

Student Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the first meeting of the Student Council held on Monday, 3rd October 2011 at 6pm in the Cadman Conference Room, Stoke.

Present: Dommati Durga Prasad (**DP**- Student Councillor), Daniel Smith (**DS**- Student Councillor), Matthew Lowe (**ML**- Student Councillor), Rebekah Kelly (**RK**- Student Councillor), Rory Wilde (**RW**- Student Councillor), Charley Hill (**CH**- Student Councillor), Philip Slater (**PS**- Student Councillor), Lawrence Parkes (**LP**- Student Councillor). **8 voters.**

In Attendance: Katie Wynne (**KW**- Student Engagement Assistant & Secretary), Margaret Mulholland (**MM**- Membership Services Manager), Jamie Robertson (**JR**- President & Chair), Emma Harris (**EH**- Commercial Services Officer), Vic Casambros (**VC**- Communications Officer), Kim Hargreaves (**KH**- Education & Welfare Officer), Gary Richardson (**GR**- Student Activities Officer), Liat Norris (**LN**- Student Trustee), Katy Mitchell (**KM**- Student Trustee), Amy Bailey (**AB**- Student), Danielle Waite (**DW**- Student), Stewart Harris (**SH**- Student), Dheeraj Kanupuru (**DK**- Student), Sam Richardson (**SR**- Student), Anthony Kiely (Non-Student).

Apologies for Absence: None.

Not Present: Arfan Mubashar (**AM**- Student Councillor)

All apologies recorded above were accepted.

Apologies received late: None.

No.	Item, Discussion and Action	By Whom and By When
	<p>Due to Student Council not yet having an elected Chair, Jamie Robertson acted as Chair for this meeting.</p> <p>A student attending Council had brought a friend who was not a current student, Council approved Anthony Keily's attendance.</p> <p>Student Council started with all attendees introducing themselves.</p> <p>LP arrived at the meeting.</p>	
1	<p><u>Standing Items</u></p> <p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting - The 6th June 2011 Student Council minutes were confirmed as an accurate record.</p> <p>Action Points of the Previous Meeting – All action points from the previous meeting were completed. LN asked what was happening in</p>	

	<p>regards to filming Student Council meetings. VC discovered that no one present had a problem with being filmed and said he would look into it.</p> <p>Action: To look into filming Student Council meetings.</p> <p>Notification of Any Other Business – The Chair explained that if anyone had anything they wanted to discuss which was not on the agenda, this would be when they notify the Chair so that it could be discussed at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>LN wished to discuss the Jarrow march, PS wished to discuss sponsorship and the Chair wished to add looking for students to attend the Student Experience Committee to the Academic Board item.</p> <p>Conflicts of Interest – No conflicts noted.</p> <p>Reports – Reports from the President, Communications Officer, Student Activities Officer, Commercial Services Officer and Board of Trustees were received, with no questions from Council. JR and the officer team had been discussing the format in which these reports were sent and were considering combining their individual reports into one. Student Council had differing opinions on how they would like to receive the reports so the team would come up with a format for the next meeting and get feedback.</p> <p>Action: To come up with a new report format.</p>	<p>VC</p> <p>JR, VC, KH, GR, EH</p>
<p>2</p>	<p><u>Items of business</u></p> <p>2.1. Priorities 2011/12 Prezi Presentation</p> <p>This presentation was given by Jamie Robertson. JR presented the SU’s priorities for 2011/12 under the headings of Representation Development, Developing Engagement, Advice and Information Development, Activities Development, Commercial Development, Venues Development, Retail Developments, Development of a Union Culture, Insight Development, Staff Development and Governance Development.</p> <p>The Union would continue to focus on The Students’ Union will also strive to improve the experience of all its members by: Representing students’ views, concerns and aspirations; campaigning, educating and advising on student issues; delivering quality social space and services on campus; encouraging students to interact through cultural, recreational and social groups and activities.</p> <p>During the presentation LN pointed out that the SU venues were still</p>	

cheaper than the University, even though some prices had risen. **PS** asked if the sports centre was wholly owned by the University. **JR** stated that this was the case; but that the SU groups were given free time to practice there.

2.2. Selection of Chair of Student Council and Deputy Chair of Student Council

JR stated the need to elect a Chair and Deputy Chair of Student Council, which would involve leading the meetings and liaising with **KW**. The Deputy Chair would only be called upon if the Chair was not present.

LN felt that an Officer Trustee could not be the Chair as this would be a conflict of interest. There was a discussion around this but it was not decided to stop Officer Trustees running for Chair.

KM and **GR** put themselves forward for Chair of Student Council. **KM** stated that she had previously chaired a Student Council meeting, which has ended in record time and had received compliment for her ability to chair. **GR** stated that he had chaired many meetings as President of American Football and could get through the agenda to make sure each item got discussed.

KM and GR left the room.

There were 8 Student Councillors present to vote and after a discussion Student Council voted:

Katy Mitchell: 6 votes.

Gary Richardson: 2 votes.

Katy Mitchell to be Chair of Student Council.

JR said that he was happy to continue chairing the meeting unless **KM** wished to take over. **KM** was happy for **JR** to continue.

Action: To liaise with KW.

CH and RK left the meeting.

VC, **PS** and **LN** put themselves forward for Deputy Chair of Council. **PS** then withdrew. **VC** highlighted that he had a lot of experience, due to being involved in Student Council for 4 and half years and being part of the Black Students Steering Committee. **LN** had experience of being a chair at trade union and political events which get heated.

VC and **LN** left the room.

There were 6 Student Councillors present to vote and after a discussion

KM

Student Council voted:

Vic Casambros: 3

Liat Norris: 3

The vote was tied and Student Council decided to vote again at the next meeting.

Action: To keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

KW

2.3. Discussion about Ground Rules for Council led by the Chair

After a discussion Student Council agreed that if members missed two meetings without apologies they would be deemed resigned, and would stick to this unless there was an extraordinary reason. Student Council also set 48 hours for retrospective apologies, meaning that apologies for missing a meeting on a Monday evening should be received by **KW** by the Wednesday at 8pm.

DS left the meeting.

JR pointed out that the meeting was no longer quorate.

KW suggested putting items that needed voting on earlier on the agenda so that if people needed to leave part way through it may cause less disruption.

Action: To keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

KW

2.4. Member Appeals Committee

MM needed to find ten volunteers to sit on Member Appeals Committees when called upon. **MM** explained that the Disciplinary Committee would make a decision on a case, i.e. banning a student from LRV for a month; and that if the student wanted to appeal they would appeal to the Member Appeals Committee. **JR** highlighted that it was rare that one would be called.

RW, ML, PS and **LP** put themselves forward.

Action: To keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

KW

2.5. Criteria for Associate Membership and Temporary Membership – To discuss and approve the criteria for membership and for Council to delegate responsibility for approvals. A paper on this to be made available at the meeting by Margaret Mulholland.

MM handed round a paper which stated that previously anyone with a connection to the University/Union i.e. ex-student or staff member had

been able to purchase an Associate Card for £5, with no vetting of applicants or any way to remove them as members. There was a 'temporary' membership which allowed those without a prior relationship with the University/Union to purchase membership for £15 subject to officer approval – which was usually to allow access to a club or society.

Due to the changes in the SU Constitution Student Council now had the power to 'elect and remove from associate membership of the Union such persons as they consider to be fit. The Student Council shall determine the form of application for associate memberships and associate membership shall be subject to such rights and obligations as the Student Council consider appropriate.' There is no mention of temporary membership in the Constitution as it was intended to be abolished, but references had been made in the Bye-Laws.

MM's recommendation to Student Council was:

1. That all reference to Temporary Membership should be removed from the Bye-Laws.
2. That Student Council delegate the day to day administration of Associate Membership to staff on the understanding that if an applicant or existing associate is considered unsuitable for any reason the matter is referred to Council.
3. That Council consider increasing the cost of Associate Membership to reflect its true value. (Currently the SU's funding equates to £40 per head, whilst the real cost per student is around £53, with Associate Membership currently costing £5)

VC had conducted some research into other Students' Unions charges and found varying amounts from £0-50.

After a lengthy discussion and reassurances from **MM** that if temporary membership was removed the SU would make an alternative route for people who didn't qualify for an Associate Card to join a club or society; Student Council took an indicative vote on whether Temporary Membership could be removed from the Bye-Laws.

Yes: 4

No: 0

Abstentions: 1

Student Council took an indicative vote on whether Student Council would delegate day to day administration to staff:

Unanimously voted yes.

After a discussion Student Council asked that the Board of Trustees to come up with a new price, recommend it to Council, with Council making the final decision.

Trustees will make a recommendation at the next Student Council meeting. It was agreed that it will continue to be £5 until a decision was made as there were Associate Memberships waiting to be processed.

Action: To keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

KW

2.6. A Student Councillor to attend Academic Board – there is space for a further student to attend Academic Board with Jamie and Kim.

ML and **LP** showed interested at this stage, but the item would be kept on the agenda along with finding two students for the Student Experience Committee.

ML left the meeting.

Action: To keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

KW

2.7. SU By-Elections 2011 – to **note** that the nominations period for the By-Elections is open and discuss how Student Councillors could assist in promotion.

JR informed Council that the nominations period was open for the By-Elections and that if anyone needed help nominating themselves for something that staff could help. As a Councillor, **JR** asked if they could talk, tweet, facebook to encourage students to get involved. He also informed them that they could all run for NUS Delegate.

2.8. Zone Conference – to **note** the upcoming NUS Zone Conferences and discuss attendance.

All who were interested in attending had already contacted **KW**. **MM** stated that it was currently over budget and that from now on people should be filling in learner agreements when asking to attend an event.

2.9. Discussion about the suspension of Edward Bauer, Vice President Education at the University of Birmingham Guild of Students (Liat Norris)

JR highlighted that this was a discussion point, as Council were moving

	<p>away from using motions.</p> <p>LN stated that Edward Bauer, Vice President Education at The University of Birmingham Guild of Students, was arrested on 16th September for peacefully suspending a banner protesting university fees and education cuts during the Lib Dem party conference. It was claimed that the University of Birmingham had suspended his status as a student and banned him from entering campus with all his University accounts being shut down without any notice. LN wished for Staffs to email Birmingham Guild and condemn the decision to suspend and demand that he should be immediately reinstated.</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion around whether it was right or not that the individual was suspended, it was highlighted that there was not enough Student Councillors present to vote on the matter and that it should be discussed at the next Council meeting if relevant.</p> <p>Action: To keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>2.10. Union Forums – to discuss liberation forums and forums that could be set up.</p> <p>Student Council discussed possible Union Forums that could be set up and meet up as often as necessary.</p> <p>Four Liberation Forums were already being set up, with LN suggesting further ones such as Mature Students, Part-time Students. There were also suggestions of Student Parents and Student Workers.</p> <p>This would be picked up at the next Student Council meeting.</p> <p>Action: To keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	<p>KW</p> <p>KW</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><u>Representation</u></p> <p>JR explained that Welcome Week had prevented the officers from attending two University meetings.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>PS brought up the issue of television subscription in the Union venues and EH informed him that it was being looked at and the Union would not risk breaking the law. PS also wanted to discuss club/society sponsorship, asking where the limitations were – what couldn't you be sponsored by?</p> <p>Action: To discuss sponsorship with GR, EH and Jonathan Pace and come back with a formulated discussion.</p>	<p>PS</p>

LN highlighted that the Jarrow March was taking place and asked for the SU to promote. Student Council were happy for **LN**, as a member of the SU, to promote and let students know about it taking place.

5 **Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Student Council meeting is scheduled to take place at **6pm on Monday 7th November** in Stafford Students' Union Space. Katy Mitchell will be the Chair of this meeting.