



## University of Suffolk Students' Union

### Student Council Agenda

December 9<sup>th</sup> , 2022

Held in A001, and via Zoom

#### Attendees:

Sam Clark (SC; Chair), Bradley Allsop (BA), Alex Gooch (AG), Amber Spalding (AS), Shannon Pilsworth (SP), Jamie Steele (JS), Nicola Robinson (NR), Sharon Fullilove (SF), Joe Lockwood (JL), Julie Shooter (JSH), Aaron Riley (AR), Jamie Lea (JLE), Luke Mayo (LM), Gabor Janos Bajnoczi (GJB), Eloise Vine (EV), Ben Davidson (BD), Kym Older (KO), Suzie Bowie (SB), Celine Strange (CS), Robert Grey (RG), Boroji Rich (BR), Emmanuel Afolabi (EA), Calum Childs (CC)

**Minutes:** Amber Spalding

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

**SC:** [Elected Chair] chairs council, outlining procedures/rules for meeting.

#### 2. Elections

**BA:** Recruiting 1 more student for DPC - 4/5 posts currently filled.

**RG:** Nominates himself for the role.

**BA:** Suggests running the election for DPC outside of council, as another student – who couldn't attend this meeting – has expressed interest in this role. But encourages RG to send a supporting statement.

**Action point – BA to put this on next months' agenda.**

#### 3. Announcements

**AG:** Cost of Living update – next free dinner is on December 13<sup>th</sup> , 6-7pm, SU social space. Encourages students to utilize the free food opportunities.

**SC:** Christmas closures: 23<sup>rd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Jan – students to contact security/safeguarding if needed.

#### **4. Approval of minutes from the last meeting**

Council approves previous minutes (both online and in-person contributions)

#### **5. Motions & Actions Update**

**AG:** Action points from previous minutes. Gives brief update on UCU strikes. SU have created FAQ's on website, have liaised with university and have promoted via social media.

**AG:** Re Art's Building entrance, AG has contacted Estates to organise meeting on this and other issues. SU are also looking into the possibility of student cycle scheme.

**RG:** Have you spoken to cycle hire charity?

**AG:** The SU have the bikes already, to use. But can have wider conversation with Activities Manager.

#### **6. Reports**

##### **a. President Education report**

**AG:** Continuing 'Free Food for Thoughts', per his manifesto.

**AG:** Regarding COL crisis, he is continuing to lead and work with SU and Uni, regarding hot drinks, clothes event, etc. Tom Hunt's letter to the House of Commons (detailing he and Alex's discussion and approach to COL) has been sent and is awaiting response.

**AG:** Recently joined Ipswich Central Taskforce and are adding new safety regulations/support to the agenda. How can we make people feel safer when walking around university/Ipswich?

**SC:** Opens the discussion to council.

*Will free dinners continue next semester?*

**AG:** They will be around until March (at some point) but will have to check. After this date, we currently don't have the budget for.

**Vote for president report: Approved, with one abstention.**

## **b. Board of Trustees report**

**AG:** Since May, we have supported the CEOs in negotiating our largest block grant from the University in recent history, approved a staff restructure and pay review that took into consideration our plans for growth and the cost of living crisis, began to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the University which defines how we work together and remain critical friends, and updated all of our existing staff policies.

**AG:** We have also had a chance to review the needs of the Board and the SU following several Trustees resigning due to other commitments. With that in mind, alongside the outcomes of recent strategic and democracy reviews, the Board have approved the recruitment of a Turnaround Board. This will consist of a larger Board of Trustees who will work with us for a year to navigate further improvements to the SU, which will consist of specialists and students, to build the infrastructure the SU needs to meet the growing demands and ambitions of our members and those of the University.

## **7. Motions**

**SC:** *Why write a motion?* Motions set the direction and priorities of the students' Union. It's your chance to tell the SU what matters to students you represent, and what big changes you want to see on campus. Past examples include gender neutral toilets in campus, extended library hours, neutral position on UCU strikes, etc.

## **8. Policy about to lapse**

**BA:** The oldest policy we have is from February 2021, so we will need to review this in the new year. To add to next agenda.

**AG:** The policy up for review is amending block learning – which was raised by our old, Students with Caring Responsibilities Officer

**NR:** Do policies need to be changed often?

**BA:** First time this has happened before in council [a new procedure].

**JSH:** How long before the meeting do motions need to be handed in?

**BA:** A week before, so we have enough time to get the relevant correspondence out.

Action point for February – When the agenda goes out, list which policy is being discussed, so council have prior knowledge.

## **9. Items from last Annual General Meeting**

### **a. Minutes from 2021 AGM**

**AG:** Any student can attend at AGM yearly – held in April 2021, but didn't reach quoracy.

**17 in favour of minutes, 4 abstentions.**

### **b. UOS SU Affiliations list**

**AG:** This refers to organizations that we are affiliated to, as an SU, and are composed of various national bodies.

**RG:** Has our SU had issues with NUS?

**AG:** We never disaffiliated with NUS. Went to the conference in April – another upcoming in March – but overall, wasn't happy with the event. Some of the decisions were not democratically lead, but he noted the value they do provide us with, and support as a small uni.

## **10. Any Other Business**

**JS:** Raises query of motion that he has raised prior to council.

**BA:** Suggest this is raised as an emergency motion.

**JSH:** Has been contacting Julie McCloud re this, so is pleased for it to be raised.

**JS:** Lots of nursing strikes going on – Royal College of Nurses, for dispute over wage, working conditions, not being able to give good patient care. Dates: 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> December, at present.

**JS:** Suggests that perhaps we can raise an awareness on this – why are nurses going on strike? As students, we cannot strike on this matter (and some aren't aware of this).

**JSH:** Was told that placement hours could not be obtained in these two dates, but there was no say on this (i.e., can we choose not to strike). Has contacted course lead – Heather Rugg and has been told that the universities in this area (UOE, UEA + UOS) have collectively agreed to strike.

**JSH:** NSFT have said they are NOT going on strike, so this will not affect students [they can go into placement], but the hours will not be logged.

**JS:** There has been mixed communication on whether students can or cannot attend placement on these strike days. Students aren't qualified to go on strike, but if employed by NHS and Royal College of Nurses, they can.

**AG:** What do you want us as an SU to do? Are we putting on supportive events, or do you want the SU to be 'physically' present.

**JS:** The SU to be part of the event and support students.

**BA:** Unfortunately, we can't quorate anymore, so can only do an indicative vote. 18 for, 2 abstain.

**To Action - Need to check by-laws whether we can vote on this emergency motion either by email or the following meeting.**

**11. Date of next meeting – January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**