

The University of Wolverhampton Students' Union

Union Council Minutes

Meeting held Thursday 30th September 2010, Students' Union Board Room, (MD061), City Campus at 5pm

1. Welcome & Introductions from the Chair

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting.

2. Attendance & Apologies

Katie Billingham	Chair	Present
Dave Anson	Academic VP	Present
Alex Blower	Activities VP	Present
Michael Davies	SEBE School Rep	Present 5pm - 5.50pm
Ken Harris	President/Chair's Aide	Present
Luke Hill	SCIT School Rep	Present 5pm - 6.45pm
Richard Hoults	Sports Committee Rep	Present
Selina Hussain	Communications Officer	Present
Laura Anne Jones	LSSC School Rep	Present
Colin Laing	UWBS School Rep	Present
Ellen Marshall	Welfare VP	Present
Darpan Shah	City Campus Rep	Present
Bally Singh	Compton Campus Rep	Present
Stephanie Thouless	SAS School Rep	Present
Eleonora Traina	Events & Activities Officer	Present
Pirjanth Vijayakumaran	Telford Campus Rep	Present
Sue Webster	Environmental Officer	Present
Melissa Caramba-Coker	Compton Officer	Apologies
Scott Petrie	SED School Rep	Apologies
Joanna Zielinska	International Students Officer	Apologies
Jasmeet Dhir	Walsall Campus Rep	Absent
Cheryl Farmer	City Campus Rep	Absent
Sana Javed Khan	Postgraduate Students' Officer	Absent
Luke Gilbert	Chief Executive Officer	In Attendance 5pm - 5.20pm
Hazel Monger	UWSU Staff	In Attendance
Delores Williams	Secretary	In Attendance

2b. Approve the order of the agenda

The order of the agenda was approved by Union Council members.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 20th May 2010 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Executive Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings 26th April 2010, 7th June 2010, 25th June 2010, 23rd July 2010 and 27th August 2010 were received for information purposes.

6. Finance

Draft Financial Statement

LG reported a £6508 deficit on the 2009/10 draft financial statement and informed that the primary reason for the deficit was that a VAT liability had been uncovered where by the Students' Union had been allocated a partial VAT exemption of 89.78%. It was noted that since the closure of the commercial services during summer 2008 that the VAT percentage had remained the same resulting in the VAT liability. LG informed that the Students' Union does have some reserves to draw back on and that a lot of depreciation charges had been written off.

LG also reported on some accountancy errors made by the auditors and informed of a £140k operating reserve to draw on.

Resolved: The draft financial statement was approved by members of Union Council.

LG (Chief Executive Officer) was not present for the remaining agenda items.

7. Executive Officers' Reports

The Chair invited Officers present to summarise on Executive reports submitted.

Resolved: Written reports received from AB (Activities VP), ET (Events & Activities Officer), EM (Welfare VP), DA (Academic VP, JZ (International Officer), SH (Communications Officer) and KH (President) were approved by Union Council. SW (Environmental Officer) provided a verbal report which was approved by Union Council.

Action: AB (Activities VP) agreed to look into whether squash was included in any of the sporting activities offered and liaise with LH (SCIT School Rep) about the outcome.

Action: AB (Activities Officer) agreed to liaise with BM (Sports Officer) regarding Aikido funding and inform MD (SEBE School Rep) of the outcome.

Action: KH to pursue negotiations with the University regarding extended opening hours for the Learning Centre (library).

Noted: Executive reports were not received from MC (Compton Officer) and SK (Postgraduate Students' Officer).

8. Policy Lapses

KB (Chair) explained that the Equal Opportunities policy had lapsed during the summer vacation and that if Council wanted to keep this policy this was their opportunity to vote for it to be reinstated.

Resolved: Twelve members voted in favour, two members voted against and two members abstained from voting. The policy was **reinstated** by the majority.

MD (SEBE School Rep) was not present for the remaining agenda items.

9. Policy Motions

Green Impact Awards

EM (Welfare VP) provided a proposing speech in favour of the proposed motion.

There were no speeches against the proposed motion.

EM (Welfare VP) waived a summation speech.

Resolved: The motion was **unanimously passed** by Union Council.

Co-option for Council Rep Positions

AB (Activities VP) provided a proposing speech in favour of the proposed motion.

There was a debate amongst Union Council members.

The Chair called for the meeting to be adjourned at 6.20pm

The meeting resumed at 6.30pm

DA (Academic VP) called for a part to be removed from the motion.

The Chair called for a vote to hear the part.

The majority voted to hear the following part to be removed:

'For the position of Distance Learning Rep to be available via co-option only' from the **'This Union Resolves'** section.

Resolved: AB (Activities VP) agreed to the **removal** of this part.

DA (Academic VP) called for a part to be removed from the motion.

The Chair called for a vote to hear the part.

The majority voted to hear the following part to be removed:

'For students wishing to be co-opted to fill in the required form and return this to the Democracy Support Officer, to be added to the agenda of the next available meeting' from the **'This Union Resolves'** section.

Resolved: AB (Activities VP) agreed to the **removal** of this part.

KH (President) called for a part to be removed from the motion

The Chair called for a vote to hear the part.

The majority voted to hear the following part to be removed:

'To mandate the President to ensure vacant council Rep position are filled via co-option where necessary' from the **'This Union Resolves'** section.

AB (Activities VP) **did not** agree to the **removal** of this part.

Resolved: Three members voted in favour of removal of the part, seven members voted against removal of the part and five members abstained from voting. The part **was not** removed from the motion by the majority.

AB (Activities VP) summated on the substantive motion

Resolved: Twelve voted in favour, two voted against and one abstained from voting.

The motion was **passed** by the majority.

LH (SCIT School Rep) was not present for the remaining agenda items.

Policy Amendments

School Reps

The Union Resolves

AB (Activities VP) provided a proposing speech in favour of replacing 'That the Executive Committee takes responsibility for this co-option' with 'That the Union Council takes responsibility for this co-option'

Resolved: The amendment was **unanimously passed** by Union Council.

Executive Reports to SUC

This Union Resolves:

EM (Welfare VP) provided a proposing speech in favour of replacing 'That officers are elected into position on the strength of their manifesto' with 'That Officers' manifestos often help to influence member's decision on which candidate they vote for'. EM (Welfare VP) also proposed a speech in favour of replacing the Executive Report questions from:

- **What manifesto pledges have you fulfilled so far?**
- **What progress have you made on your manifesto pledges?**
- **What additional duties (not included in your portfolio) have you taken on?**
- **What duties from your portfolio have you been working on since the last SUC?**
- **What are you planning to work on between now and the next SUC?**

To:

- **What work have you been undertaking on your manifesto pledges since the last meeting?**
- **What progress have you made on actions you have been mandated by Council to carry out?**
- **What other duties have you been carrying out within your role?**
- **What do you aim to get done before the next meeting?**

EM (Welfare VP) also notified of some grammatical corrections that had been made to the policy.

Resolved: The amendments were **unanimously passed** by Union Council.

10. Elections Committee

The Chair informed that five positions were available on the Elections Committee and that the full time officers were temporarily elected onto the committee. Members who wished to be elected on the Elections Committee were asked to raise their hands.

Members were informed that they could not stand for a Union position in the 2011 elections or attend the NUS National Conference if they were elected onto the Elections Committee.

Nominations came from three members DA (Academic VP), KH (President) and CL (UWBS School Rep).

Resolved: The three nominees were duly elected on to the Elections Committee.

11. National & Regional Activity

National Demo

KH (President) informed of the Students' Unions intention to participate in the London National Demo taking place on Wednesday 10th November 2010 in protest of the looming education cuts. KH (President) notified that publicity for the campaign was currently being produced and directed members to the Students' Union website for more information.

Islamic Phobia

DA (Academic VP) informed of an Islamic phobia demo coming up during the month of October 2010.

12. Any other Business

MN Toilet Facilities

SW (Environmental Officer) reported that the toilet facilities in the MN Building were for staff use only and that the nearest toilets for students were in the MX Building.

Action: EM (Welfare Officer) agreed to investigate further.

Campus Growing Project

EM (Welfare Officer) informed that the Students' Union had requested to be part of a bid through NUS for a campus growing project and that the University had agreed to provide some land for the project.

Chair's closing remarks

The Chair thanked members for their attendance to the meeting and informed that Union Council drop in sessions would be available in the Students' Union. Members were reminded to promote the positions that were available in the up and coming Bye-elections.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.05pm.

**Date of next meeting Thursday 18th November 2010, Students' Union Board Room,
(MD061), City Campus at 5pm**