

**Student Council  
Monday 11 December 2017  
6pm Hardy Lecture Theatre**

Item No.		Action
	<b>Chairs Business</b>	
<b>1.</b>	Attendees and Apologies Ethan Jackson voted in to be Chair of Student Council for this meeting. Attendees 30, therefore not quorate as needed 36.	
<b>2.</b>	Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting weren't confirmed as the meeting was not quorate.	
<b>3.</b>	Responses to the matters arising – no matters arising	
	<b>Formal Business</b>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>UK Quality Code consultation BGSU - response from GH</b></p> <p>This is a list of standards that the university has to meet. Following the Higher Education Bill of 2016, several bodies have been working on changing the frameworks in HE. There has been the UK Quality Code Consultation and a new framework by OFS – which is the regularity framework. GH reported a provisional response pending any ratifications made by students. If agreed, then this can be put forward for a proxy vote by email.</p> <p>In the UK Quality Code consultation – we agree with the decision to simplify and reduce the number of expectations (from 19 to 4) in order to make them more accessible is one that we do not disagree with in theory, but the degree that these reduced expectations do not reflect the previous set is concerning. The main loss in these new expectations from a representative's point of view is that of the requirement for student engagement as previously present in B5, which has been relegated to the supplementary section.</p> <p>The review claims that the supplementary practices will “inform enhancement-led approaches” but we argue that it is difficult to instil a culture of enhancement through practices that are not measured or enforced.</p> <p>The ambiguity of this review has left us confused about particular areas of the revised code that would emerge from this, which seems to defy the brief of simplicity through brevity. Is it not possible that</p>	

	<p>some things are too complex to express in a compressed manner? It feels that this level of confusion is an inevitability of such an exercise.</p> <p>There's no clarity in this review as to how the Quality Code will be measured in HE institutions now that the Higher Education Reviews are no more. If unmeasured, does this not render the Code arbitrary? How can students be assured that their institution is not being held accountable to the standards that they expect of it?</p> <p>The current code is a product of years of work by HE experts and it feels that this review and consultation process has been unduly rushed. We fear negative impact on the student experience if this is not being given the time and attention to detail that the current code has been given. The above reservations should be indicative of our intuition that the process is being rushed.</p> <p>In the future, we would like to see a better push for the involvement of students - one that reflects the value and respects the obstacles of student voice. Very specifically, there is a great want for quick introductions issues in the FE/HE sectors that give students (who may have literally just entered FE/HE this year) a simple background and a clear breakdown of what is changing.</p> <p><b>Regulatory Framework response – from GH</b></p> <p>We're concerned by the continued use of language describing students as consumers as for us this assumes students are only at university to receive a one way service, and undermines any push to encourage students to involved themselves in their own education through mediums such as co-creation.</p> <p>There is little mention of representation throughout the document, despite the ideology to act better on student feedback, and where they are mentioned it feels tokenistic. Student representation is only spoken of at the macro level (in regards to the representative on the board and panel). On the micro level, it is hinted that individual student voices will be sought but no plan is laid out of how to capture this. There should be moves to increase institutional accountability through student partnerships.</p> <p>A large focus of the OFS' approach is on ensuring a parity of practice in Higher Education and while this is a positive move to an extent, many BGU students quote a reason for applying to BGU as being its</p>	
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	<p>individuality and we fear that this move towards homogenisation might infringe upon BGU's individuality, and diversity sector-wide.</p> <p>In point 78 the consultation highlights Students' Union's roles in providing Academic support to students, and then proceeds to claim that the OFS should "take interest in this". Does the OFS mean to undermine students' ability to hold to account their own Unions and Universities, and to undermine the Trustee boards of such Unions, and the Charity commission in the way that they do? If there is a worry from the OFS that not all Students' Unions are able to provide VFM for their students, they should look at how smaller Unions without largely established commercial services can be better financially supported by the OFS at the same time as they attempt to make them more accountable to the office.</p> <p>We appreciate the attempt at a student friendly version of the framework proposal; however, what we were given was not an entirely functional document. The Main proposals section was less a list of proposals, but rather ethos' and goals. This did not do the three things that would help anyone reading understand it better:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explain what is already in place</li> <li>○ Explain what is being changed or introduced - and describe what that will look like</li> <li>○ Explain the outcome, and focus on how students will be affected (positives and negatives)</li> </ul> <p>The irony of the OFS encouraging institutions to engage students better compared with the inaccessibility of the student guide to the consultation is not lost on us.</p> <p>GH will attempt to simplify their consultation documents and email them when we have a proxy vote, and see if we can get any more student voice on this.</p> <p><b>Student Engagement Conference – response from GH</b></p> <p>This is to be held in partnership between the Students' Union and CELT, on 14 March, times to be confirmed, but will be the afternoon only. It will be a focus on failure and getting back up from this, and seeing failure as a positive and a learning experience.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Motion Proposals</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	Josh Blanchard: Postgraduate, Foundation and Primary Teaching Studies Attendance at Student Council	

	<p>Liam read out the proposal on behalf of JB. The policy applies to the Postgraduate, Foundation and BA progression course students, they would not have to attend Student Council but would have to send apologies because of their strenuous course requirements. They would still have the same voting privileges and rights. The progression of this policy would lead to online voting in the future.</p> <p>This will go through a proxy vote – JB to organise.</p>	
<p><b>5.2</b></p>	<p><b>Jake Harness: First Aid Training</b> GH read out motional proposal on behalf of JH. The union proposes that all sport execs must have at least 1 First Aider on their exec prior to the academic year starting. The union must offer a 1<sup>st</sup> aid course at the start of the academic year. Currently 12 people every week have a sudden heart attack in football alone. The Student Union would be liable if no first aider was qualified at any of these societies and poses a serious risk to sport not being existent in the student union if god forbid something terrible happened. The union believes that this is a necessarily to make sure everyone is safeguarded and safe. The union believes that it needs to make sure it has provided necessary cover to all its students who participant in both training and in competitive sport. The Union resolves making it compulsory in all elections that one person in each exec is 1<sup>st</sup> aid qualified before October of every year. The union should provide each society with a 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit for the year too so first response can take place if required. Furthermore, the union should work with partners such as the Football Association and St Johns Ambulance to put on a first aid course at the start of every year. Failure to go on the first aid course from an exec can lead to the suspension of a society.</p> <p>This will need to be looked at regarding costs.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Reports</b> CF read the report for the Opportunities Hub :</p> <p>Sports: The past month has seen an increase in participation across sports at BGU, with all the BUCS teams regularly playing fixtures with an increasing crowd of supporters at football, netball &amp; rugby games. Thanks to Gareth who has been helping share and advertise these fixtures with well-designed fixtures posters. Also been in talks with Lincolnshire cricket regarding forming a women's softball cricket team to participate in a few tournaments and festivals in the upcoming months, as well as potential training sessions for these to</p>	

raise interest. The past month also saw all societies with vacant executive positions be filled and have a full house for each society. Involved in the election process of the cheer society as they elected their new head coach and Tumbling Coach. With some funding we have the potential to train a few of these new execs & coaches with appropriate courses and qualifications if need be, to increase safety and skills within their societies. BGSU sports has also been strengthening their relationship with the Lion and Snake by easing in new aspects/features to the weekly socials and a potential deal with Fever & Boutique coming after Christmas. To top everything off BGSU sports has organised a massive Christmas party open to all at the Lion and Snake on Monday 11 December, to celebrate a fantastic first term for all societies and to sign off a fairly successful 2017 for sports.

**Raising and Giving:** There have not been many raising and giving events over the past month due to the run up to Christmas. However, Shane held a charitable bucket collection in the car park on Saturday where people donated money to use our car park. He is also currently in talks with John Hodson to plan potential RAG events for next year. We will keep you updated as to any progress with this.

**Societies:** Due to the very recent election of a Societies Officer, there is not a great deal to report on this. I would however like to take the opportunity to congratulate Joshua Berrington and welcome him to the executive team. I look forward to working with him in the future.

**Volunteering** CF has been continuing to promote volunteering opportunities where he can. Also worked with BG Futures to recruit assistants for the last Teenage Market. CF thanked everyone that offered their services, it was greatly appreciated. CF will be looking to recruit assistants again for the next Teenage Market which is taking place on the 10th February.

**Presidents Report**

**GH** - The past year and a half have been difficult for BGSU but we cannot dwell on the past, aside from attempting to learn from our mistakes. Moving forward GH made a campaign promise to introduce more daytime events and following this has introduced a daytime craft event on a Monday called SewWhat. GH hopes that this will build and give a variety of students a space to chill out. Following this, we aim to use a combination of GOATing (Going Out And Talking) and focus groups in the new year to ask students what they want to see from their SU.

	<p>GH is currently looking into ways to continue to raise the profile of Sport at BGU, continuing to advertise fixtures and will be looking at housing results on our website.</p> <p>Another pressing priority is to ensure that students are aware of the barrage of changes occurring in HE, and to make them aware of the effects that will result. GH has already fed student voice into the UK Quality Code Consultation and the Regulatory Framework Consultation.</p> <p>In terms of the Executive team we have had a series of resignations, as you will all be aware by now from the previous reports to this Council. We have created a voluntary position of Activities Assistant that is recruited not elected, with no representation aspect to the roles.</p> <p>In January we will be hosting an exam stress week and planning is underway.</p> <p>A shared folder has been created for the SU Exec to be able to access everything in one place. On this GH has uploaded a social media schedule, physical marketing schedule, planning calendars for all hubs and other documents to help the Exec plan more collaboratively, and advertise more effectively.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b> There was no other business.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b> There were no matters arising.</p>	