

Student Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the third meeting of the Student Council held on Monday, 5th December 2011 at 6pm in Cadman Conference Room, Stoke.

Present: Matthew Lowe (**ML**- Student Councillor), Rory Wilde (**RW**- Student Councillor), Charley Hill (**CH**- Student Councillor), Lawrence Parkes (**LP**- Student Councillor), Sam Richardson (**SR**- Student Councillor), Louise Crane (**LC**- Student Councillor), Purnachandarrao Eravelli (**PE**- Student Councillor), Rebekah Kelly (**RK**- Student Councillor), Daniel Smith (**DS**- Student Councillor), Philip Slater (**PS**- Student Councillor), Kimberley Kirkham (**KK** – Student Councillor), Lewis Lay (**LL**- Student Councillor), Jenisha Patel (**JP**- Student Councillor), Nikita Sinha (**NS**- Student Councillor), Laurence Hardy (**LH**- Student Councillor), Holly Hatton Baldwin (**HB**- Student Councillor), Jessica Holdway (**JH**- Student Councillor), Christopher Kirk (**CK**- Student Councillor), Kyle Tranter (**KT**- Student Councillor), Lucy Jennings (**LJ** – LGBT Co-Chair).

In Attendance: Katy Mitchell (**KM**- Student Trustee & Chair), Katie Wynne (**KW**- Student Engagement Assistant & Secretary), Margaret Mulholland (**MM**- Membership Services Manager), Jamie Robertson (**JR**- President), 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), Anthony Kiely (Non-Student), Lindsey Callunson (**LC**- Student), Alex Shepley (**AS**- Student), Xander Weston (**XW**- Student), Jared Rufus (**JRu** - Student), Jamal Hamid (**JH** - Student).

Apologies for Absence: Dommami Durga Prasad (**DP**- Student Councillor), Elizabeth McDonald (**EM**- Student Councillor), Jason Edwards (**JE**- Student Councillor).

Not Present: Arfan Mubashar (**AM**- Student Councillor) – 2nd meeting without apologies – Council to deem resigned, Purnachandarrao Eravelli (**PE**- Student Councillor), Latoyah Dillion (**LD** – Student Councillor), Stefan Proudlove (**SP**- Student Councillor), Arun Chakravarthy Karnati (**AK**- Student Councillor), Francesca Haines (**FH**- Student Councillor).

All apologies recorded above were accepted.

Apologies received with 48 hours of the meeting: Chandni Bhatt (**CH**- Student Councillor)

No.	Item, Discussion and Action	By Whom and By When
1	<u>Standing Items</u> Notification of Late Arrival – CH. Notification of Early Departure – None. Minutes of the Previous Meeting - The 7 th November 2011 Student Council minutes were confirmed as an accurate record.	

	<p>Action Points of the Previous Meeting –The following are still to be completed/fed back to Student Council:</p> <p>Action: To discuss sponsorship with GR, EH and Jonathan Pace and come back with a formulated discussion.</p> <p>Action: To look into filming Student Council meetings. JH to help with this and look at feasibility of streaming.</p> <p>Action: To work together on issues with Blackboard.</p> <p>Actions: To work on the issues with Gender Neutral Toilets.</p> <p>FTOs: Officer reports and Associate Membership would be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p>Conflicts of Interest – The Chair had put an item on the agenda and checked whether she could continue to Chair during the item. Student Council voted unanimously to allow this.</p> <p>Notification of Any Other Business – JR and GR would have points to add to their officer reports.</p> <p>Reports – There were questions raised about the hours of work included in GR’s report. The officers clarified that these would not be included in the future as the focus should be on outcomes. There was concern for the welfare of the officer team, but it was highlighted that these hours were not worked regularly.</p> <p>Action: To move action points above minutes on that standing items of the Student Council agenda and send out action points as a separate document.</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>VC/JH</p> <p>RW/KH</p> <p>EH</p> <p>Secretary</p>
2	<p><u>Items of business</u></p> <p>2.1. Newly Elected Student Councillors from STARs – Introductions and to welcome to Student Council and run through any ground rules set at previous meetings.</p> <p>The officers and staff were introduced and the Chair explained the rules regarding apologies.</p> <p>2.2. Chair of LGBT Forum – To reach a decision on whether the seat on Student Council reserved for the Chair of LGBT Forum can be shared by co-chairs, who were elected at the first forum. (Gary Richardson)</p> <p>GR explained that co-chairs had been elected and wanted Student Council to decide whether they could both be members of Council, but share a vote. The co-chairs were Lucy Jenkins and Ste Watkins. JR</p>	

highlighted that he shared the Student Activities position with Adam Hedges last year, and that they had shared a vote. If both present, they would discuss which way to vote, but if not both present, they would discuss it before the meeting and decide which way they would vote. They would abstain if they couldn't agree, but it never caused any issues.

LJ highlighted that would both want to attend the meetings.

There was a discussion around whether there was anything in the Constitution regarding the sharing of a vote, but it was noted that it was silent on this issue.

A vote took place on whether to allow co-chairs to share a vote on Student Council:

In favour: 16

Against: 1

Abstained: 0

There was a further vote on whether **LJ** could have voting rights for the rest of the meeting:

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstained: 4

Lucy Jenkins and Ste Watkins will now sit on Student Council and share a vote, with Lucy being able to vote from this point in the meeting.

It was noted that Anthony Kiely was not a current student and Student Council voted unanimously to allow him to sit in on the meeting.

2.3. Annual Students' Forum – To receive the agenda (so far) for the Annual Students' Forum taking place on Wednesday 7th December at 6pm in LT001, Ashley Building and any discussions arising around this subject.

JR explained the necessity for the Student' Union to now hold Annual General Meetings (AGM) due to being a registered charity. This year the first AGM would be held within an Annual Students' Forum, with issues currently affecting students on the agenda. Usman Ali and Christian Yan Zang would be speaking at the forum. **JR** said that this was an important event and it would be good for everyone present to attend.

2.4. Criteria for Associate Membership and Temporary Membership – To discuss and approve the recommendation from the Board of Trustees regarding pricing. (Jamie Robertson)

JR informed Student Council that the recommendation from the Board of Trustees regarding the new pricing of Associate Membership was £2 each month or £20 each year.

Student Council voted on whether to accept the new pricing:

In favour: 16

Against: 2

Abstained: 0

The new price was approved.

CH arrived.

2.5. Policy due to Lapse – Communications Officer to **outline** policy which is due to lapse, with Student Council to **decide** whether they lapse. (Vic Casambros)

As a trustee **VC**'s recommendation was to allow the following policies to lapse as they were outdated:

- Afghanistan and the Spread of the War
- Another Education is Possible
- Racism in Education
- NUS Democracy
- Access to Cash

LN was concerned that allowing them all to lapse would mean there wouldn't be a no platform policy.

Action: To look at creating a no platform policy.

FTOs/LN

Student Council voted on whether to allow the above policies to lapse:

In favour: 18

Against: 1

Abstained: 0

The policies will lapse.

2.6. Gender Neutral Toilets – To **discuss** whether this will be policy. (Liat Norris)

LN felt that having Gender Neutral Toilets should be a policy of the Students' Union. A long discussion took place about the practicalities, cost and implications of this, with points being made about Stafford, unisex accessible toilets as a compromise and improvements to current facilities.

Student Council voted on whether to have a policy regarding Gender Neutral Toilets:

For - 5

Against - 5

Abstained - 9

The voted was tied so it moved to a blind vote. **LH** pointed out that any member may contest the vote and can ask for another round of

speeches and another vote as long as the proposal for such an action receives approval from over 50% of Council. It was agreed to move to a blind vote. The Chair made sure all present knew what they were voting on.

The Chair moved onto the next item on the agenda whilst the votes were counted.

2.7. Student Council Meeting Location – To discuss moving Stoke Student Council meetings to the LRV. (Sam Richardson)

SR stated that it was up to Council whether they would want to move to the LRV, but that he had done some research into it.

After a conversation Student Council decided it was more about advertising Student Council more, rather than moving to another venue.

Vote on whether keep using current room:

For: 16

Against: 0

It was unanimously decided that **SR** should continue to monitor the situation and that they would talk about the Stafford location at the next meeting in Stafford.

The vote regarding the Gender Neutral Toilets came back:

For: 7

Against: 8

Abstained: 4

The item fell.

JH felt that Student Council should be able to be open with each other.

2.8. Communication between Representatives – To **outline** and **discuss** all available methods of communication between those who attend Student Council. (Jamie Robertson)

JR highlighted that there were many ways for representatives to talk to each other and encouraged it. It was pointed out that there was a Student Council Staffs Facebook and Twitter.

It was suggested that they could hold socials or do more officer drop in slots.

Action: To create a closed group on the website for Student Council.

2.9. Officer Accountability - A **discussion** about holding Full Time Officers to account, the form this is going to take from now on and the collective responsibility associated with this. (Katy Mitchell)

KM pointed out that this was the first meeting where all officer reports

VC/KW

	<p>had been submitted prior to the meeting and asked Council if they were happy with the format of these reports.</p> <p>It was suggested that they should all be the same format and look the same and that some aspects needed elaborating, such as LQPC etc. It was also suggested that if you wanted to hold an officer to account, you could speak to another officer about it, if not comfortable doing it at Council.</p> <p>Action: To create a report template for all officers to use from now on.</p> <p>2.10. I am the Change – To discuss getting involved with www.nus.org.uk/iamthechange. (Vic Casambros)</p> <p>VC encouraged to Council get involved with this NUS campaign, informing them that NUS had some money to be used to make changes at Union/Universities. In order to get this funding you should post an idea on the website and receive votes. He also showed the video at the above webpage.</p> <p>2.11. Academic Board – To inform Sam of any issues you would like discussed at the 21st December Academic Board meeting. (Sam Richardson)</p> <p>The Chair asked for people to stay behind after the meeting to talk to Sam if they had any issues. KH highlighted that Academic Board was the highest committee at the University apart from the Board of Governors.</p> <p>2.12. Request of a Q & A with the Officer Team – A request for officers to list all meetings with the University held over the last six months, in which STARs has been discussed and/or furthered the development/security of STARs. (Laurence Hardy)</p> <p>KH, JR, VC and EH provided lists for LH detailing which meetings they had been to talk where STARs had been discussed. KH highlight that STARs was a big part of their jobs and that they were working closely with staff.</p>	FTOs
3	<p><u>Representation</u></p> <p>No discussion.</p>	
4	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>GR highlighted that there would be a Sports Management meeting in January and wanted to add information about RAG to his officer report. He would be meeting with other RAGs that week to further the groups and plan to raise even more money.</p> <p>JR informed Council that a Shelton community group had been awarded £50 000 of funding to run projects in Shelton.</p>	
5	<p><u>Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Student Council is scheduled to take place at 6pm on Monday 6th February in Students' Union Space, Stafford.</p>	