**06/12/23 Student Council Minutes**

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

Location: Teams

38 total in attendance

Guests: No guests in attendance

Sabbatical Officers: President, Vice President Education, Vice President Student Development

Chair: Rui Jin

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| **1** | **Welcome** *Union Chair and SR&PC will welcome attendees and explain the council meeting.* |
| **2** | **Senior Manager Question Time** *Our guest will be Neil Morris Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning, Teaching and Student Success.* |
| **3** | **Sabbatical Officer Question Time** |
| **4** | **Review of Previous Minutes** |
| **5** | **Policy Debates** |
| 5.1 | Aula Overhaul |
| 5.2 | Safe Space Policy |
| 5.3 | External Speaker Policy |
| 5.4 | More Halal Food Options (Policy Lapse) |
| 5.5 | Stop Advertising High Interest Private Loans (Policy Lapse) |
| 5.6 | Votes at 16 (Policy Lapse) |

***Close –*** *Date of Next Meeting: 07/02/24*

# 1. Welcome

The chair welcomes attendees to this Student Council meeting and announces that there will be 2 changes to the meeting: Firstly, that a new policy has been added to the agenda, and that our guest, Neil Morris, is unwell so will not be attending.

The chair explained that the purpose of Student Council is to decide on Union policies. A policy can be something small that we can change internally or may be a larger issue that has to be brought to the University for resolution.

# 2. Senior Management Question Time

Our guest, Neil Morris was ill, so unfortunately could not be with us today.

# 3. Sabbatical Officer Question Time

The chair explains that the Sabbatical Officers are student elected officers who take time away from studies to represent our students and help to resolve their issues.

## Union President: Uchechi Agbaraji

Most of my time has been focused on improving the quality of education for undergraduate and postgraduate courses. I have completed research at our London campus that has raised the issue of a high student to staff ratio, which I raised at the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting. The student Express Committee meeting focuses on how we receive feedback from students – thanks to all of the Student Reps who participated in that focus group as we gained lots of valuable feedback.

I am also working to promote welfare and wellbeing initiatives across the University. Residences staff have mental health awareness training, so always feel free to reach out to them.

I am working to collaborate and share ideas with other Sabbatical Officers across Glasgow. All Students’ Union bars are open to students from any university, so UWS students can make use of those with their student ID card.

Currently, students across the country are required to start paying council tax immediately after graduating – I am attempting to increase this time to six months after graduation to give recent alumni the time to find a job and settle into life after university. I will let you know the outcome of these efforts as soon as I have knowledge.

As always, if you have any questions or issues regarding your student experience, feel free to get in touch and I will try my best to help you.

## Vice President Education: Subuola Elufioye

**Academic:**

The promotion of Student Reps is about you – we want to you to be completely satisfied with your experience. Whenever you take part in a Student Staff Liaison Group (SSLG) meeting, or any other meetings with University staff, it’s important not only to voice your opinion during the meeting, but also to write down what you have said so that we can continue to push the issue with University if they do not take appropriate action.

Last year there were several students who struggled to understand some of their course material – I have been in discussion with Emily McIntosh, and we hope to begin plans to resolve the issue in January.

**Career Development:**

I have been in touch with the Careers Team who are offering graduate opportunities such as apprenticeships in certain areas. Keep an eye on your emails to receive information about these.

*Kick Start: UWS Student Innovation Workshops* are looking for post-graduate and PhD students who are looking to improve their knowledge and skillsets based around innovation and entrepreneurship to register their interest.

South Ayrshire Women’s Aid are holding training on gender-based violence on Thursday the 7th of December as part of the 16 Days of Action – I encourage you all to attend.

If you have any issues with your course, please let me know that I can help you.

## Vice President Student Development: Ovoke Adams Adamatie

My role involves managing our societies and providing opportunities for students outside of the classroom.

I have coordinated the organisation of several events that have gone very well. These were mostly on Paisley, although one of my goals is to work on putting on more events in other campuses.

National societies have seen improvements under my guidance. This year I plan to focus on undergraduate and home students to tackle student loneliness.

Feel free to reach out to myself or Jamie McDowall if you have any questions about how to join or start a society.

A question was raised about how students can find out who their rep is and how reps can have knowledge of who they are representing. It was answered that because of the cyber-attack, we unfortunately don’t have information about who your rep is on our website. However, your programme leader can put your details on Aula so that students can contact you directly, and the Students’ Union can give you the banner email of everyone that you represent.

# 4. Review of Previous Minutes

There were no issues with the previous minutes and so the minutes were approved.

# 5. Policy Debates

5.1 Aula Overhaul - passed 86%

* Yes: 20
* No: 1
* Abstain: 2

5.2 Safe Space Policy – passed 76%

* Yes: 16
* No: 2
* Abstain: 3

5.3 External Speaker Policy – passed 75%

* Yes: 15
* No: 1
* Abstain: 4

**Policies Not Voted On:**

5.4 More Halal Food Options (Policy Lapse)

5.5 Stop Advertising High Interest Private Loans (Policy Lapse)

5.6 Votes at 16 (Policy Lapse)

# Meeting Close

As we didn’t reach the quorum to vote on the last three policies, there was a discussion about in which section of the meeting the policy votes should be held. It was agreed that staff will have a think about the best time to have the policy debates and will communicate their decision to Student Council.

The meeting chair thanked everyone for attending this Student Council meeting. There will be a link to a feedback form sent out and we encourage you to complete it.

*End of Meeting.*