

Student Senate – Minutes

Tuesday 7th November 2023 5pm – Zoom

Attendees:

Committee Members

Rebecca Hardy (Chair)
Angie Flores Acuña (SU President)
Micaela Panes (VP Postgraduate)
Deio Siôn Llewelyn Owen (VP Welsh Language)
Alex Meers (VP Heath Park)
Noah Russell (VP Undergraduate)
Madison Hutchinson (VP Societies & Volunteering)
Hannah Pageau (Students with Disabilities Officer)
Trystan Gwennap (Ethical and Environmental Officer)
Daisy Tipping (Womens' Officer)
Sweezel D'Souza (Mature Students' Officer)
Aby Anderson-Peled (Student Senator)
Amelia Hamilton (Student Senator)
Anna Kiddier (Student Senator)
Gabriela Dimitrova (Student Senator)
Gokula Krishnan Kelambakkam Rajendiran (Student Senator)
Maria Pollard (Student Senator)
Shane Toner (Student Senator)
Siniha Debroy (Student Senator)
Sushama Swathi (Student Senator)
Tanisha Kohli (Student Senator)
Raashi Khanna (Student Senator)
Zohaib Tahir (Student Senator)
Catrin Parry (Student Academic Rep)

Jack Morewood (Observer)

Staff

Tali Atvars (Head of Student Voice and Advice, Info Point)
Hannah Fatkin (Deputy Head of Student Voice)
Sophie Loudon (Democracy and Projects Coordinator)
Cymen Cyf (Translation Services)

Standard Items	
Welcome	Rebecca Hardy (Chair) welcomed attendees to the meeting and explained the agenda voting process to all attendees and talks through the agenda. The Chair also provided reminder to attendees of the importance of respecting all opinions.
Minutes of previous meeting	RH (Chair) went through the minutes page-by-page asking for any amendments. RH (Chair) highlighted the error in the agenda with incorrect names on p.7.

	<p>Page 2</p> <p>Micaela Panes (VP Postgrad) asked if amendment could be made to reflect that she acted as Vice Chair (VC) in the last meeting.</p> <p>Angie Flores Acuña (SU President) raised an issue with her second surname not containing the correct accent.</p> <p>No issues raised for pages 3,4 or 5.</p>
Students' Union Submitted Items	
Item 4: Election of Vice Chair	<p>RH (Chair) explained the role of VC and invited members of Student Senate to put themselves forward for position of Vice Chair.</p> <p>Maria Pollard and Tanisha Kohli put themselves forward and were invited to speak for 60 seconds explaining why they should be elected as Vice-Chair.</p> <p>RH explained the voting process in further detail and reminded attendees to complete their voting card.</p>
Students Union Budget	<p>Angie (SU President) presented the Students' Union budget.</p> <p>Angie (President) outlined the headline figures. Including reduction of budget of just under £200,000. Angie explained this is part due to inflation and increases in costs.</p>
Report from Trustees	<p>Angie (President) explained the role of a trustee and who they are, then provided a verbal update on behalf of the trustees.</p> <p>Angie (President) provided an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open letter sent to the Vice Chancellor over summer to demand refunds for disruption from UCU strikes. • Campaign ran to ensure students were aware of the deadline for strike disruption complaints (email sent to all students and use of social media) • Implementation of new postgraduate (PG) teaching contracts for PG students who teach, a campaign run by Michaela Panes (VP PG) to ensure all PG students knew what this meant for them, and the new rights held. • Welcome packs delivered to around 500 flats to help communication between new students • Food festival, silent cinema and escape rooms held as part of Freshers Fortnight • Micaela (VP PG) ran event to engage PG students with over 300 attendances • Alex Meers (VP Heath) ran specific Heath student events with over 300 attendances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 21,600 attendances at the Freshers Fairs beating previous attendance records. Claire Morgan (Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student experience) and Wendy Larner (Vice-Chancellor) also in attendance. • Black History Month was run in collaboration with the African Caribbean Society. Students were asked what change they would like to see; a commitment will be kept throughout the year with the next event Afrogene on 20th November • Noah Russell (VP Undergraduate) also launched the Harm Reduction Drug survey which gained around 200-300 responses. Noah (VP UG) confirmed 300 responses so far via chat. • Madison Hutchinson (VP Societies and Volunteering) led Pink Week • Madison (VP Societies and Volunteering) also relaunched Clean Up Cardiff • Housing and Wellbeing fair was also held. Wellbeing was added to ensure students know what support systems are in place. • Deio Siôn Llewelyn Owen (VP Welsh Language) started Movember campaign in collab with other social groups • Sober Socials week starting 13th November • Alex Meers (VP Heath Park) working on NHS Bursary and Placement experience with some students for Heath Students • Event with Wendy Larner (Vice-Chancellor) run which was well attended • In December Winter Wellbeing will be led by Georgia Spry (VP Sports) and Madison (VP Societies and Volunteering)
Questions	<p>RH (Chair) invited members of Student Senate to ask questions with regards to trustee report and budget.</p> <p>No questions are asked at this point. RH (Chair) reminded students that if they do have any question to email the Sabbatical Officers.</p>
Item 7: Appointment of external trustee	RH (Chair) invited members to read the paper outlining the recommended re-appointment of an external trustees.
Submitted Items	
Item 8: Lapsing Policies	RH (Chair) explained there were no lapsing policies for this meeting.
Item 9: Amendment to by-laws	<p>RH (Chair) provided a reminder of how motion debate works. RH (Chair) explained the bye-law amendment to be discussed. RH (Chair) further explained that an amendment was submitted to motion and accepted by the proposer.</p> <p>RH (Chair) invited Jack Morewood (Proposer of amendment) to</p>

speak on the proposed amendment of bye-law 4.

For

Jack (Proposer) outlined the intentions of the amendment and provided context of the previous decision by Student Senate.

Against

RH (Chair) invited Senate members to speak against the motion should they wish to. RH (Chair) invited Noah (VP UG) to speak.

Noah (VP UG) explained he understands the need for accessibility and does not wish to raise issue of costs as he does not believe this should be a barrier to accessibility. He argued that there may be issues of maintaining democratic validity.

For

RH (Chair) opened the floor to anyone else wishing to speak for the motion.

Hanna Marie Pageau explained that this is standard with the National Union of Students (NUS) and that this is the only organisation out of 15 organisations she is a part of to not offer this style of AGM. Hanna reiterated that the practice outlined in the amendment should be the bare minimum.

Against

Noah (VP UG) explained that they will ensure virtual attendance and voting by proxy.

For

Micaela (VP PG) spoke for the motion outlining that the amendment is as positive as not everyone will have access to someone who can vote by proxy for them. Also outlined how she understood Noah's concerns and the need to protect AGM.

Alex (VP Heath) highlighted the barriers faced by Heath Park students on placement, part-time students, parents, carers, and students with Disabilities.

Against

Noah (VP UG) clarified that you will not need to know anyone at the AGM to vote by proxy as they have amended the system. Does not believe the amendment is well written enough to bring these changes forward.

For

Hanna outlined the lack of sense of disability justice that comes

	<p>out of democratic process where disabled people are not included.</p> <p>Against Deio (VP Welsh Language) spoke against the motion.</p> <p>Summary RH (Chair) passed over to Jack for a final summation of the motion and provides a reminder that no new information can be given.</p> <p>Jack outlined he gratitude for everyone that spoke in favour and gave thanks to Noah's for his concerns against it.</p> <p>Vote RH (Chair) thanked everyone for the discussion and reminded everyone to vote via their voting card.</p>
Any other business	
AGM	RH (Chair) reminded members that the AGM will be held on the 23 rd November at 5:30pm
Next Meeting	Next meeting 5 th December at 5pm
MEETING ENDED	
VOTING RESULTS Minutes from previous meeting: Approved Election of Vice-Chair: Tanisha Kohli Appointment of External Trustee: Approved Amendment to bye-law 4: Approved	