



University of Suffolk Students' Union  
Student Council Agenda  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
Held in WLT1 and Teams

**Attendees:** Baki Zeqaj, Claudia Moate, Katie Smith, Lee Rutter, Loz Todd, Olivia Bond, Phillip Leslie, Josie Quinn, Emily Salvatierra Wakuluk, Atharv Naphde, Patrick Cartwright, Ruth Gardner, Mars Hardy, Ashton Wyss, Grace Pearson, Kelvin Ng, Jack Broad, Spencer Foster, Nat Allin, Lee-Ann Durrant, Cameron Willet,

**Chair:** Shaz Pilsworth

**Minutes:** Kobbie Agyemang

## 1. Introduction

Shaz opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, and introduced the agenda. The meeting was confirmed as quorate.

## 2. Student Experience App Motion

**Proposed by:** Katie-Ann Smith

### **Motion Summary:**

- Development of a student experience app to centralise support and improve navigation of student life.
- Key issues identified:
  - Difficulty accessing support services (university and local)
  - Lack of awareness of study spaces
  - Financial challenges and lack of discount awareness
  - Safety concerns in the local area
  - Social isolation and difficulty building community
- Proposed features:
  - Central hub for services, study spaces, and local businesses
  - Community-building tools
  - Accessibility features (e.g. disability access, inclusive spaces)
- Initial rollout through an existing free app platform, with potential future development into a standalone app.

### **Discussion:**

- Concerns raised about sample size of student feedback; proposer confirmed ongoing feedback collection.
- Suggestion to improve promotion beyond posters (e.g. email visibility).
- Technical suggestion to integrate app and website functionality to reduce duplication.
- Clarification that the app could initially be open to all users, with potential to tailor for Suffolk students.
- Financial discussion:
  - Initial rollout free
  - Potential future cost (~£6000) if developed further
  - Revenue opportunities (e.g. local advertising)
- Emphasis on trial phase before financial commitment.

**Outcome:** Motion Approved unanimously.

**Next Steps:**

- Continue discussions with app provider
- Explore pilot via free platform
- Handover to incoming officers for continuation

### **3. Democracy Review Motion**

**Proposed by:** Lee-Ann Durrant

**Summary of Review (presented by Lindsay Westgarth):**

- External review conducted by Good Governance Institute (GGI).
- Methods included document analysis, interviews, focus groups, and surveys.

**Key Findings:**

- Low student engagement and participation
- Overly complex democratic structures
- Lack of clarity in officer roles
- Limited awareness of SU purpose among students
- Inconsistent bylaws and governance processes

**Key Recommendations:**

- Reduce frequency of Student Council meetings (termly instead of five per year)
- Simplify officer structure and improve role clarity
- Remove some part-time officer roles and redistribute responsibilities
- Improve visibility and accountability of officers
- Introduce clearer governance structures and documentation
- Develop an accessible action tracker for motions
- Increase digital engagement and communication
- Proposed renaming of roles (e.g. President of Activities & Wellbeing → President of Communities), with changes only applying from future elections.

- Introduction of task and finish groups to allow flexible, short-term student involvement.
- Improved accountability for motions through clearer structures.
- Focus on accessibility, clarity, and reducing complexity in governance.

**Discussion:**

- Context provided around engagement challenges (e.g. academic workload, placements)
- Recognition of strengths in course rep and society engagement
- Clarification that current elected roles would not be affected.
- Question raised on whether engagement is improved or reduced – response highlighted broader, more flexible engagement opportunities.
- Emphasis on need for a more dynamic and adaptable SU structure.

**Vote:**

- For: 18
- Against: 0
- Abstentions: 1

**Outcome:** Motion Approved.

## 4. President Updates

**Lee-Ann Durrant (President):**

- Supported recruitment and training of Course Reps.
- Led SU Democracy Review motion
- Contributed student insight to UCAS consultation.
- Developed student finance booklet (in final stages).
- Worked on University AI policy (launch pending).
- Participated in national HE discussions (WonkHE event).
- Involved in Student Hub project planning.
- Exploring student involvement in City of Culture bid.

No questions raised.

## 5. Part-Time Officer Updates

**Grace Pearson:** No updates.

**Katie-Ann Smith:**

- Progress on Student Experience App.
- Engagement with external organisations (e.g. accessibility, community services).
- Meetings arranged with disability liaison and local groups.

**Mars:**

- Planning student drop-in sessions.
- Collaboration planned with app project.

**Baki Zeqaj:**

- Supported students with finance issues via Advice Service referrals.

**Shaz Pilsworth:**

- Exploring ideas for a final initiative before end of term.

No questions raised.

## **6. Sport & Society Updates**

**Basketball (Philipp Leslie):**

- Exhibition game scheduled (27th April).
- Increased participation and improved structure.
- Long-term goal: BUCS participation.

**Crochet & Knitting Society (Loz Todd):**

- Planning events for next academic year.
- Open to collaborations.

**LGBTQ+ Society (Mars):**

- No committee elected for next year – call for candidates.
- Successful recent events.
- Planning regular sessions.

**Badminton Club (Atharv Naphde):**

- Membership growth.
- New committee elected.
- Proposal for cross-society sports day.

**Wildlife Society (Ash):**

- Society active and recruiting members.
- Upcoming comedy/quiz event (8th May).

## **7. Any Other Business (AOB)**

**End-of-Year Event Proposal:**

- Proposal for SU Awards Event
- Positive initial support received.
- Next steps: budget review and potential motion submission.

**University Strategy Engagement:**

- Opportunity for students to contribute to upcoming university strategy discussions with University Provost Rachel Allen joining.

**Next Council Tuesday 5th May**