



## **STUDENT VOICE AGENDA**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 2pm

The meeting is held online via Web-ex: The link will be available on SAUWS website at <https://www.sauws.org.uk/union/sauwsstudentsvoice/october2017/> in due course

### **1. Members Present**

### **2. Apologies**

### **3. Chair's Notice**

- a) Election will be held for SAUWS Disciplinary Committee

### **4. Minutes from last meeting and Matters Arising (minutes attached)**

- a) Matters of accuracy
- b) Matters arising

### **5. Items of Business**

- a) Ratification of Board of Trustees members (information attached)
  
- b) Motions (attached)
  - I. Policy Lapse
    - a. Votes at 16
    - b. Poppyscotland Appeal
    - c. Condemn the action of some at the NUS Demo 21.11.12
    - d. Right 2 Education Campaign
    - e. Auctions in aid of charity and SAUWS student groups
  - II. Demilitarise UWS
  
- c) SAUWS Disciplinary Committee Election

### **6. Any Other Competent Business**

#### 4. Minutes from last meeting

**STUDENT VOICE MINUTES** – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, 2pm.

The meeting is held online via Web-ex

*In the Chair – Ezra Wilson, Union Chair.*

##### 1. Members Present

Heather Armstrong	President of Societies and Citizenship (PoSC) and Senior Student Representative (SSR)
John Black	President of Education (PoE) and Second Court Representative (SCR)
Johnathan Cranstoun	President of Sport and Wellbeing (PoSW)
Lisa McCusker	President of Student Support (PoSS)
Emma Shotter	Disabled Student Officer
Kate Morrison	LGBT+ Student Officer
Cameron Stewart	Social Science
Stuart Aitken	Community Education
Ethan Wilson	Science
Alex Adeyemi	Business
Matthew Cameron	Society, politics and policy
Fabian Goldie	Computing
Hati Mutasa	PG Computer systems development
Gavin Bantges	Design and Engineering
Emma Hall	Media
Kerr Findley	Design and Engineering
Tommy Reid	Computing

##### In attendance

David Devlin	Membership Development Manager (MDM) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) – for items 5. a) and 5. b)
Claire Lumsden	Student Representation Co-ordinator (SRCo-ord)
Karl Henry	Marketing, Web & Communications Officer
Janine Hunt	Chief Executive Officer

##### 2. Apologies

Arnault Bembo	Education
Ross Bain	Accounting

A procedural motion is submitted by the President of Sport and Wellbeing under by-law 3 section 2, f,iii,2: that the agenda be re-ordered. This is seconded by Cameron Stuart.

Chair explains that as procedural motions take precedence over all other business, they allow a speech in favour of the motion

Speech for procedural motion is taken by PoSW: Requests that agenda item 5. b) Election of the Second Court Representative, be moved to before Minutes and Matters arising. Explains that this would allow time for members to consider their vote.

There is no speech against

Voice move to vote

*The procedural motion is carried.*

### **3. Chair's Notice**

- i. The Union Chair gives notice that motion 'Don't Exclude Trans+ Students from Sport' submitted to Voice has been withdrawn at the request of the proposer.
- ii. The Chair also gives notice that the election of the Second Court Representative (SCR) will take place in this meeting.

### **Election - Second Court Representative**

Union Chair invites the Deputy Returning Officer to explain how this election will work and how members can vote.

DRO explains that members are being asked to elect their SCR and that this will take place via the SAUWS website, candidates for which are all Sabbatical Officers save for President. DRO confirms that all candidates will give a one minute speech in support of their candidacy and that speeches are taken in alphabetical order by surname.

MDM requests that members visit the election page which will be open for voting for 15 minutes once all candidates have spoken. Adds that if any member has difficulty in voting to contact them. Voting remains open until the end of Motions debates.

Union Chair requests that all members present vote in the election. Upon attempting to vote some members noted that they had difficulty in accessing the voting page and some were unable to vote at all. The voting page was left open until the last agenda item (see below before AOCB).

### **4. Minutes and Matters Arising**

**a) Matters of accuracy** – There were no matters arising

**b) Matters arising**

Senior Student Representative reports back to Voice on the matter of interpretation of the constitution in regards to ratification of External Trustees.

SSR states that on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, they were asked to make a ruling regarding what would happen if Student Voice did not ratify the appointment of External Trustees. States that this question is complex and there are two main parts to it:

- What happens if there is no ratification vote at Student Voice
- What happens if there is a ratification vote that shows student voice voting against the appointment

SSR takes each part in turn:

#### **What happens if there is no ratification vote at student voice?**

If there is no ratification vote at student voice, for one reason or another, then the external trustees shall be allowed to act in their capacity as Trustees. It is not their fault, or the appointment committees, that such ratification has not taken place. This does not prevent

a ratification vote from taking place in the future, ideally however, such a vote should take place as soon as is reasonably possible after their appointment.

The ruling therefore is that Trustees who have not been ratified can act as trustees until such time as a ratification vote takes place. Such a vote should take place as soon as is reasonably possible after the appointment.

### **What happens if there is a ratification vote that shows student voice voting against the appointment?**

Trustees of a charity, hold the charity in trust for its members or service users. To that end it is my view that if a vote fails in the manner described above, then those subject to the vote would not have the trust of the members of the Charity.

The ruling on the matter is that if a ratification vote returns a result where Student Voice is against the appointment of the External Trustees, such a vote will mean that they are no longer trustees. This is because the External Trustees hold the charity in trust for our members and such a vote would suggest that the trustees do not have the trust of the Students.

There are no other matters arising.

## **5. Items of Business**

### **a) Ratification of External Trustees**

Union Chair explains that members will be asked to approve the appointment of the external members of the Board of Trustees and invites the SSR to explain the purpose and role of the Trustees. Members were given the opportunity to view the Trustee names before the meeting via the Agenda. The names proposed for ratification are:

Arlane Fleming – External Trustee

Allan Miller – External Trustee

Mark McRitchie – External Trustee

Samantha S.J Robertson – External Trustee

SSR states that the Board of Trustees are in place to assist the organisations governance, strategy and financial viability and to ensure that, as a charity, it works in the best interests of its members. Adds that as the Chair of the Board, all members have acted in the interests of the organisation at all times and when decisions have been made. Explains that External members have specific skills and knowledge which are helpful to the running of the organisation and are volunteers. Asks members to approve the appointment of the External Trustees.

Cameron Stuart speaks against ratification, states that this ratification should have happened at the start of the year and was removed, although a ruling has been made by the SSR, Voice shouldn't approve the External trustees as we don't know what decisions have been made as there are no minutes or reports.

It is requested by President of Education that a further round of debate take place, this is granted by the Union Chair

SSR speaks for ratification and reiterates that the Board are held responsible for the organisation and as the Chair of that Board feels that they have acted in the best interests of the membership.

PoE speaks against, states that as a member of the Board, they don't believe the Board have made the correct decisions at all times and would argue that as there has been no transparency with members as to what decisions have been made, this should be taken into account when voting.

Chair thanks members for their contribution and request that members now take a vote on the ratification of the External members of the Board of Trustees.

Procedural motion is submitted by PoE under by-law 3 section 2, f,iii,8: That a vote be taken by roll call. This is seconded by Cameron Stuart.

Speech for the procedural motion is taken by PoE: States that as there are staff members present at the meeting, it should be known how members have voted so that there is no confusion and ensure staff do not participate in voting.

Voice move to vote

*The procedural motion is carried*

A roll call vote is taken with results shown below.

<b>Host:</b>	David Devlin (internal)
<b>Number of attendees:</b>	20
<b>Poll:</b>	
<b>Type:</b>	Individual results
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, March 22, 2017
<b>Starting time:</b>	2:49 PM
<b>Actual Duration:</b>	1 minutes 29 seconds
<b>Time limit:</b>	5 minutes 0 seconds

**Q1.do you wish to ratify the appointment of the external trustees**

	Answers	Results	%
<b>a</b>	yes	2/20	10
<b>b</b>	no	9/20	45
<b>c</b>	abstain	6/20	30
	No Answer	3/20	15

Attendees	a	b	c
Heather Armstrong		•	
John Black (internal)		•	
Ezra Wilson (Union Chair)			•
Kate Morrison - LGBT+ Officer		•	
Karl			
Stuart Aitken			•
Ethan			•
Johnathan Cranstoun	•		
Lisa McCusker		•	
Alex Adeyemi		•	
Matt Cameron (VP Elect Societies & Citizenship)		•	
fabian goldie			
Hati Mutasa		•	
chief executive			
Cameron Stewart		•	
gavin bantges			•
Emma Hall			•
Kerr			•
Emma Shotter		•	
Tommy Reid	•		

✓Correct Answer

Union Chair declares that External Trustees have not been ratified by Voice.

## **b) Motions**

### **a) Enterprise and Entrepreneurship support**

Speech for is taken by Tommy Reid: States that this motion was brought forward to help support students who wish to start or develop their own business, explains that there is currently limited support for students who do not wish to or can't enter competitions which is unfair.

There is no speech against.

Voice move to vote

*The motion is passed*

### **b) Better offerings from UWS Canteens**

SRCo-ord explains that the submitter of this motion was not able to attend today due to placement activity, the speech for is therefore waived to any member of Voice.

Speech for is taken by PoE: States that the motion is simply asking for more options at the canteens and looking into getting microwaves which is something which can be done. Adds that it can be difficult to get food on campus later in the day and fully supports the motion.

Speech against is taken by SSR: States that SAUWS has cafés at each of the sites and would prefer students to utilise those services over the Canteen.

PoE requests a further round of speeches which is granted by the Union Chair

Speech for: PoE states that the motion is specific to UWS and we should be working with them to ensure students are being listened to.

Speech against: SSR reiterates that SAUWS should be improving and promoting its own services.

There are no further speeches

PoE summarises the motion

Voice move to vote

*The motion is passed*

### **c) An Accountable SAUWS**

Speech for is taken by Cameron Stuart: States that there have been several meetings of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee yet there are no minutes published, this is not a transparent organisation and the role of the Union Chair is to ensure that students know what is happening in a student led organisation.

SSR asks to make a point of information, this is granted by the Chair

SSR States that as the Chair of the Board of Trustees it is ultimately their responsibility to ensure minutes and reports are published in a reasonable timescale. Adds that they agree with the points of the motion and will work closer with colleagues to ensure information is given in a timelier manner. Thanks member for submitting the motion

There is no speech against

Voice move to vote

*The motion is passed*

Union Chair interrupts the agenda to enable the announcement of the SCR election results. DRO thanks members for voting and declares that Emma Shotter is elected as SCR for session 2017/18.

#### **6. Any Other Competent Business**

SSR wishes to express thanks to everyone who has participated in Voice over the year, also thanks the outgoing Sabbatical Officers for their work and contributions to the Association on behalf of students. All members share this sentiment.

Alex Adeyemi would like to know if the motion 'Don't Exclude Trans+ Students from Sport' is being discussed, Union Chair explains that this was addressed at the start of the meeting and the motion was removed at the request of the proposer as they felt unsafe discussing the motion.

Union Chair thanks members for attending and declares the meeting closed.

## 5. Items of Business

### a) Ratification for Board of Trustees Members

Student Voice is required under By-law 2 of the SAUWS Constitution to ratify the appointed members of the SAUWS Board of Trustees. The current appointed members are:

#### Student Members

Stuart Aitken

Saiful Alam Bhuiyan, Acim

Monica Reid

Ethan Wilson

#### External Member

Mark McRichie

#### Interim External Member

Professor Roddy Williamson

Student Voice is asked to approve these members.

### b) Motions

#### i. Policy Lapse

##### a. Votes at 16, Garry Quigley, President of the Students' Association

#### SAUWS notes:

1. That currently 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are denied the vote in public elections in the UK.
2. That the campaign to lower the voting age is supported by thousands of young people
3. across the UK and that the Votes at 16 Coalition consists of a wide range of youth and democracy organisations.

#### SAUWS believes;

1. 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen;
2. Lowering the voting age to 16, combined with strong citizenship education, would empower young people to better engage in society and influence decisions that will define their future;
3. People who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces should also have the right to vote.

#### SAUWS resolves;

1. To join the Votes at 16 Coalition;
2. To write to the Leader of the Council, local MPs, local MSP's and the local media to inform them of this decision and ask them to support the campaign;
3. To promote this policy through its communications;
4. To run activities to raise awareness of and support for Votes at 16 in the local area

**b. Poppyscotland Appeal, Stewart Brown, Ordinary Member**

**Council Notes:**

1. For nearly 90 years Poppyscotland has been providing life-changing support for Scotland's ex-Servicemen and women.
2. Servicemen and women are highly skilled professionals who, for a multitude of reasons often outwith their control, can find themselves in need of help when they leave the Armed Forces. This may come as a result of injury on the front line or as they adjust to civilian life after their military career is over.
3. Compared to their English and Welsh counterparts, veterans living in Scotland are: 10% more likely to become homeless; 8% more likely to suffer from mental health problems; 5% more likely to have financial problems; 5% more likely to have a criminal record; 3% more likely to suffer from alcohol problems.
4. During session 2011-12, Students Council passed policy to allow the Armed Forces to recruit on our campuses and in our Unions.
5. That the SAUWS recently published its Strategic Plan for 2011-2016 which includes the mission of contributing to and engaging with our local community.

**Council Believes:**

1. That the SAUWS already currently fundraise for other charities including Children In Need, World Aids Day and Cancer awareness.
2. That by getting involved in the Poppyscotland appeal we will be raising the profile of the UWS and the SAUWS to the wider communities at each of our campuses.
3. That during this year's (2012) Poppy appeal there wasn't much visibility of our students and staff wearing poppies.

**Council Resolves:**

1. For the Board of Trustees to encourage the UWS and the SAUWS to allow Poppyscotland collection tins and box of poppies to be placed at the Cafes of each organisation's campuses.
2. To mandate the SAUWS to raise funds and awareness for the Poppyscotland Appeal each year on each of our campuses.

**c. Condemn the action of some at the NUS Demo 21.11.12, Jack Douglas, Ordinary Member**

At the recent NUS Demonstration, down in London, a radical left wing of students protested strongly against NUS. Reasons for this consist of the timing and route of the demo and the amount of action NUS has taken, as well as the type of organisation NUS is. However the protest from some radical left students at the demo went to far. Hannah Paterson (The NUS UK Disabled Officer) writes an open letter, signed by NUS officials and student leaders all over Britain, detailing

"During the Rally at #Demo2012 a small number of individuals decided to voice their objection to the route march by shouting over workers, trade unionists and a woman talking of experiences of having to work in the sex industry in order to afford university. Following this around 10 people chose to further display their upset by occupying/having a strop on the stage. In order to have this little foot stamping display of masculine dissatisfaction they made the decision to trample over a disabled student using a wheelchair, they also hit a 6 year old boy in the face, and several others were kicked, hit and hurt in order for them to have their 5 minutes of (figurative) willy waving on stage."

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/hannah-paterson/open-letter-demo2012/551739578174163>

SAUWS will condemn these actions of these individuals and SAUWS trustees, present at the demo, will sign this open letter.

**d. Auctions in aid of charity and SAUWS student groups, Alastair Adamson, Sports President**

**Council Notes –**

1. That the auctioning of volunteers at events in aid of charity or to raise funds for good causes such as students groups are common across universities in Britain.
2. Such auctions (sometimes referred to as 'slave auctions') are done by all kinds of charities and organisations for good causes e.g. Children in Need, Comic Relief, Cancer Research and even the Whitehouse.

**Council Believes –**

1. Such events are done to raise money and awareness of good causes and are taken part in by volunteers wanting to raise money for charity or other good causes.
2. As a body that represents students from all groups of society, we should implement relative precautions during such events to make the event non-discriminatory and reinforce the good nature intended for these types of event.
3. That such events are a fun way for students to raise some money within their students union.

**Council resolves –**

1. Such events be referred to as 'Player or club (name of club) member auctions' when being advertised via any media used to promote the event by promoters and organisers.
2. The term 'slave auction' will not be used by any groups when promoting such events through SAUWS media channels (i.e. posters, facebook and newspapers etc.).
3. Charitable auctions of this nature are allowed to take place as part of student lead events or fundraisers.
4. All members taking part must be volunteers.
5. The length of time of purchase will be 2 hours maximum and the compare for the event will outline that the club members etc are not being bought for any sexual, discriminatory or demeaning acts.
6. Any person taking part reserves the right to refuse to participate at any point if they are not comfortable and will not be discriminated against if they take up this right, this will be made clear by the organisers.
7. When such events are planned, the groups planning such events must seek advice and confirm the above guidelines with a member of SAUWS welfare staff or a relevant sabbatical officer.

*NB from Minutes: Members ask for it to be noted that both BME members in the room voted against this motion please be aware of this when moving forward.*

**e. Right 2 Education Campaign, Jade McCarroll, Ordinary Member**

**SAUWS Notes:**

1. The Right to Education is a human right enshrined in Article 26 of the UN declaration of human rights.
2. The current situation in Palestine is one of military occupation resulting in severe movement restrictions for students and staff due to hundreds of Israeli army checkpoints, the apartheid wall, illegal settlements, areas of land completely closed to Palestinians and a network of Israeli-only roads.
3. The Right 2 Education (R2E) campaign, organised by students at BirZeit University in occupied Palestine, seeks to document research and raise awareness about the issues facing Palestinian students, teachers and the academic institutions under Israeli militant occupation and build an international movement in support of their rights.
4. That many other student associations across the UK are affiliated to the R2E campaign, as well as being “twinned” with Universities in Palestine.
5. That the president-elect plans to attend Palestine and also BirZeit University in the summer of 2013.
6. That very few students understand or know about the apartheid system being implemented within Palestine.

**SAUWS Believes:**

1. All people should have the Right to Education and for that right to be meaningful education must be; Accessible, Available, Acceptable and Adaptable as articulated by the UN.
2. That education under military occupation as in the Palestinian case fails these conditions and that the Israeli military occupation due to the physical barriers listed above denies, impinges and infringes on the Palestinians' Right to Education.
3. The R2E campaign is a grassroots and student-led campaign with no resource- related preconditions on affiliation and there will be no detriment to SAUWS's resources or associated risks by this affiliation.
4. UWS rightfully should pride itself on being an internationally engaged university and SAUWS therefore has a key role in helping the university promote equality, diversity, human rights and global justice.
5. In a globalised world those who are privileged enough to have their Right to Education should support the Right to Education in other parts of world and raise awareness of the denial of this Right in solidarity with student-initiated campaigns such the R2E campaign in Occupied Palestine.

**SAUWS Resolves:**

1. To participate within the parameters of charitable status and financial constraints in the annual Right 2 Education week (November) by organising events, as well as providing information and details of other events happening, in conjunction with R2E week/campaign.
2. To incorporate the Right 2 Education campaign into existing SAUWS campaigns and listed on the website under "Campaigns" as "Palestinian Right 2 Education campaign".
3. Work with any Students who wish to do so to re-publish articles and reports from Palestinian, Israeli and International human rights organisations that centre on or cover the issue of education on the SAUWS website.
4. To look into the possibility of implementing a “twinning” policy with the student association of BirZeit University in the near future.
5. To put up a small gallery and informative area about; the situation in Palestine and what the R2E campaign seeks to do, in order to inform students of the issue.

## II. Demilitarise UWS

Proposer: Matthew Cameron, Vice President Societies and Citizenship

### Voice Notes

1. Armed Forces were in attendance at freshers 2017 both within the student union and on university campus
2. The armed forces were marketing themselves at freshers both as a post graduate job opportunity, and, at least on a one to one level, as a salaried alternative to a university degree
3. That their marketing was entirely positive, highlighting exclusively the benefits of being a member of the armed forces
4. The Army's "This Is Belonging" campaign highlights the military's tendency to target young people from deprived backgrounds (Agerholm, 2017)

### Voice Believes

1. Vulnerable students struggling with debt may be swayed into joining the military for financial reasons
2. That their advertising methods don't accurately represent the human cost of being a member of the military
3. That this recruitment method is more likely to attract students from a low income background, especially RUK students who have to pay fees
4. Their presence within the student's association is insensitive to students who have, or know people who have, suffered due to British military campaigns

### Voice Resolves

1. To ban all armed forces marketing and campaigning from our Students Association buildings across all sites
2. To lobby the university to do the same
3. To make clear our position as a student association that stands against both the harmful occupation of foreign nations and the exploitation of the working class

### References

Agerholm, H., 2017. *British Army targets recruitment of young working class, military document reveals*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/british-army-targets-young-working-class-recruitment-military-marketing-drive-campaign-uk-a7833086.html> [Accessed 15th October 2017].

### c) Disciplinary Committee elections

The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for upholding the Code of Discipline as set out in by-law 4 of the SAUWS constitution. Fair and equal treatment is expected at all times and full training and support will be given to aid the running of the committee. Being a Committee member can be recorded as part of your Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

Positions available: Chair x 1, Deputy Chair x 1, Ordinary Members x 5