

## Student Council

### Meeting Minutes

<b>Time:</b> 1h40 (3:10 – 16:50)	<b>Date:</b> 22-02-2023	<b>Location:</b> Meeting Room, City Campus SU
<b>Chair:</b> Chieloka Emmanuel		<b>Minutes:</b> Elisia Narbett
<b>Attendees:</b> Chieloka Emmanuel (CE), Gagandeep Kaur (GK), Bisola Olatunji (BO), Yvonne Collier (YC), Emma Newman (EN), Francis Blincoe-Deval (FBD), Cheryl Caswell (CC), Oluwatobiloba Adegboyega (OA), Kyriakos Iliou (KI), Olukorede Oyewoga (OO), Fathima Mohamed Aqill (FA),  <b>Virtual Attendees:</b> Opeyemi Bamiro (OB)		
<b>Apologies:</b> Leigh New (LN), Deborah Hanson (DH)		
<b>Absences:</b> Tayabah Mahmood (TM), Angel Morphew (AM)		

Meeting starts at 3:10pm

### 2. Apologies and absences

CE notes the absence of VP Diversity and illness of TM.

### 3. Officer Reports

#### b. Vice President Academic (Gagandeep Kaur)

GK spoke to written report.

Academic workshops – collaborating with university on academic workshops and looking to help promote existing library workshops more effectively to more students. GK in regular meetings with library staff to continue development.

English language skills – looking at adding EL skills onto canvas for better access.

Trying to increase officer presence on social media promoting what is happening generally within the SU as well as sharing officer wins. Has uploaded ones on exam tips, and cost of living so far.

Student engagement – went to Diwali night, collaborated with Sikh society to hold Langar.

Shortage of university staff- long queues outside ASK services, took this to key University meetings including Board of Governors, expressing importance of speeding up the process and putting students at the forefront and improving services.

Cost of Living – coffee mornings and putting together travel advice.

Strikes – regular meetings with universities and school reps to stay up to date meetings. In contact with Phil Gravestock.

Working with them on enrolment and induction workshops and building signage.

## Questions and Discussion

ASK@WLV

FBD – still grave concerns about ASK@WLV, as whenever there's an influx of students the system seems to fall apart and don't want that to happen again. Students have had frustration with escalating issues and are told that they're working on staff recruitment.

YC – What's happening with recruitment?

GK – The University keeps saying that they're recruiting and that they're interviewing on the daily basis.

EN – Do we know how many they're bringing in? How many and how many people waiting? Will the amount being recruited cover the footfall?

GK – Officers focused on the data in meetings and asked about the number of students effected and what the key issues are. Should be asking how many vacancies – **will raise that with the university.**

FBD – The same staff are dealing with physical and digital submissions. Worried they are overloaded.

GK – Queries were pending for months. A lot of queries were similar. She was in contact with VC and Julia Clarke with key issues being raised from students. Often the university was giving the same reply and not sharing progress.

FBD – have ASK been good at staying in contact with you and with the SU?

GK – The university response was always about the deficit, but students are paying so have a right to good support services.

BO – When talking about ASK with the University – can be challenging to be on the same page but they know where we are coming from. We are never ignored.

## *Enrolment Hubs*

YC – Is the University planning to keep the enrolment hubs?

GK – They have weekly enrolment meetings discussing HOW they will approach enrolment going forward.

YC – how do we want to manage questions in future?

CE – can always forward these to the officers outside of meetings.

EN – can this be made full transparency – can all members be copied in so all can see the replies?

OA – Could someone keep time in future?

CE – Could look to do this.

FBD – reports will be longer today given that it's the first meeting and will slim down over time.

EN – One point on the reports– very bullet pointed, no detailed information about what was discussed in the key meetings. Would be good to know key outcomes so we can support you. Keep a note of key things during those meetings.

CE – Report in future needs to be more comprehensive and give more of an idea of what is in these meetings.

*Vote for Approval*

5 – yes

3 – abstain

*Report approved.*

FBD – not happy to approve the report without key questions answered, so would like those answered first. They will need more detailed answers and more time to pick it apart.

### **c. Vice President Community and Welfare**

Has been ill so wasn't able to submit a physical report but gave a verbal update.

Student engagement – successfully organised trips, one to Liverpool to slavery museum – took over 60 students in November. Different events across the last few months – staying power conference where key people across the university sharing their stories, cinema trips – lighthouse and Cineworld.

International mixer, funky Friday, etc. to put a focus on social aspect.

International tuition fee issues – issues here from students taken to various committees. She had specific student examples and forwarded these to Ada. Issues with students not having access to IT accounts with outstanding payments.

A key focus going forward - liberation reps and their presence across the SU – especially within the social space – their images displayed alongside the officers.

Plans to send a written report next week for council members that goes into more depth.

### Questions and Discussion

KI – What is the University doing to ease students with international payment issues? Major issues with their payments going across.

BO - It's a national issue – so a lot of it is out of hand. University is extending deadlines and dates, opening hours, opening access to things like the app and the e:vision. There are some critical cases where people are being asked to withdraw.

OA - right hand side – what if the university partners partner with someone to make the process easier?

BO – they're aware but don't have any permanent solutions for right now but will take it back to discuss.

YC – for the meetings where officers attend the exact same, can this be done on a rota?

BO – Officers are rarely in the same meetings. Only Joint Steering Group.

### *Communication and Students' Union Presence*

OA – Students haven't been getting much information from the Students' Union and don't know who we are. Noticed the SU on the app. Maybe more presence at open days, interacting with schools. What are we doing in terms of pushing the presence of the SU?

EN – Won't do group chats. There are SU emails, and the SU opens a lot but students aren't bothered to get involved. Maybe we look at other means of communications?

### *Focus of International Events*

YC – It's very international student focused at the moment with little else.

BO – looks like it's more international focused but when putting out events I make sure to advertise them as open to everyone. Also, important to put on events for international student integration.

YC – Can we introduce an event calendar?

BO – liberation reps did a merry mixer. Halloween – event in Walsall. We will look at putting in an event calendar.

### *Campaigns – Sickle Cell*

FBD – sickle cell update?

BO – tried to contact various charities. Want to put out more information about it to raise awareness, facts etc. and create a resource pack.

FBD – Have you contacted NHS blood and transplant service? Could look at the SU doing a blood drive.

### *Campaigns – Leadership Development*

FBD – Leadership development sessions. Have we made any progress?

BO – have discussed workshops with Brian. SU itself wants to implement careers-based things, so want to ensure it doesn't overlap with what the University.

AO – Career workshops – students looking for internships, jobs, and placements. People are trying to understand what they SHOULD be doing to gain these. Could have a UK work experience opportunities board?

YC – 28<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> floor MU Building there is an event around this.

No physical report to approve - if send out a physical report then happy to approve. BO will send out report to everyone start of next week for approval.

KI - Any queries sent through from members regarding council, which email sent to?

CE – [democracy.wolvesunion@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:democracy.wolvesunion@wlv.ac.uk)

### **a. SU President**

Report was sent out. Officer not present due to illness.

### **Questions and Discussion**

EN – Same as other reports - very light on information. Need more details about the things mentioned, especially having been in the role 7 months.

YC – School Reps could probably fill that while only working 10 hr/week. E.g. just putting 'Business School' doesn't explain the plans/outcomes there.

FBD – It's in the Byelaws that you are not allowed to submit more than 2 pages.

CE – Note - just need to be more comprehensive in the reports for future meetings.

Vote for Approval
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Yes – 0
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Abstain – 8
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FBD – note that it's not a reflection of the report, just due process.

### c. Motions and Policies for Discussion

YC – do we have any motions/policies in play?

CE – no none currently in play, all previous policies have now lapsed.

### d. Any Other Business

#### a. Byelaw Review

KI – what will the SU do to inform students of what council is and that we will be representing them on council?

EN – students don't read emails. People don't use the website at all. There needs to be an awareness of what's available. There's a lack of communication.

Byelaws Comments

FBD – The new roles remove the guarantee that there will be representation from certain groups. Can we amend this in future or is it set?

CE – Can be amended later at AGM.

<i>Vote for Approval</i>
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Yes – 6
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Abstain – 3
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<i>Byelaw Review approved.</i>
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## 6. AOB

EN – SU space – very male dominated area – lot of sexist comments going on.

FBD – currently working with another school rep – working closely to set up SU security and safety team 3-4 times a week during peak times to try and eliminate certain behaviour. Only 2 so far as they must be qualified.

There may be a more formal review before the bar etc is opened next year.

EN – Are there any campaigns that can run to increase the positive approach, more peacefully? Is there any way we can look to educate those who are saying these things? A lot of female students won't even come into the space.

BO – part of the reason we want to do the refurb. We've noticed and received complaints. Sent out questionnaires to students and looking to improve the environment.

FBD – once bar opens would be good to have a focused campaign about women's safety and gendered violence.

### *Telford*

CC – Are there any plans to expand the SU space over at Telford? A lot of students don't know where the room is. It's very isolated there.

YC – Any ideas of what can we introduce?

CC – More events. Mainly feeling disconnected from the university. Think it's just promoting things there as well.

YC – The Lion inn is a good resource to use, they do a lot of events.

### *Walsall*

FA – Most events displayed on the website are based at City campus. Is there a reason there is more there?

BO – No, merely because we have more students over here. There are a lot of events going on at Walsall SU Lounge.

FBD – a lot of the lack of knowledge is to do with poor SU communications with students.

### *Communications*

OO – can we be on canvas? Can we be on there? Anything you need to post has to be approved?

BO – the university oversees this and it's normally used for Academic purposes, may be difficult.

YC – think you can own a module. Could have a Students' Union module?  
You can set certain people to approve.

OO – channels for approval. Could just have one officer that has access.

### *Future Meeting Suggestions*

YC – could the officer have office hours where people can go and chat to them?

OA – can we have 30 mins of questions and cap it at that.

YC – Could approve reports after the Q&A.

Meeting close – 16:50

### **Actions List**

Action	Assign	When?
Include more detail in officer reports.	All Officers	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Send out written report to council members	BO	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Ask the University how many people they're recruiting to ASK services and how this compares to student waitlists.	GK	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Take international student payment issues back to the University and investigate further.	BO	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Look at implementing an 'Events Calendar'.	All Officers	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar