU garden; more events between Freshers.

BD: *Can anything be done about the outside space over the Arts Block? The entrance is dull and uninviting, and we have a whole block of people with artistic talent who could easily revamp it and make it appealing. Is this something the presidents could get involved with, or should I champion myself?*

AG: Agrees. **Action point – have a conversation with Estates about this.**

When will the outdoor space start and finish?

MW: Not sure on dates but is constantly chasing Estates for more information.

Council approves the Present of Activities and Wellbeing report. 35 in favour, 3 abstain.

b. President Education report

AG: COL, gradation, new CEO and staff, officer training, Ipswich central.

What is the government doing to support students?

AG: Informs council about his meeting with Tom Hunt – Conservative MP for Ipswich region – whose seat is historically marginal. AG reports that Tom Hunt is open to ideas regarding concerns for students.

AG's asks from Tom Hunt – Uses his voice/status to tie in maintenance loans with inflations (the threshold should go up); increase universal credit and support for students. He is writing a letter to the university minister and will attend any relevant debates in the house.

AG: Explains SU partnership with UOS, trying to decrease small costs for students – carpark, coffee, breakfast.

Does anyone know what is happening with the church attached to uni?

AG: Some exciting projects are happening on the university estate – in the next few years. The VC has been advertising that we are investing in indoor sports facilities.

Council approves the President of Education's report. 35 in favour, 2 abstain.

7. Motions

BA: Apologizes for emergency motions regarding UCU strikes coming in last minute. The motions have been submitted late as they concern a time sensitive issue. The proposers wanted council to have the full range of options, so have submitted 3 separate motions. If one is passed by council, the other two will automatically fall.

AG: Gives council context on motions before voting. UCU announced three days of strike action and action short of a strike (ASOS) to be taken by all its members at 150 HE institutions nationwide. ASOS commences from Wednesday 23rd November. Strike action will occur on Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Wednesday 30th November. UOS UCU members will be taking part in strikes.

AG: The union believes that academics will be striking based on pay, working conditions and pensions, whilst noting that lecturers with poor working conditions directly impacts the quality of teaching. We also acknowledge the impact strikes will have on our students.

BA: Motion 1 – Supporting strikes; Motion 2 – Against Strikes; Motion 3 – embodying a neutral stance.

Questions from council regarding this:

LDu: *How will supporting the strikes affect student learning?*

BR: *What sort of impact do you think it will have on the SU, students and the uni in general?*

AG: Explains processes regarding board meetings; meetings with higher uni staff; using his voice to back up/talk down an argument. Strikes are on block 4, which he believes has less contact time, but perhaps still 1-2-1 sessions/tutorials.

SC: It is the last week prior to assessment week, and the last chance to talk to lecturers about the assessments and get support.

SC: *What sort of impact do you think it will have on the teaching quality during the strikes? Will classes be more independent workbook style, or run as they are now?*

NQ: *What would happen to things like practical skills sessions due to take place on those dates, would these be able to rearrange as not able to via e-learning?*

MW: *Would student voice forums held on those dates be affected by the strikes?*

LD: *Do you know the number of lecturers who are members of UCU/ taking part in the strike?*

AG: Doesn't know the exact number, but this year, they have had a 50% increase in membership.

LDu: *Could this go on longer than a week?*

AG: We haven't been given an end date. They've given us 3 strike days, who knows? They could add more.

JS: *What is the generalised stance of the NUS? What are your views on it?*

AG: NUS – national union of students – have come out in favour of strikes. They are doing what they think is right for students long-term because they represent all students in the country. We are a small university and union, so we do have a right to share how we feel, especially as we represent students now, as well as the future.

AR: Raises a potential amendment for these motions, suggesting that it might be beneficial to decide the stance based on student feedback. Are all students going to be happy with lecturers striking? And what do students get in return? Free tea and coffee?

AG: UOS staff received a 3.4% pay rise in April, but inflation is at 10%. If they get another 3% pay rise – to make 9% - does that really constitute as a pay rise?

Voting -

Motion 1 (For strikes): 15 for, 17 reject and 4 abstain.

Motion 2 (Against strikes): 6 for, 23 reject and 7 abstain.

Motion 3 (Neutral stance): 19 for, 9 reject and 7 abstain.

The council pass motion 3 – a neutral stance on UCU has become our new SU policy.

8. Any Other Business

AG: Briefly discusses NUS firing. The president fired over antisemitism allegation.

BD: Raises previous conversations with AG regarding the student cycle idea. **Action point – AG to liaise with BD about this.**

EA: Can another motion be raised at this meeting? Can the classification of a postgraduate officer be under school officers, as opposed to liberation officers? Action point – BA to support EA to write his motion and propose at next council.

9. Date of next meeting – December 9th, 2022 @ 1pm