

# 06/12/2022 Student Council Minutes

(13:30 – 15:30, five-minute break at 14:25)

Location: Teams

1. **Welcome** – *Union Chair will welcome attendees and explain the council meeting.*
2. **Senior Manager Question Time** – *Our guest will be Suzanne Daly, Head of Registry*
3. **Sabbatical Officer Question Time**
4. **Review of Previous Minutes.**
5. **Policy Debates**
  - 5.1 Campuses should be better prepared for students with hearing impairments
  - 5.2 Policy Lapse – Staff Should be Available to Students When Timetabled
  - 5.3 Policy Lapse – Poppy Scotland Appeal
  - 5.4 Policy Lapse – Right 2 Education Campaign
6. **Close** – *Date of Next Meeting: 1 February 2023*

**1. Welcome** – *Union Chair will welcome attendees and explain the council meeting.*

Union Chair Ameer Hamza welcomes all the student reps to the meeting. He also welcomes the Sabbatical Officers: Subuola - Vice President of Education, Ovoke - Vice President of Student Development, and Omoleye – Vice President of Welfare and Wellbeing; and the union support staff: Head of SUSS David Devlin, SR&TC Claire Lumsden, and SR&PC Ash Watkins. Chair thanks our guest Suzanne Daly, UWS Head of Registry, for joining the meeting today.

**2. Senior Manager Question Time** - *Our guest will be Suzanne Daly, Head of Registry.*

Suzanne introduces herself to the student reps, explaining that her remit includes such things as enrolment, induction, progression, and graduation. She is also involved in the student journey more widely and has been involved in several student-centred projects such as removing assessment-only fees, changing the UWS name-change policy, and changing the criminal conviction policy. She expresses her interest in making sure the student journey is equitable for all students. She looks forward to answering their questions and getting their feedback.

*Questions for Suzanne:*

**Q:** Feedback from BCI students indicates that they're happy with elective module choices and their relevance. The timetable is working for them. Inductions were very well run and they particularly enjoyed the Frog Game. The curriculum seems to be designed with student mental health in mind.

**A:** Very happy to hear that feedback, especially regarding the timetable.

**Q:** (From the chat.) When will timetables be available for Term 2?

**A:** Initial drafts were sent on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December to academics and schools for feedback. The final version will be available to students before the break begins on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December.

**Q:** During enrolment, international students faced issues with their MyUWS accounts being blocked due to non-payment of fees. Any plans to reduce this problem in the future?

**A:** This is a very good point and is an issue that has been raised in meetings at UWS. There needs to be a proportional response, and not allowing enrolment is not proportional in all circumstances. The Finance Department is dedicated to looking at how this works and making sure the student isn't being put in a situation where they are being set up to fail due to their payment plan. This must be balanced with Finance's need to collect the fees, but the rules should be transparent and proportional.

**Q:** (From the chat.) Students in year 3 Filmmaking and Screenwriting at Ayr campus feel that there weren't very many events actually on their campus for inductions.

**A:** This is something to take back to BCI.

[Head of SU Student Services notes that this is also something the union can work with the school on.]

**Q:** The first point is feedback from Mental Health Nursing students. They have really struggled with their timetable, and I am sceptical that the nursing timetables will be available before the winter break. This trimester it was day 2 of the first week of teaching before they got their timetable. This has been bad for mental health, life planning and balance.

Also, why are Mental Health Nursing students not supported to enrol in NHS bank as healthcare support workers band 3? This would be great for students and their work experience but they are not told about it.

**A:** I have not heard about the NHS Staff Bank issue and take that back to the school. The scheduled release date for the timetable is the 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

[Head of SUSS notes that this is something that can be taken to the school directly by reps at SSLGs. Union staff has taken a note of this for the sabbs as well.]

**Q:** Some students in Adult Nursing, especially just out of school, have struggled to adapt to a flipped learning method without the proper advice and support. Also, those who have gotten a virtual learning substitute due to lack of placement availability felt it was difficult to get their mandatory 80 hours in front of a computer. Sometimes whether a class will take place in-person or online is not decided until short notice.

**A:** This is more specific to HLS, but I can take it back to the school. The issues you've mentioned with the timetabling seem to be reflected in one of the union's surveys.

**Q:** I've heard from other Sport Coaching students that they would prefer real-world coaching experience.

**A:** This is also something I can take back to the school.

Suzanne thanks the Council for having her at the meeting.

Chair thanks Suzanne for attending.

### 3. Sabbatical Officer Question Time

#### VPE

VPE gives a summary of the update paper submitted to Council. She assures reps that work is being done on learning platforms, lecture capture, and transport to the Lanarkshire campus. She invites reps to take part in her work through participating in focus groups. Several reps volunteer via the chat.

*Questions for VPE:*

No questions from reps at this time.

#### VPSD

VPSD gives a summary of the update paper submitted to Council. He introduces plans to start campus chapters of societies so activities can be spread across UWS rather than exclusively held in Paisley. He reminds reps that they can still start their own societies any time, and to get in touch with him or Jamie McDowall to get started.

*Questions for VPSD:*

**Q:** There seem to be a lot of events at Paisley campus, but none at Lanarkshire. My peers at Lanarkshire feel left out.

**A:** I agree this is a problem, but to get through the barriers, I need students to commit to attending. When we do plan something and students don't attend, it makes it more difficult to convince the university to use the resources. For example, we hired coaches to transport students from Lanarkshire campus to Paisley for International Day events, but only 5 students used them. I

encourage any Lanarkshire students who have ideas for events to get in touch with me so we can plan them together.

**Q:** Students have asked about a Business (Graduation) Ball – why aren't we having one?

**A:** [Head of SUSS answers] Graduation balls are organised by students rather than schools or programmes. The Union doesn't have the resources to do graduation balls as a matter of course for all programmes – but it can help interested students to organise them.

**Q:** London students have little awareness of events happening for UWS students – how can they stay in-the-know?

**A:** Events are promoted via social media and email, and sometimes through university staff when relevant (such as a collaboration). I encourage reps to follow the Union on Facebook & Instagram and let their peers know about these pages. We have big comms plans in the works for when we get back from the winter break.

#### VPWW

VPWW gives a summary of the update paper submitted to Council. She adds that Paws Against Stress had great attendance and acknowledges that volunteering issues meant that it couldn't take place on Lanarkshire campus this time, but it will be held again. She is working on a project to allow students to order sanitary products and get them shipped to their homes. She reminds students that there is support available if they are struggling, and leaves a link to funding opportunities related to the cost-of-living crisis in the chat.

*Questions for VPWW:*

No questions from reps at this time.

#### **4. Review of Previous Minutes**

The previous minutes have been approved.

#### **5. Policy Debates**

##### **5.1 Campuses should be better prepared for students with hearing impairments**

Union chair invites VPE to present the policy on behalf of its presenter, David Lewis.

**Policy has passed with 22 votes for 0 against (100%).**

##### **5.2 Policy Lapse – Lecturers Should be Available to Students When Timetabled**

Union chair explains why and when policies lapse and invites VPE to briefly introduce the policy.

**Policy has passed with 21 votes for 0 against (100%)**

Head of SUSS notes that the meeting has dipped under quorum, and there are no longer enough voting reps to make policy decisions. The next two policy debates will have to roll over to the next meeting.

Union Chair thanks everyone for attending and reminds reps to fill out the feedback survey. The date of the next meeting is 1 February 2023.

End of Meeting.