



Student Council Minutes

For the meeting: Thursday 28 January – 6:30-8pm

Present:

Jacques Le Chevallier
Zher Tan

Chair of Student Council
Chairs aide - DSC

Jamie Cross
Steph Harris
Max Austin

Equality, Liberation and Access Officer
Sport and Student development Officer
Undergraduate Education Officer

Izzy Green
Benji Staples
Ann O'Malley
Dani Glazzard
Ryan Bird

Minutes
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

There were 28 voting members in attendance and 1 observers

1. Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at **18:36** and announced that the meeting was **inquorate**.

2. How Student Council works

Chair explained what student council is, who student council consists of and how the cards work.

(Voting test to test anonymous electronic voting x 2, both worked)

Safe space policy was explained

3. Officer updates:

Laura

> read by Steph

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- > Started research on part-time students
- > Internal audit of departments for PGs who teach
- > Making PG network more sustainable

Steph

- > Get active programme - 400 participants
- > Encouraging participation in Varsity
- > Working with University on sport exercise and health strategy
- > 3rd SLC next week - articulating skills gained
- > Feb is give it a go month, gives chance for taster sessions

Sarah

- > Read by Jamie
- > Time to Talk next week, 'Chat Off' talking about mental health, outside senate house
- > After party in AR2 bar on 5th with spoken word night
- > recruited for student support groups
- > looking for volunteers for bereavement and survivor networks
- > looking for organisers for mind your head month

Jamie

- > Balloon accreditation making sure Equality and Diversity is measurable in student groups
- > Input into University's E&D strategy on WP and BME attainment gaps
- > Going to look at support guides in March
- > Looking at having accommodation bursaries for University's WP strategy

Tom

- > Read by max
- > Democracy review – vote at AMM
- > Register to vote in upcoming mayoral elections, hustings
- > Looking at resources to make all student groups more accessible
- > Elections coming up for all roles
- > Community survey, conducting a survey on what issues students want to be represented on, will also be used in upcoming mayoral elections, attendants asked to fill in the survey

Max

- > Travel grants, secured £15,000 for travel for research projects, done through the library
- > 16th Feb launch of Richmond Lectures for cross-disciplinary lectures, 8 speakers all lectures are free and in the SU building
- > Research into extenuating circumstances, QAA has postponed this research so opportunity for students to input into future

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> Exam scripts to be returned in certain schools; Politics & IR, Geography

4. Motions

Motion 1 - Increase the availability of University resources to student groups

Speech for – Alexander Wilson

Speech against – No one

Questions – None

Vote - Motion passes with 100%

5. Discussion topics:

Political figures and SU neutrality
by Tom, Led by Max Austin

- Important that SU is seen as neutral.
- Will not endorse one individual candidate.
- Student groups must submit external speakers' forms and adhere to safe space policy.
- Can be done through student societies.
- Comment: If someone cares about our opinions, surely they should be allowed to come in to talk to students. A. Student groups already can host candidates, but important that SU is not seen as politically biased.
- Q. Need 30 members to form a society, what if 30 people have a petition to let someone come if societies do not necessarily represent some candidates.

Democracy Review
Led by Jamie

- Went through the democracy review so far:
- Phase 1; collecting views and thoughts, interviewed 200 students, and consulted student leaders as well.
- Phase 2: looking at proposals and models that would fit feedback from students

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- Student council then looked at different models and a final model will be brought to the AMM to be voted on.
- Discussion opened to the floor in three groups, facilitated by Ryan Helen and Dani

Encouraging positive engagement with Bristol SU
Led by Ben Marshall

- Student leaders and student body increasingly do not get involved in the SU because they do not like 'interference' from the SU. Lack of presence of reps at Student Council from many student leaders, how can we better engage these students and student leaders?
- Floor: if things are going okay without the union then no need to involve the union if things are ticking over okay.
- All-student emails feel less personal; encourage personal touch to get them more involved.
- Reps should represent their peers and they should be pressed to take representation more seriously, compulsory to come to democratic meetings? Certain amount of attendance.
- Allow students to access registration and see which reps have attended, extra level of accountability.
- Easier platforms for reps to be held accountable.
- Hopefully Democracy Review should rectify some of these issues.
- Many societies do not recognise they have a vote, so need better communications - use myBristol in order to see what is coming up.

6. Notices:

Chair reminded of:

- AMM on 18th February
- Student Leader Conference- 4th February
- Elections open 29th January: nominate yourself and your friends
- Review of room bookings focus group
- Open Mic night tonight

7. Any other business

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The chair close the meeting at 19:56

Student Council Chair: bristolsu-council@bristol.ac.uk

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