



Student Council Minutes

For the meeting: Tuesday 21st March 2017 – 6:30pm-8pm

Present:

Chante Joseph	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

There were 23 voting members in attendance.

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 18: 40 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. Motion 1: Make it policy to have specific accessibility information for events available upfront

Speech for: Zoe Backhouse

No speech against.

Question 1: Is it just for events at Bristol SU or is it for any events in any venues in the University or elsewhere?

ZB: I think the idea is to have guidance for all events and encourage student groups to have access information for their events.

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

4. Motion 2: Better careers support for Arts Faculty students

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Speech for: Martina Beleva

No speech against.

Amendment 1: Proposed by Hannah Dualeh

Speech for Amendment 1: Stephen Le Fanu

Stephen and Martina agree on new text for the motion – removing the amendment.

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

5. Motion 3: Fight Climate Change

Speech for: Morgan Hendy

No speech against.

Question 1: I'm not sure about the link between nationalisation, privatisation seems like it would be good for climate change.

Morgan Hendy: Everyone needs to use energy, energy is a basic human right, but when you have this oligarchy of the big six creaming off big profits poor people lose out. Of course with control obviously also comes regulation, so people don't just use as much energy as they want.

Question 2: I agree with point D on the purpose there but how is it realistic?

Morgan Hendy: Well I think it's quite a good goal for the future, most of the energy companies have been nationalised so it's not a fantasy. Public ownership is done in other countries today.

Question 3: I agree that the energy market is bust and it doesn't work in the consumer's favour, its bit of a clique isn't it, but how are you going to keep the lights on with just green energy? There's not the capacity at the moment.

Morgan Hendy: obviously I don't think that the person who wrote this motion hoped that power stations would be closed tomorrow. But I think if enough

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effort was put in then you can change the structure of energy consumption.

Question 4: How is the SU going to support the campaign?

Morgan Hendy: there are obviously quite a few green societies, I'm not sure exactly what the motion means by support but this goes into the remit of the full time officers so they'll get to see what the most effective support will be. It's about the Union saying we're supporting this, we're against the big six and for nationalisation, so it can provide some weight to any campaigning.

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

6. Motion: Canteen for lunch breaks

Speech for: Djen Kuhnel

No speech against.

Question 1: I didn't realise about the library, is the Hawthorns really going to be replaced with a library?

Jamie Cross: In the University strategy there is a plan to knock down the Hawthorns and replace it with a new library.

Stephen Le Fanu: I think there is a plan for a new student area in Senate House which should have some kind of food provision.

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

7. Officer Updates

Jamie Cross: Union Affairs Officer

- Spent last week out on campus getting people to vote – shout out to all the student leaders who spread the word about elections. We had a record breaking turnout of 7400 voters.
- Pushed for 7 campaigning days to go down to 4 and 4 voting days to go down to 3. It had a good impact on turnout and hopefully it helped with accessibility.

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- Jamie is working with the University on a Global Lounge that the University wants to build in Senate House.
- Jamie has also been working with John on group grants.
- The last meeting of the room bookings group is coming up soon so hopefully there will be some good solutions coming out of that.
- Jamie is starting work on a big summer event which they need help on – so [get in touch!](#)

Questions

Hari Sood (Chair of RAG): How many quorate student councils have there been this year?

Jamie Cross: one out of three.

Hari Sood: As the officer in charge of democracy I was wondering how much effort have you made to push this Student Council? I haven't seen much pushing of this. 7400 people voted and we could have pushed Student Council to them.

Jamie Cross: I think that's valid. 7400 can't vote here however so we do want to focus our message. I think we have done the same as previous years, I don't think we get many quorate meetings – though there were 300 students at AMM last year and only about a hundred this year and that does worry me. I wonder if maybe we are pushing too many messages at the moment. Sometimes in February, we are giving out like 5, 6 different messages at once.

Hari Sood: at one level of priority do you hold student democracy?

Jamie Cross: it is my number one priority but it's not everyone's, so there are part time officers doing campaigns and Varsity for example so there are lots of things going on.

Hari Sood: my feeling when I was a candidate was that students do care but they don't know, so I feel like if more energy was put in then and we made it something engaging and efficient then we'd get more people here.

Jamie Cross: Under the model next year there will be networks because Student Council is too broad. If someone's passionate about sport then someone can go to the Sports network rather than a broader meeting. And you can say the same for any topic that students care about.

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Student 1: I didn't know much about Student Council before coming but I've actually found it really interesting, my President asked me to come for the Balloon accreditation scheme.

Question 2: I think one of the things that makes it difficult to engage with is the website, it's not clear how the different democratic meetings operate. This is coming from someone who wants to engage with it and has looked through the by-laws and everything just because it's interesting. But getting hold of those things was much trickier than I expected. Especially with the democracy review and what is coming up next year, finding out what is changing is really difficult.

Student 3: isn't there a case for people to be able to vote online?

Jamie Cross: voting online increases accessibility but does take away being part of the debate. I think we could do it, but the discussion shouldn't be just can we do it or not.

Laura Ho: Postgraduate Education Officer

- Laura has done a survey of Arts PGRs social and study space and I'm going to be booking in a meeting with the Dean of Arts to discuss the results.
- The University is going to be opening a humanities hub which is a nice big tick for arts PGR space.
- Laura has started working on a bid for the full time international students' officer and I'm going to take that to the University and ask them for money.
- I've also been working on pastoral support for PGR students and lots of new things have been decided in this area including new student advisors in schools for PGR students.
- Internal things – working on a governance review for the SU, people strategy to improve the diversity in our staff workforce, supporting Zoe on the NSS boycott.

Questions

Michael Bolton (Chair of Societies Exec): where is the humanities space going to be and is it going to be just for PGs?

Laura Ho: I don't know much about it yet but I will keep you informed!

Hari Sood: is the TEF going to be linked to the NSS?

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Laura Ho: there was an amendment to the bill in the house of lords that asked for the delinking of the TEF from fee increases, it still needs to go back to the Commons and it is likely they will reject this change.

Zoe: the TEF is definitely still linked to the NSS, the Lords didn't change that. Students can use their course reps to feed back on their courses – the Course Reps have a google form that replicates the NSS questions. Students can also fill out the Bristol SU survey later this year.

Hannah Dualeh: Equality, Liberation and Access Officer (update from Zoe Backhouse)

- Hannah is sitting on a new race equality taskforce and attended the first meeting last week.
- Hannah is also supporting students gearing up for a rent strike with Stephen.
- Hannah is helping to write the University's access agreement, and is pushing for more financial support when students are studying and more representation for students from the north.
- Hannah has been leading on the BME attainment gap project – the survey for this project has had over 200 responses.
- Hannah has managed to secure breast feeding facilities for students as well as staff.
- With John Hannah has purchased pride laces to promote equality in sport at Varsity and all proceeds will go to charity.

No questions.

Zoe Backhouse: Undergraduate Education Officer

- All humanities students now have £5 printing credits, which is a pilot programme and will hopefully be rolled out to all students in September.
- Zoe has been working on hidden costs for Health Sciences students – including travel and equipment.
- Zoe has been working on a new model of personal tutoring for the University, to guide the £1 million investment the University has promised.
- The House of Lords voted to delink TEF with fees, and the NSS boycott was referenced as evidence of students being against the reform.
- Zoe spoke on a panel with senior management at the University on TEF, and learnt that the University is spending £30,000 to incentivise students to fill out surveys this year.

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- Zoe is getting students to write to Charlotte Leslie to ask her to vote for delinking fees.

Questions

Question 1: the wellbeing structure, is that what you have proposed or they have proposed?

ZB: it's a combined effort, we led a consultation on student support and there was also a staff consultation. Every Faculty will now have wellbeing advisors who won't be marking your work.

Michael Bolton: the system in law works quite well, the trouble is when they get a message from a student at 10pm on a weeknight evening and there's no one there for them – how are you going to make that work?

ZB: I completely agree – our line has been that pastoral care cannot be seen in isolation, it has to be a much wider University ethos and value that they resource and fund services for students.

Question 2: is personal tutoring linked to personal development planning?

ZB: Bristol futures will include an opportunity to meet with your personal tutor and have a personal development plan.

Jonathan Legg (Mature and Part Time Students' Officer): you mentioned Charlotte Leslie – are the other Bristol MPs on side?

ZB: Yes Thangam who is a whip has assured me that there will be a 3 line whip on Labour to support the amendment.

Stephen Le Fanu: Student Living Officer

- Stephen has been working on the halls side of the pastoral review – and overnight support was mentioned quite explicitly in this.
- Stephen has been in talks about increasing the wellbeing budget for the SU next year from £1000 to £3000.
- Started planning Mind Your Head – which will be a mix of events. Plan to have a panel about mental health and gender – around men and mental health and women's contraceptives. Another panel event might be around mental health and substances. The SU will hopefully be booking a puppy room as well.

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- Stephen has been supporting Cut the Rent, and had a pretty interesting meeting with Cut the Rent and Senior management at the University last week.
- The University is proposing a 3.5% rise in rents next year which is pretty poor. The SU will be supporting a rent strike next month.
- Talks are continuing with local funders about the possibility of a Bristol SU housing co-op or other kinds of affordable housing.
- Fossil fuel divestment – the student campaign has secured divestment and student reps will be on the investment panel every year.
- This Thursday is our first food market which will be by Physics.

Jonathan Legg: How can they justify sticking the rents up?

SLF: they've given us a very loose breakdown in costs, they've said some of it is being invested in a refurb programme. We asked for a lot more information but we haven't got it basically.

John House: Sport and Student Development Officer (update from Jamie Cross)

- John has mainly been working on Varsity, and last Saturday Varsity was launched with the boat race which Bristol won.
- Last week Ignition raised £14,000 which will pay for a new blood analyser for the hospital.
- Varsity events: Rugby on 30th, darts on 23rd, big Varsity event in a few weeks, and a big Score.
- In the last week John ran for re-election and won.

8. Any other business

There was no other business and the Chair drew the meeting to a close at 8pm.

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

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