

Staffordshire University Students' Union

Students' Union Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Students' Union Council held on Monday, 6th June 2011, 6.00pm, Stoke Student Space.

Present: Katy Mitchell (**KM**- School Rep AMD & Acting Chair), Emma Harris (**EH**- Commercial Services Officer), Kim Hargreaves (**KH**- Education and Welfare Officer), Adam Hedges (**AH**- Student Activities Officers), Laurence Hardy (**LH**- Non-Portfolio Executive Officer), Charley Hasted (**CH**- Equal Opportunities Officer), Daniel Smith (**DS**- LGBT Officer), Liat Norris (**LN**- Local Students Officer – Stoke), Rowan Ashe (**RA**- Media Officer), Richard Parrish (**RP**- Postgraduate Students Officer), Vellanki Sunil Kumar (**VK**- Site Officer Stafford).

In Attendance: Margaret Mulholland (**MM**- Membership Services Manager), Katie Wynne (**KW**- Student Engagement Assistant & Secretary), Gary Richardson (**GR**- Student Activities Officer *Elect*).

Apologies for Absence: Fiona Wood (**FW**- President), Jamie Robertson (**JR**- Student Activities Officer), Akber Ali (**AA**- Non-Portfolio Executive Officer), Gerard Boyers (**GB**- Non-Portfolio Executive Officer), Emma Tyson (**ET**- Female Gender Rep).

Not Present: Data Pax-Harry (**DP**- Chair of Union Council), Irfan Khurshid (**IF**- International Students Officer), Wayne Steiner (**WS**- Mature Students Officer).

All apologies recorded above were accepted.

Apologies received late: Vic Casambros (**VC**- Communications Officer).

No.	Item, Discussion and Action	By Whom and By When
2	<p>In the absence of the Chair, KM nominated herself to Chair which Council unanimously accepted. It was acknowledged that the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 9th May 2011 were approved as an accurate record, with one change to be made on page two in reference to who took the Chair.</p>	KW
3	<p>LN brought procedural motion 6, to move Jarrow to London March Motion to the beginning of the agenda, due to his possible early departure. Council unanimously voted to move the item.</p> <p>RA also mentioned that he would like to talk about STARS during the meeting.</p>	VC
4	<p>All action points from the previous meeting were completed.</p> <p>VK entered the meeting.</p>	

6 **KH** highlighted that Exec were still looking into ethical banks and had narrowed it down to two banks.

7 **Discussion Points**

a) Jarrow to London March Motion (Liat Norris)

This motion was amended and passed in the previous motion, but was brought back due to quoracy. **KH** highlighted that the Union will support the march, but not donate or support financially. Council voted on whether to accept the motion:

Council unanimously carried the motion.

b) Financial Restrictions on Slates Motion (Laurence Hardy)

LH asked Council whether there were any questions, specifically from those who weren't at the previous meeting. A discussion was held around the subject of slates, with some believing that the Union shouldn't limit association and others wanting to limit the reward for association.

KH opposed the motion, stating reasons such as slates still running in all but name, there being five full time positions, but only four being given a campaign budget if running on a slate; stating that each person should be allowed the same budget, whether on a slate or not.

LH wanted to create a level playing field, stating that the motion would not limit the size of slate, just the financial reward for associating with others, ensuring that people did not create a slate for financial reward.

The Chair made sure that Council were clear on the arguments and the motion was put to a vote:

For: 6
Against: 4
Abstained: 0

Motion carried.

c) **Amended** Student Media Motion (Rowan Ashe)

This motion was discussed at the previous meeting and Council felt it should be discussed with OMG before being voted on.

RA said that after the debate about the motion last month, he stripped down the motion and kept the important aspects.

Council had no issues with the content of the motion and it carried unanimously.

	<p>d) Advertising Student Council Motions and Meetings Motion (Rowan Ashe)</p> <p>RA read the motion and explained that he felt it would help improve student engagement. There was a discussion around having a central notice board to advertise Council meetings and their content each month, with using a green board in the Ember Lounge as a suggestion. Another suggestion was officers recording vlogs about their motions to create an online discussion.</p> <p>To take a lead of speaking to VC about motion vlogs.</p> <p>Council unanimously carried the motion.</p>	<p>RA</p>
8	<p>Representation matters None.</p>	
9	<p>Other Union Business</p> <p>RA raised a concern about STARS and questioned whether Steerings would be overseeing how they are elected. KH said that Steerings would not be involved, that the Dean of Students and the SU would be making sure the STARS were elected fairly and democratically. KM highlighted that the STARS Interns would be overseeing as many elections as possible, but that the 30 STARS elected onto Council would be elected in a conference setting. LH felt that Steerings should be involved. EH suggested emailing students to ask if they have any issues in how their STARS were elected. KH agreed to talk to the STARS Interns to discuss Steerings and the email suggested by EH.</p>	<p>KH</p>
11	<p>Reports Officer reports accepted.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that some reports had not been included. KH apologised for not submitting a report as she had been unwell and AH had been on holiday.</p> <p>KH gave a verbal report, informing Council that she was working on a transport forum and the Student Academic Partnership. She informed Council that the X1 bus would only be running for one more year, so she was part of a transport forum to come up with alternative solutions. She had also been dealing with confidential issues with individual students and talking with the University about new buildings and planning ahead.</p> <p>AH said that he had not had a great deal to do, that he had been involved in club and society development meetings and Sports Management Board. AH informed Council that Staffs had secured £107,000 funding from Sports England, in conjunction with Keele.</p>	
13	<p>Points of Information</p> <p>LH pointed out that the referendum had gone through and KH informed</p>	

	<p>Council that Exec were looking at a strategic plan and conducting market research around the topic of student expectations.</p> <p>LN left the meeting.</p>	
	<p>The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed, but will be next academic year.</p>	