**05/03/25 Student Council Minutes**

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

Location: Teams

Total in attendance: 40

**Guest:** Rachel Cragg, Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning, Teaching and Student Success

**Chair:** Gemma Murrell, Union Chair

**Sabbatical Officers:**

Omowaleola Adebayo, Union President

Timiebi Oyinpere, Vice President Education

Immad Ud Din, Vice President Welfare and Wellbeing

**Union Staff:**

David Devlin, Students’ Union Student Services Manager

Sabina Lawrie, Student Voice Manager

Claire Lumsden, Student Representation Coordinator

Jamie McDowall, Student Opportunities Coordinator

Nathan Price, Student Engagement and Representation Coordinator

Eilidh Riddell (Secretary)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 and Student Success*  | **Verbal**  |
| **3**  | **Sabbatical Officer Question Time**  | **Verbal and Paper 1**  |
| **4**  | **Review of Previous Minutes**  | **Paper 2**  |
| **5**  | **Election of a new Union Chair**  | **Verbal**  |
| **6**  | **Policy Debates**  | **Paper 3**  |

# 1. Welcome

The Union Chair welcomed the reps to the Council meeting. The Student Voice Manager outlined the main sections of Student Council meetings as shown in the agenda.

# 2. Senior Management Question Time

The Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning Teaching and Student Success informed that The National Student Survey is an external survey for final year students which is used to recognise where UWS colleagues are doing good work and improving the student experience.

They also informed that UWS are one of the first universities to receive the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review (TQER) this October and will have at least four meetings with students. The Pro Vice-Chancellor then asked the Council for any suggestions of what to show the reviewers, whether they be positive or negative.

**Q:** Will there be any changes to free breakfast after this term?

**A:** There is a meeting at the Student Partnership Forum where the Head of Campus Services will speak about options for the free breakfast and hear students’ opinions on the matter.

**Q:** Is it possible for classes to be compiled into one day to save travel costs? Also, students on some courses do not have a summer holiday.

**A:** The student should take these points up with management in London as they are closer to the issue. There is a requirement for all international students to have a certain number of in-person teaching hours. The Academic Year Project is starting, which will looking at what activities happen where, when and how, and if this can be made better for students.

**Q:** Is there an update from the previously passed policy of 20 hours associate teaching for postgraduate research (PGR) students?

**A:** The Pro Vice-Chancellor will take this forward to see what progress has been made/what has been agreed.

**Q:** How well does UWS comply with the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework (TQEF) and what needs improvement?

**A:** There are no areas of worry, but our main points for concern might be consistency across all areas including staff development and student retention. The Pro Vice-Chancellor offered to host another session to run through the framework.

**Q:** A chemistry rep fed back that a lecturer who left their course had not been replaced, and classmates have said it is negatively affecting their learning experience. Will UWS’s financial situation improve, and will lecturers be replaced?

**A:** Changes to government funding and National Insurance mean our budget is tight, therefore we are assessing whether roles should be replaced or not. This does not mean that no roles will be replaced, but all will be reviewed.

**Q:** Who are the external reviewers for the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review, and will they be meeting with students?

**A:** They will be heads of divisions or someone in a quality role from another university. We don’t know exactly who yet but will keep you informed. Reviewers will speak to colleagues of all levels from students, lecturers and the principal. Please get in touch with ideas of anything positive or negative you think the reviewers should see.

**Q:** Can there be a dedicated group for London reps to improve poor communications and ensure London students are aware of the Big Elections?

**A:** All students would know about elections if they read their emails. They are also free to start a London chapter of the Rep Society.

**Action:** The Student Voice Manager and Student Representation & Training Coordinator to discuss setting up a London reps sub-group in Teams.

**Action:** The Pro Vice-Chancellor will take forward the passed 20 hour teaching for PGR’s to see what progress has been made.

Directly after the Pro Vice-Chancellor left the meeting, there was a brief discussion about reps missing out on the opportunity to speak up on key issues raised by our guest, where one rep explained that they had not received any information about these issues.

# 3. Sabbatical Officers Question Time

The President gave a brief update on their recent work on the NUS Affordable Housing, Free Breakfast, and Yes campaigns, as well as the Big Chat. They were also a panellist for the recent Student Partnership Conference.

The Vice President Education has been working on extended library access for students, the Student Partnership Forum and Student Partnership Conference and the student reps end of year party. They are also the lead student rep for the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review (TQER).

The Vice President Welfare and Wellbeing has been working on the Free Breakfast campaign, and campus issues such as parking at Paisley and water access inside toilets for religious purposes

**Q:** What is the course of action for the free breakfast campaign going forward?

**A:** The President has brought this topic to a meeting with Elizabeth O’Reilly, who has agreed to involve the Students’ Union in all future discussions. We may look to organise a small protest, but not before gaining more signatures on our petition to prove that this is an issue that lots of students care about.

**Q:** A rep asked for an online meeting the President and Vice President Education to discuss the Free Breakfast campaign in depth and how reps should carry out campaign work.

**A:** The President responded that they were more than happy to discuss this, and that the rep should reach out via email.

# 4. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

# 5. Election of a new Union Chair

The Student Voice Manager outlined the role of the Union Chair, including duties such as chairing Student Council, involvement in Executive meetings, and holding sabbatical officers to account, as well as mentioning that the elected rep will receive chair training from Elizabeth Marshall.

No reps put themselves forward to stand for the Chair position, therefore this role will be filled out with the meeting.

# Policy Debates

**6.1** New microwave for the Lanarkshire campus and any other campus who does not have this facility.

This policy passed with 16 votes to pass the policy, one to lapse, and one to abstain.

**6.2** Continue to provide free breakfast on campus for all students.

This policy passed with 19 votes to pass the policy and one to abstain.

# Meeting Close

*End of meeting.*