



## Student Council Minutes

### For the meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June – 6:30-8pm

#### **Present:**

Jacques Le Chevallier  
Alex Rees

Chair of Student Council  
DSC

Laura Ho  
Jamie Cross  
Thomas Phipps  
Max Austin  
Steph Harris

Postgraduate Education Officer  
Equality, Liberation & Access Officer  
Union Affairs Officer  
Undergraduate Education Officer  
Sport & Student Development Officer

Dani Glazzard

Minutes

There were 45 voting members in attendance.

#### **1. Introductions**

The Chair called the meeting to order at **18:40** 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 voting cards work.

Safe space policy was explained

#### **3. Officer updates:**

The officers presented their end of year reports.

##### **• Tom Phipps, Union Affairs Officer**

- Reviewed our democracy and passed principles to make it more engaging
- Worked to make societies more accessible to international students/postgraduates
- Lobbied university for more space for student activities (& won!)
- Reviewed online/finance systems to make them work for students

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- Campaigned nationally against cuts to maintenance grants/increased tuition fees
- NEXT STEPS: Changes to democracy & systems will come into place in September
- **Laura Ho, Postgraduate Education Officer**
  - Conducted research into experiences of part-time students with recommendations for the University
  - Supercharged the Postgraduate Network, now with 1800 members and weekly events
  - Pushed for the liberation of our curricula, including training student reps
  - Fought for decent working conditions for postgraduates who teach
  - Worked on improving the course rep system for research postgraduates.
  - NEXT STEPS: Continuing to fight for Postgraduates at Bristol in a second elected term
- **Jamie Cross, Equality Liberation and Access Officer.**
  - Launching a new student group accreditation scheme for September
  - University is dropping grade requirements by two for low-performing schools
  - Trans students now better represented than ever before. Join the network!
  - Every first year student got an education about sexual consent
  - We fought, and continue to fight against the islamophobic Prevent Agenda
  - NEXT STEPS: Continue to fight against rent increases, which are not creating a fairer and more inclusive University.
- **Sarah Redrup, Student Living Officer (presented by Max Austin)**
  - Mind Your Head month raised awareness of mental health and wellbeing, students are now proudly talking about their experiences
  - We have lobbied and won greater provision for student counselling support
  - Students can now loan a bicycle for the academic year with Balloon Bikes
  - Don't Rent Yet raised awareness of student tenant rights
  - We supported students to take the time to find the right flatmates and a good quality home
  - NEXT STEPS: Demand for mental health and wellbeing provision continues to outstrip supply - we need to continue lobbying for resource

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- **Max Austin, Undergraduate Education Officer**
  - Campaigned for students to gain access to their exam scripts
  - Created the Richmond Lectures to promote cross-disciplinary debate
  - Researched the student experience of extenuating circumstances
  - Held our first Second Hand Book Fair
  - Led the student delegation as part of the Higher Education review of the University of Bristol
  - NEXT STEPS: Students will start to see the impact of the new UoB strategy, which gives students the opportunity to push for more accountability.
- **Steph Harris, Sport & Student Development Officer**
  - Continued to lobby to decrease the cost of participating in sport
  - Ensured the University supports physical activity to improve student wellbeing
  - Expanded and developed the Varsity series (and was victorious!)
  - Helped shape the SU's and University's personal development offer
  - NEXT STEPS: Improved committee member training will be introduced over the coming year
- There was a question to Thomas Phipps: How many motions were overturned by the Board of Trustees this year?
  - Tom did not know off the top of his head; he estimated 2-3 with a few more amended. He named 'Shut down Yarlswood' and 'Stop Turkeys War on the Kurds' and explained that the Union is not allowed to put resources into actions that do not directly benefit students as students as this contravenes charity law.

#### 4. Motions

##### **Motion 1: Guarantee Liberation Campaigns Have a Stall at Freshers' Fair**

Radhika Jhani spoke in favour of the motion.

No-one spoke against the motion.

Jamie Cross gave a point of information; the SU is already organising stalls for liberation networks at welcome fair.

The motion **passed**.

##### **Motion 2: Remove Group Grants membership fees requirement.**

William Williams spoke in favour of the motion.

No-one spoke against the motion.

The following question was posed: Will free societies, like Peace of Mind, be eligible for grants? Answer: Not currently, if this motion passes then it is dependent on how well you fill in the form!

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The motion **passed**.

**Motion 3: Access to support and funding from SHE.**

Richard Elston spoke in favour of the motion.

No-one spoke against the motion.

The motion **passed**.

**Motion 4: Convoy to Calais.**

Joanna Sparks spoke in favour of the motion.

No-one spoke against the motion.

Laura Ho proposed an amendment to add the words 'up to 10 students' into the motion action.

The amendment passed.

The motion was taken in parts.

The motion **passed as amended**.

**Motion 5: Safe Space Policy Reform**

Steph Harris explained the Safe Space consultation.

Jamie Cross spoke in favour of the motion.

No-one spoke against the motion.

Student Council requested that the Societies Exec and Liberation groups were consulted on the details of the Code of Conduct. Jamie Cross assured them this would happen.

There was a question about whether this could be used to justify Prevent – Jamie Cross assured Student Council that this motion did not conflict with the active policy on Prevent.

The motion **passed**.

**Motion 6: An Autonomous Trans Liberation Campaign**

Jamie Cross spoke in favour of the motion.

No-one spoke against the motion.

There was a question about how this would affect representation on the LGBT society committee; Jamie said that it would not affect the committee if they didn't want it to – they can decide whether or not they want to invite the Trans Officer.

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The motion **passed with a 2/3 majority.**

Action: Update the byelaws.

### **Motion 7: Sabotage the NSS!**

Zoe Backhouse spoke in favour of the motion.

No-one spoke against the motion.

There were questions that challenged the motion about how effective this would be as a strategy to challenge the TEF, whether this would take away a useful source of feedback for course reps and how the campaign would differentiate between YourBristol and NSS.

The motion **passed.**

### **Motion 8: Support the 'Cut the Rent' Student Campaign**

Stephen LeFanu spoke in favour of the motion.

No-one spoke against the motion.

The motion **passed.**

## **5. Notices:**

- DSC elections and NUS Referendum will take place in October.
- Voter registration for EU Referendum closes on 7 June.

## **6. Any other business**

The chair close the meeting at 7:55pm.

Student Council Chair: [bristolsu-council@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:bristolsu-council@bristol.ac.uk)

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