



Student Council Minutes

For the meeting: Monday 5th June 2017 – 5:30pm-7:30pm

Present:

Kerensa Phelps	Acting Chair of Student Council
Laura Ho	Postgraduate Education Officer
Jamie Cross	Union Affairs Officer
Zoe Backhouse	Undergraduate Education Officer
Stephen Le Fanu	Student Living Officer
Hannah Dualeh	Equality, Liberation, and Access Officer

There were 40 voting members in attendance.

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 17:45 and announced that the meeting was **inquorate**. The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced herself and the agenda.

2. What is Student Council?

The Chair explained how Student Council works, the members of Student Council and what happens in a meeting. The Chair then explained the Code of Conduct.

3. Officer Updates

Laura Ho provided an update on her work since the last Student Council which included campaigning to increase spaces for PGR students, preparing a funding proposal to introduce an International Students' Officer role, securing funding for the Postgraduate Network for next year, working to make the university's parental leave policy more inclusive, and writing an open letter to the Arts Faculty because their Postgraduate students who teach aren't paid fairly.

Zoe Backhouse provided an overview of her year's work. This included cutting course costs by securing printing credits for next year and cutting library fines, embedding liberation in education, working with the University to improve mental health provision, ensuring that students are given a named date by which to expect feedback to be returned, and leading a successful campaign to boycott the National Student Survey.

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Question 1: Will exam scripts now be returned in all faculties?

ZB: The pilot may be rolled out across the university.

Hannah Dualeh gave an overview of the last term. This included a focus on tackling sexual violence and harassment on campus by lobbying the university to improve its policies, securing funding for research into the BME attainment gap, supporting the student rent strike and affordable rent campaign, and developing self-care workshops.

Stephen LeFanu provided an update on his work. This included a review of the student experience in residences and the creation of a set of guiding principles for the university, supporting the campaign for affordable housing, leading the Mind Your Head mental health campaign, successfully lobbying the university to divest from fossil fuel and introduce an ethical investment policy, and supporting the new food market.

John House's update was given by SL. This year he has rebranded Bristol sport and made sports passes cheaper and more flexible, delivered the biggest Varsity ever, and developed existing projects such as This Bristol Girl Can.

Question 1: What is the status of the investigation around allegations of harassment at Varsity events?

SL: The University investigated and a disciplinary procedure has taken place.

Jamie Cross gave an update which included work on the Democracy Review, lobbying the university about moving the SU onto the precinct as part of the Tyndall Place redevelopment, improving university policies to better support trans students, and increasing the SU's fair access fund.

4. Democracy Review: Networks Terms of Reference

Speech for: Jamie Cross

No speech against.

Question 1: Should the ToR for Trans network specify certain members of committee to ensure inclusivity?

JC: This has been left for the network itself to decide.

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Amendment proposed: That the wording to section 6.3 be changed to specify that elections are held online to improve accessibility.

Amendment passed.

Question 2: Does the requirement to have a minimum of three open meetings a year make networks inaccessible?

JC: This requirement is merely a minimum – it doesn't limit societies to only having in-person meetings.

The meeting moves to a vote. The Terms of Reference are passed.

5. Motion 1: Anti-Slavery Commemoration

Speech for: Shakeel Taylor-Camara

No speech against.

Question 1: Can you explain the link between more information being available and how this might increase the number of BME students at Bristol?

ST-C: This wouldn't solve the problem, but by acknowledging its links to slavery, the University would be doing more to recognise its BME students and their experiences.

The meeting moves to a vote. **The motion passes.**

6. Motion 2: Effectively countering drug misuse

Speech for: Laura Ho

No speech against.

Question 1: Drug use in the UK has been declining since 1970 – do you have the figures to prove otherwise?

LH: I don't have the exact figures, but they aren't the most relevant part of this motion.

Question 2: How would this work in terms of Halls of Residence?

LH: Lobbying halls to change their approach so that education, rather than disciplinary action is used.

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The meeting moves to a vote. **The motion passes.**

7. Motion 3: Implement Ecosia search engine

This motion was withdrawn as its proposers weren't in attendance.

8. Motion 4: Keep Bristol venues open

Speech for: Jack Patterson

No speech against.

Question 1: Charging for events provides income for the university which subsidises rent, so it's not an unreasonable policy.

Respondent: University venues have separate conference and accommodation budgets, with the result that one cannot subsidise the other.

Question 2: Bearing in mind Bristol SU's charitable status and requirements, how does this motion directly improve students' experience?

Respondent: This does affect students as attendees and organisers of events.

Amendment proposed: Add the phrase 'Bristol SU affiliated student groups' so that it better fulfils the charitable requirements.

The meeting moves to a vote. **The motion passes.**

9. Motion 5: Stop masking the problem

Speech for: Sofia Doyle

No speech against.

The meeting moves to a vote. **The motion passes.**

10. Any other business

There was no other business and the Chair drew the meeting to a close at 7.15pm.

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