**30/10/24 Student Council Minutes**

13:30 – 15:30 (5-minute break at 14:30)

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Total in attendance:** 93

**Guest:** Rachel Cragg: Pro Vice Chancellor Learning Teaching & Student Success

**Sabbatical Officers:** Omowaleola Adebayo, President

Timiebi Aghogho Oyinpere, Vice President Education

Immad Ud Din, Vice President Welfare & Wellbeing

Muhammad Rauf Saddique, Vice President Student Development

**Chair:** Gemma Murrell

**Minutes:** Eilidh Riddell

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Welcome** *Union Chair and Student Voice Manager will welcome attendees and explain the council meeting.* | **Verbal** |
| **2** | **Senior Manager Question Time** *Our guest will be Rachel Cragg Pro Vice Chancellor Learning Teaching & Student Success.* | **Verbal** |
| **3** | **Sabbatical Officer Question Time** | **Verbal and Paper 3** |
| **4** | **Student Council Consultation** | **Verbal and Paper 4** |
| **5** | **Review of Previous Minutes** | **Paper 5** |
| **6** | **Policy Debates** | **Paper 6** |
| 6.1 | Rep Engagement and Accountability Policy UWS Union |  |
| 6.2 | I.T. Facilities need reviewed at Paisley Campus Library (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.3 | Stop Penalising Students Attendance (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.4 | Notifications for distance learning students (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.5 | Skolstrejk för klimatet (school strike for the climate) (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.6 | Stop advertising high interest private loans (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.7 | Mindfulness pods/rooms (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.8 | Mature Student Representation (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.9 | Why is UWS making it so hard to find a room to use? (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.10 | More Halal food options (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.11 | Lobby the university to give students access to more scientific journals through the university library (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.12 | Sell white poppies alongside red poppies (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.13 | Microwaves at Lanarkshire (Policy Lapse) |  |
| 6.14 | Microwaves at Paisley (Policy Lapse) |  |

# 1. Welcome

The chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced Union staff members.

# 2. Senior Management Question Time

The Pro Vice Chancellor introduced themselves and their role to the Council and welcomed any questions.

Q: A student had three issues on the Lanarkshire campus: Lack of in-person teaching time due to room availability, busy campus affecting Wi-Fi signal, and the booking system is double booking rooms.

A: The Pro Vice Chancellor would like to know if these are Lanarkshire-specific issues, or if it applies to all campuses. For the room booking issue, we have enough space on campus but need to ensure that they are not being booked at the same time. For in-person class time, we know that students are happier and more successful if they can attend classes face-to-face, so she is keen to collect more evidence and get this issue sorted.

Q: Adult nursing students would like assurance that the university’s free breakfast provision will continue after term two, as it provides a nutritious meal to those who need it, as well as a sense of community between those eating together. Ayr campus students found this to be their only chance to socialise with their peers. It was also raised that there is currently no free breakfast offered at the London campus.

A: Free breakfast will continue in terms one and two, but currently it is not achieving the desired aims, so they are looking to offer a heavily subsidised breakfast service.

**Action for reps:** Ask your course mates the following questions and send your feedback to [representation@uwsunion.org.uk](mailto:representation@uwsunion.org.uk)

* How has the university’s free breakfast impacted you?
* What can the university do to increase students’ sense of belonging and community at UWS?

Q: Students who don’t own a laptop/PC struggle with limited computers available on-campus and travel fees from travelling to campus every day to return borrowed laptops.

A: There are issues that make it difficult to allow students to take laptops off campus. Rachel agreed that the student raised an important concern about digital poverty and her primary concern is to make sure there are enough computers for students to use while on campus.

Q: A 4th year Music Technology representative had careers advice from a UWS careers adviser included in their course description, but this has not yet happened. They requested support to ensure the current students on their course get this service before graduating. There was also positive feedback from the London campus that they have received a LinkedIn workshop and CV/cover letter writing session.

A: The Pro Vice Chancellor requested some more information from the representative about the specifics of this issue to take it forward. They mentioned that the Aspire Programme is being looked at to build into students’ career development.

Q: A Mental Health Nursing representative raised concern that their class do all their learning at home and on-campus tutorials just recap the same information.

A: The student should take this feedback straight to their programme leader or head of division to ask if there has been a misunderstanding or if something needs to be changed. If there is no progress, they can bring the issue back to the Pro Vice Chancellor to raise further up the institution.

Q: A business management representative was disappointed to not receive any response from multiple University staff members that they contacted regarding work experience opportunities for students.

A: The Pro Vice Chancellor requested the names of these staff members and agreed that as an employment-focussed university, these opportunities are always valuable for students.

Q: Card only payments on campus make buying food difficult for both international students who don’t yet have a UK bank account and for students with debt.

A: Accepting cash would likely add to the price of food on campus, however, there is progress being made on a replacement system that would work better for all students.

Q: Noise caused by open teaching spaces at Lanarkshire campus is affecting learning.

A: The Pro Vice Chancellor is aware of issues with open teaching spaces in London which have now been resolved, but wasn’t aware of the problem at Lanarkshire, so will look into it.

Q: Lectures in large halls can be difficult to hear, and teaching staff in these rooms should be supplied with microphones.

A: The Pro Vice Chancellor presumed it would be required for lecturers to use a microphone in the auditorium, so will investigate this further.

**Issues for the Pro Vice Chancellor to take forward:**

* Limited in-person teaching time and double-booked rooms on Lanarkshire campus.
* Taking laptops off-campus for extended periods/on campus computer quantities.
* Careers advice promise in course description not being met (once student has provided further details).
* Lack of response to student’s social enterprise offering work experience (once student has provided further details).
* Noise caused by open teaching spaces at Lanarkshire campus affecting learning.
* Use of microphones for teaching staff in large classrooms.

# 3. Sabbatical Officers Question Time

The sabbatical officers each summarised their manifestos (See paper 3).

**Q:** A representative requested an update on the ongoing Lanarkshire transport issue and highlighted that students who must leave early to catch the last bus feel judgement from their peers.

**A:** The President stated they were unaware of mistreatment issues. There have been discussions about reaching out to First buses and other efforts to make buses available to students that are still in the works.

**Q:** An English as a Second Language representative asked about available support for students struggling with workload.

**A:** The Student Voice Manager stated that the Students’ Union work with programme leaders to review timetabling, so if you are having similar issues, you can email us at [representation@uwsunion.org.uk](mailto:representation@uwsunion.org.uk) or talk to our Advice Team at advice@uwsunion.org.uk to receive free, impartial advice. If the whole course is struggling, you should bring this to your Student Staff Liaison Group.

**Q:** Will two-factor authentication be permanent at UWS?

**A:** The Student Voice Manager stated that given the severity of the cyber-attack, it is unlikely that the University will slacken off on security anytime soon.

# 4. Student Council Consultation

The Student Union Support Services Manager explained that the Students’ Union are proposing some changes to our structures and would value the Council’s feedback to inform the changes we make. This information will be explained in batches so as not to overwhelm you and allow for questions. (See paper 4).

**Q:** How would divisional Vice Presidents interact with division representatives?

**A:** We are proposing that divisional Vice Presidents would have regular meetings with divisional and class representatives within their schools. Divisional Vice presidents would replace school officers.

**Q:** Although the active effort to include Health and Life Sciences students, they spend forty hours a week in class or in placements, some being nightshifts, therefore it might be difficult to schedule these students’ time.

**A:** The Students’ Union are aware that Health & Life Sciences students have a lot of placements, but also that some manage part-time jobs to support their studies. The Union Team will expand their ideas before bringing them back to Council.

**Q:** A student voiced concern that students should not be working over forty-eight hours per week.

**A:** The Student Services Manager noted that it is possible to exempt yourself from this rule, but it may not be ethical.

# 5. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes were approved.

# 6. Policy Debates

The Student Voice Manager explained that a policy is an idea for improvement of the University or Students’ Union. Some policies can be acted upon quickly by the Students Union, while others require more effort and collaboration with the University to fulfil.

**6.1**: **Rep Engagement and Accountability Policy UWS Union**

The Vice President Education stated that this policy is about giving Student Representatives support and holding them accountable for carrying out their role appropriately.

This policy passed by twenty-eight votes for, one against, and three abstain.

**6.2: I.T. Facilities need reviewed at Paisley Campus Library (Policy Lapse)**

This policy lapsed with fifteen votes for, three against, and ten abstain.

**6.13: Microwaves at Lanarkshire (Policy Lapse)**

This policy lapsed with fourteen votes for, zero against, and three abstain.

**6.14: Microwaves at Paisley (Policy Lapse)**

This policy lapsed with fifteen votes for, zero against, and five abstain.

Policies 6.3 – 6.12 were not voted on due to time constraints and will therefore be carried forward to the next Student Council meeting.

# Meeting Close

*Next meeting: Wednesday the 4th of December 2024, 1.30pm-3.30pm*