



## University of Suffolk Students' Union

### Student Council Agenda

March 30th ,2022

To be held in the Hold Lecture Theatre and via zoom

**Attendees:** Shannon, Pilsworth Laura, Bilverstone, Aliyu Muhammad, Bernard Harrison, Maya Collins, Patrik Sramka, Gabor Janos Bajnoczi, Ceri Archer, UWUGIAREN NOSAKHARE, Emma Stevenson, Bibi Haukim, Ben Davidson, Daniel Betts, Emily Kilkenny, Dina Bedwell, Anna Girling, Melanie Stridenoble, Kym Older, Dearbhla Berry, Claire Holland, Sarah Evans, Bronwen Swift, Bradley Allsop, Jessica Howard, Jack Cater, Alex Gooch, Jessie Backhouse, Toni Harvey, Amber Atkinson, Robert Grey, Henry Kiddy, Tim Cater, Bianca Pintilli, Molly Macloughlin, Callum Childs, Ola Adepitan

**Apologies:** None

**Chair:** Shannon Plisworth

**Minutes:** Tim Cater

#### 1. Welcome/ How the meeting will work

**Chair:** Introduced the new minute taker and a reminder to state your name and course before speaking.

For those joining online, a reminder to put yourself on mic to speak. If you need to ask a question, then please use the message account, or indicate by typing if you wish to speak in person.

We will be running polls via Zoom to log votes from online attendees.

Welcome to people attending in person and a reminder to all to keep topics on point and brief.

#### 2. Announcements

##### The elections for the new Student Officers

**Bradley:** The elections for the new Officer Team for the academic year 2022/23 have now concluded and the new Team has been introduced. They will start their new roles on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Congratulations to the new Team of Officers, who are all fantastic candidates and ran great campaigns.

A reminder that there are still four officer positions available: Part-Time Officer, Post-Graduate Officer, Bury Campus Officer, and East Coast Officer. These roles are to be filled via bye-elections, held during September or October-unless the relevant motion on today's agenda is passed. Please can you let me know of any interested candidates for these vacant positions.

**Training courses:**

**Gergana:** An introduction to the British Sign Language course have been completed. Please ask attendees for feedback on how these went. Due to demand, an additional course is open to start on the 26.04 and finish on the 14.06. To gain a certificate you need to attend all but one session, but there is a course charge, if people do not attend.

The Summer Ball: This is the biggest event in the Students Union year and is being held at Trinity Park, just outside of Ipswich, on the 13.05. It is a beautiful venue with lovely grounds with a very nice menu. The SU has great and exciting entertainment plans for the event, and we hope to see everyone there.

The ball is open to all students, with the option of purchasing a +1guest ticket. Also, staff and the Alumni of 2020/21 can attend. There is a link in the chat to further information and details provided on the SU website. If you have any further questions regarding the event, please Gergana.

**Hiring the new CEO**

**Alex Gooch:** The closing date for applications for the interim CEO is the 08.04, with an interview date of the 21.04. Alex expressed his thanks for all the work that Sarah, the current CEO, has done for the SU and asked for a formal acknowledgement of thanks for her work and overseeing all the changes that have taken place, as she will be much missed.

**Chair:** Acknowledged there were no formal objections to the formal vote of thanks.

**Bradley:** The SU is currently advertising for a new interim CEO. If anyone knows of someone or themselves are interested in the role, then let him know.

**Robert Grey:** Asked Bradley to explain what the role of the CEO was.

**Bradley:** Explained that the role of the CEO is provide strategic direction for the SU and oversee the work of all the departments within the SU. They report to the Trustees of the SU.

**Give it a go Trampolining:**

**Jessie:** This activity will take place on the 11.05, between 6-8pm. The event ties in with Mental Health Week being held at the University and is free event for any who wish to attend. It will take place in the sports hall at Suffolk New College and a quarter of the hall will be set aside for trampolining and another quarter for another, as yet decided, activity to run alongside this.

### 3. **Approval of January/February minutes and Presidents reports from February**

**Bradley:** Confirmed that as quorum for the meeting had been reached voting on previous minutes and the motions on today's agenda can proceed. Clarification was provided on why both January's minutes and February's Presidents reports were being voted on; this was due to an insufficient quorum being obtained at the previous council meeting.

**Chair:** Asked if there were any questions regarding the previous minutes, but there were none.

Results as follows:

January minutes

Accept 22

Reject 0

Abstain 0

February minutes

Accept 22

Reject 0

Abstain 0

#### **4. Motions & Actions Update**

##### **Good Night Out Training**

**Bradley:** The venues Wiff Waff and Three Wise Monkeys have cancelled the training offered, due to staffing issues. However, it has been completed by both Vodka Revs and the Cult. Feedback on the training from the Cult was positive.

**Robert Grey:** Enquired as to whether there any feedback from Vodka Rev's on the training.

**Bradley:** He will try and find out and report back.

##### **Sports Fees**

**Ola Adepita:** He was not sure what was discussed at a previous meeting, but he had heard from some students there was a possibility that sports activities would be free next year and would like some clarity on whether this was the case.

**Jessie Backhouse:** Explained that, at present, all sports activities are chargeable. However, she referred to the manifesto on which Meg was elected, which included the policy of free social sports, and they hope to enact this from September. However, membership fees would still apply for competitive sports, such as those that involved participation in BUCS fixtures. This was because BUCS sports involved fees, transport costs and kit expense. The exact details of the distinction between those sporting activities that were social or competitive would be looked at from September.

**Ola Adepita:** Asked Jessie for clarification on whether the social aspects of competitive sports would be regarded as being free.

**Jessie:** Explained that she will need to work with Meg on the exact details of the distinction to be made between social and competitive sports, but this will be looked at for the start of Sept

## **Officer Reports: February**

### **a) Presidents Education Report**

**Chair:** Asked if there were any questions on the Presidents Education February report and proceeded to ask Council to vote on their approval.

Results as follows:

Accept 21

Reject 0

Abstain 0

### **b) Presidents Activities and Wellbeing report**

**Chair:** Asked if there were any questions on the Presidents Activities and Well Being February report.

**Calum Childs:** Enquired about when plans for the SU Green space were going to be announced.

**Bradley:** More details on the plans will be forthcoming in the March reports.

**Chair:** Proceeded to ask Council to vote on their approval of the Presidents March report.

Results as follows:

Accept 19

Reject 1

Abstain 1

## **5. Motions**

### **a. Motion to alter by-election dates**

**Bradley:** Outlined the impact of the motion on SU democratic processes. It was explained that the current Bye Law in relation to Bye-Elections states a specified time-during the first Semester in September or October-to hold these. However, the proposed motion would allow the DPC to choose to hold bye-elections at any time between the end of the Officer elections and the start of the first Semester in September or October.

**Chair:** Asked if Council had any questions regarding the proposed motion.

**Emily Kilkenny:** Raised the issue of the importance of enough notice being provided for when bye-elections are held.

**Bradley:** Confirmed that any notice given would be as per any bye-election run at the SU.

**Emily Kilkenny:** Asked whether the DPC could make it clearer how much notice could be given and suggested if a timeframe could be introduced for when the DPC make announcements for the holding of a bye-election.

**Bradley:** Confirmed that a minimum notice requirement could be inserted into the motion, but it would require someone to propose this.

**Emily Kilkenny:** Confirmed she proposed an amendment to the motion for a minimum timeframe for notice to be given.

**Bernard Harrison:** Enquired as to how long exactly this timeframe would be.

**Bradley:** Explained that this would be for Student Council to suggest what they thought was reasonable.

**Bernard:** Suggested one month for a minimum notice period.

**Robert Grey:** Agreed that a minimum notice period would ensure the motions tool would be used appropriately.

**Emily Kilkenny:** Agreed that one month seemed fine.

**Robert Grey:** Suggested that keeping to traditional dates was a good idea and, when you hold snap elections, it is nice to have plenty of warning.

Vote on the amendment to motion a)

Results of the vote as follows:

Accept 22

Reject 0

Abstain 0

Motion a) Vote with amendment

**Bradley:** Explained that in his capacity as the Democracy and Representation Coordinator, it was his job to ensure that the notice of bye-elections would be announced through the usual channels, such as the SU Website, according to the normal timelines for holding these.

**Chair:** Asked if there were any questions on motion a) as a whole.

In the absence of any further discussion, Council proceeded to vote.  
Results of the vote as follows:

Accept 21

Reject 0

Abstain 0

### **Motion b) Motion to enhance partner student representation**

**Bradley:** Provided an outline of the context behind the motion and its impact on the Student Union. He explained the previous Council motion that was designed to address the membership status of those students who are registered at other partnership institutions. Under this motion today those partner institutions where students qualify for full membership would gain a Campus Officer.

**Alice (DPC):** Suggested an adaptation to the wording of the motion to make it clearer that when new University partnership institutions were created, a new Campus Officer was automatically created.

**Bernard Harrison:** Proposed the amendment to the motion.

**Emily Kilkenny:** Seconded the amendment.

**Chair:** Asked if there were any questions regarding the amendment to the motion.

Vote on the amendment to motion b)

Results of the vote as follows:

Accept 20

Reject 0

Abstain 2

**Chair:** The Council meeting will now move onto vote on motion a) with amendment and asked if there were any questions people had.

**Emily Kilkenny:** Announced that she had to leave the meeting but was happy for any future votes to record her being in favour.

**Ola Adepitan:** Asked if Bernard Harrison could offer his rationale for proposing the motion.

**Bernard Harrison:** Responded by saying that there was a distinction between the different types of SU membership but felt Bradley would be better at explaining the purpose behind the motion.

**Bradley:** Provided an explanation of the distinction between full student membership and associate membership at partner institutions and the context behind the need to clarify the position of campus officers representing students with full membership.

**Ola Adeptian:** Asked Bernard to confirm if those was the reason for him proposing the motion.

**Bernard Harrison:** Confirmed that this was the case.

Council proceeded to vote on motion b)

Results of the vote as follows:

Accept 20

Reject 0

Abstain 2



## **6. March Reports**

**Alex Gooch:** His manifesto was completed, and he was happy to have been re-elected. He has been at the National Union of Students conference in Liverpool.

**Chair:** Asked if Council had any questions or comments regarding the reports. None recorded.

**Robert Grey:** He was happy to accept the reports and saw no issues with these.

**Callum Childs:** Enquired as to when the consultation on the development of the Green Space would begin.

**Bradley:** This was a question for Meg as President of activities and wellbeing to respond to and would ask her to do this.

Vote on President of Activities and Well Being March report

Results of the vote as follows:

Accept 20

Reject 1

Abstain 1

**Bradley:** Confirmed that the March report was accepted.

Vote on Presidents Education March report

**Chair:** Asked if Council had any questions or comments on the report. None recorded.

Results of the vote as follows:

Accept 19

Reject 0

Abstain 1

**Chair:** Confirmed that Alex's March report was accepted.

## **7. Any Other Business**

**Callum Childs:** Asked what the University was doing to promote career opportunities outside of Suffolk, as he felt there was too much focus on employment within the county.

**Bianca Pintilli:** Disagreed that there was a lack of focus on wider opportunities. She explained that within the Social Sciences, students received lots of information on opportunities for career options and felt that Callum's experience may have something to do with the type of course he was on.

**Callum Childs:** Acknowledged that the experience of the School of Technology might be different to the partnership opportunities, which students in other schools may find.

**Ola Adeptian:** There were lots of companies offering opportunities out there. He had spoken with Alex Gooch on this matter and Ola recognised that it was harder than it seems to establish partnerships; It was an ongoing process, and this was something Alex was trying to achieve.

**Bradley:** He will put the above issue to Alex Gooch to get a response on what more can be done.

## **8. Dates of next meeting**

**Annual General Meeting** - 27th April (Hold lecture theatre and via zoom) -

**Next Student Council meeting** - May 25th, 2022 (Hold lecture theatre and via zoom)

**Bradley:** In order to encourage as much attendance as possible at the AGM, he will organise refreshments. He asked Council attendees to do what they can to encourage fellow course members to attend the AGM.