Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Student Council held on Monday, 5th March 2012 at 6pm in Cadman Conference Room, Stoke.

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

In Attendance: Katy Mitchell (KM- Student Trustee & Chair), Katie Wynne (KW- Student Engagement Assistant & Secretary), Margaret Mulholland (MM- Membership Services Manager), Gary Richardson (GR- Student Activities Officer), Vic Casambros (VC- Communications Officer), Kim Hargreaves (KH- Education & Welfare Officer), Jamie Robertson (JR- President), Emma Harris (EH- Commercial Services Officer), Richard Bayes (RB- Student), Alex Shepley (AS- Student), Liat Norris (LN- Student Trustee), Anthony Kiely (Non-student), Jared Rufus (JR- Student).

Apologies for Absence: None.

Not Present: Philip Slater (PS- Student Councillor), Dommati Durga Prasad (DP- Student Councillor), Elizabeth McDonald (EM- Student Councillor), Jason Edwards (JE- Student Councillor), Francesca Haines (FH- Student Councillor), Chandni Bhatt (CB- Student Councillor).

Apologies received with 48 hours of the meeting: None.

All apologies recorded above were accepted.

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Item, Discussion and Action</th>
<th>By Whom and By When</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Chair highlighted that this meeting would be a campaign free zone and as GR was attending the meeting whilst on annual leave due to being a candidate in the elections. Council agreed he could attend the meeting as a Full-Time Officer rather than a candidate.</td>
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<td><strong>Standing Items</strong></td>
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<td>Notification of Late Arrival – None.</td>
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<td>Notification of Early Departure – DS.</td>
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Minutes of the Previous Meeting – The 6th February 2012 Student Council minutes were confirmed as an accurate record. Those highlighted on these minutes were deemed resigned from Student Council.

Action Points of the Previous Meeting – All action points had been completed:

VC and JH had looked into filming the meetings and had found a way to record meetings, rather than broadcast them live and publish them as a podcast. They felt it would be good to record key items.

RW had published a letter to send to the University and this would be looked at under any other business.

The FTO’s had created and used a template for their reports.

All present has read about NUS Conference and a motion regarding Cyber Bullying had been sent to NUS.

LN had resubmitted the No Platform Policy Motion and Council would discuss using his template in any other business.

EH had continued the Lags Mags discussion at Women’s Forum.

Conflicts of Interest – The Chair highlighted that she had a conflict of interest as she was running in the elections. She asked for all other candidates to declare their conflict of interest.

SR, LH, LP, JP, KK, LN, RK, HB, RB, RW, LL, LC and GR declared the same conflict of interest. The Chair asked Council whether they were still happy for her to Chair the meeting. They unanimously confirmed that she could continue.

Notification of Any Other Business – None, other than already mentioned above.

Reports – Student Council asked for more information about the FCET consultation. VC informed them that the University had wanted to move students from Stafford to Stoke and that the SU had been involved in the consultation and that the Stafford students affected may now just spend a few days in Stoke per term.

An issue had arisen about free entry to venues. To ensure all Councillors/Trustees had free entry.

JR informed Student Council that Student Trustees Malik Moiz Uddin and Rizwan Muhammad had finished their studies, and as they were no longer students they could no longer be members of the Board of Trustees.

DS asked for item 2.6 to be moved to 2.2 so that he could be involved in the discussion before he left early to catch a train. This was approved.
2. **Items of business**

2.1. **Leadership Race 2012** – Voting will be open from 2\textsuperscript{nd} – 9\textsuperscript{th} March!

VC reminded Student Council that voting had opened on Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March, with lots of students voting as soon as it opened. Voting would close the following Friday with the results being announced at 8pm in Legends.

2.2. **Library Refurbishment** – To discuss the refurbishment, regarding the lack of consultation with students and student issues with the changes. (Dan Smith)

DS stated that a meeting with University Exec to discuss the library had take place the previous week, but it had been poorly attended. RB had also attended the meeting. KH had a meeting coming up with some University staff members who were involved.

To forward his notes from the meeting to KH.

Many Student Councillors also had issues with the library refurbishments, especially the waiting time to get to the bookshelves they required due to electronic shelving. CH also highlighted that the library issues had also been brought up at the STARs Conference.

To set up a meeting to discuss the library issues further with those interested.

RH highlighted that the only time the University had free to carry out the recent refurbishments was during the winter exam period, which they were aware had caused students issues. They were sorry they had caused issues, but highlighted that more refurbishments were planned over summer which couldn’t take place if the first ones hadn’t taken place.

2.3. **Reviewing the Students’ Union Poster Policy** (Emma Harris)

EH informed Student Council that the current policy was that students had to bring copies of their posters to reception to be stamped and signed by two officers. It was highlighted that sometimes students did have to wait a few days if officers were out of office and that some students were unaware of the policy and put their posters up without going through this process.

After a discussion Student Council voted on posters becoming receptions responsibility, following concrete guidelines, with them referred to an officer if necessary:

In favour: 15
Against: 1  
Abstained: 2

2.4. **STARs, Student Led Teaching Award and Engagement Project Update** (Kim Hargreaves)

KH informed Student Council that staff had been working on STAR faculty reports and that the SU had secured 5 days of training from NUS as part of the Quality Engagement Project. KH also announced that there would be Student Led Teaching Awards to celebrate best practice and staff.

LC questioned the higher amount of funding being used for these awards compared to the STARs/Student Activities awards, when lecturers are paid to do their jobs, and STARs/clubs are volunteers.

MM highlighted that the SU were joining the SLTA event, rather than organising the whole thing, and that University and NUS money was funding it rather than the SU, but understood where LC was coming from.

JR understood and stated that the SU should talk to the University about the need for funding for recognition.

2.5. **Noise Pollution and the Effects on Students** – To discuss the levels of noise pollution affecting students in halls in Stoke. (Sam Richardson)

SR informed Student Council that students had approached him regarding how noisy it was to live in halls on Stoke campus, which had resulted in the student missing lecturers. Student Council then discussed whether this was something to be expected when living in halls or whether the University should meet the expectations of a variety of students. One suggestion was transparency from accommodation and managing student expectations.

KH informed Student Council that she was currently working with the University to embed a two week grace period on all of their accommodation, so that students were able to change accommodation if necessary having had experienced it.

To work on the above.  

JR asked which Councillors were willing to attend events at SU venues to run ‘shush’ campaigns and hand out lollies.  

LN, RK, HB, KK, JP and JH were up for this.

To organise the above.  

2.6. **Disabled Student Access to the Drama Studios** – To discuss the access problems caused by people parking outside the entrance to
RK and HB informed Student Council that the parking situation at the College Road campus was seriously affecting a disabled student who studies Drama, with cars parked in such a way that he cannot access the drama studio at all. They informed Council that recently he had managed to get into the studio, but that someone had parked inconsiderately whilst the session was on and was then trapped in the studio. They were also concerned that the same issue may be affecting other students in other areas of the University.

JR informed them that disabled students were facing similar issues all over campus. He encouraged them to continue gathering evidence and agreed to work with them on it.

To work on the above.

2.7. No Platform Policy Revisited – An adapted policy as discussed at the previous meeting. (Liat Norris)

As this issue had been discussed previously, the Chair started the discussion with an indicative vote on whether to accept the motion as policy:

Yes: 14
No: 1
Abstained: 2

After a discussion one amendment was made, to add point number 4 under the ‘what’ section, which read:

4. However, this policy does not override any regulatory guidelines.

The motion was then unanimously approved.

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<th>Representation</th>
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<td>LN requested the attendees of the recently attended meetings was included on the agenda.</td>
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<td>To carry out the above.</td>
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<td>JR informed Student Council that the Board of Governors were happy for two officers to attend their meetings from now on, rather than one.</td>
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<th>Any Other Business</th>
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<td>Student Council read and approved RW’s letter regarding Blackboard. This was now to be sent to the University.</td>
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<th>Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting</th>
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<td>The next meeting of Student Council is scheduled to take place at 6pm on Monday 16th April in Students’ Union Space, Stafford.</td>
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