



STUDENT VOICE MINUTES - Wednesday 22nd 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- i. The Union Chair gives notice that motion 'Don't Exclude Trans+ Students from Sport' submitted to Voice has been withdrawn at the request of the proposer.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 22nd 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.

Host: David Devlin (internal)

Number of attendees: 20

Poll:

Type: Individual results

Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Starting time: 2:49 PM

Actual Duration: 1 minutes 29 seconds

Time limit: 5 minutes 0 seconds

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

	Answers	Results	%
a	yes	2/20	10
b	no	9/20	45
c	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

I. 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

II. 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

III. 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.