



**Student Council
Monday 19 March 2018
6pm Hardy Lecture Theatre**

Item No.		Action
	Chairs Business	
1	Attendees and Apologies. Meeting was confirmed as quorate. Beth Robinson is the Chair of Student Council.	
2	Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting – these were confirmed as a true and accurate record.	
3	Responses to the matters arising - there were no matters arising.	
	Formal Business	
4	Other Business	
4.1	Guest Speaker (Jonathan Richardson) Explained how PR at BG works. Previously this was handled by an external company, however now BG has an internal team who are based in the Applicant Centre. Main aim is to celebrate everything that is happening at BG, including new courses, academics, societies, individual students, sports results, fundraising projects, or anything outside of BGU. Nothing is too small, they would really like to hear about anything. Here to guide students if needing advice on how to set up an event for a society. Always on the lookout for updating all of their case studies for the prospectus and mini guides. At the moment particularly looking at Early Childhood Studies, Counselling, Primary Ed, SENI and Sport. If any students could help then please contact the PR team.	
4.2	Owen Lewis – Healthy Eating on campus OL has been asked by the Welfare Committee as to whether the SU wants to start looking at healthy eating on campus. OL asked Student Council - Do we want to see healthier options on campus? Clear majority voted yes for this.	
4.3	Josh Blanchard – Proxy Votes Due to the last Student Council starting as quorate and then ending as not quorate, a few items had to be sent out for proxy votes. JB has got the proxy in and this is now quorate. However JB stated that 35% or course reps, when they were filling out the vote, said that they	

<p>4.3.1</p>	<p>were confused as to what was in the actual vote. Therefore JB wanted to bring this back to Council today and give student council an option. This being to explain everything in the proxy vote and give Student Council the option to vote now in the meeting on these motions, or JB can go by the proxy vote that was quorate.</p> <p>Vote for voting on these motions now - clear majority.</p> <p>Community Officer Reform</p> <p>Option 1 – To remove the Community Officer position</p> <p>The Community Officer is a position with such a small and vague remit, is difficult to fill and when it is filled is resigned from quickly. Keeping it means it will continue to be ran for and the people in these positions will realise that there is little to do in the role and they will become disillusioned with the role like many in the past. The motion is to split the workload between the Welfare Officer and the Campaigns Officer.</p> <p>Arguments Against: The Welfare Officer’s role is already too large to allow for more workload. The most recent Welfare Officer has resigned and we don’t want to risk people not running for that position due to it having too heavy a workload. We have had issues in the past with retaining the Welfare Officer and keeping it’s remit as precise as possible, so by adding more to this we are going to further this discouragement in running.</p> <p>Option 2 - To merge the Community Officer position with the International Rep to make the International and Community Officer</p> <p>The creation of the International and Communities Officer would prevent the possibility of empty roles; through lack of interest or resignation, while also breathing new life into the Communities Officer role which has struggled with interest in recent years – this also fills the gap left by Liberations. The International and Communities Officer would also allow more opportunities for this role, than previously, as the role could now be used to engage with communities not just locally but nationally and internationally. The Communities Officer responsibilities and role would essentially remain the same however these responsibilities would simply merge with the new International Officers responsibilities – this addresses historical comments which state the Communities Officers role had very little to do while in the role.</p> <p>Arguments Against: The International rep’s remit is not International affairs, and so adding work for the international community would be confusing the role. It is primarily to support international students. Also, this would effectively remove International rep from the Liberations Hub, stopping them from being able to represent</p>	
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<p>4.3.2</p>	<p>international students in the Welfare hub which was the intention of the role in the first place.</p> <p>Vote for option 1 – 19, Vote for option 2 – 14, Abstain – 0 Option 1 was passed.</p> <p>Liberations Reform</p> <p>Option 1 - To raise the status of the Liberations Reps to officer positions, and to remove the Liberations Officer and Equality Rep positions</p> <p>The Liberations Officer was introduced in 2014 to introduce a Liberations presence in BGSU. Liberations Reps were introduced in 2015 to assist the Liberations Officer to fully represent marginalised students. Since then, the effectiveness and workload of the liberations reps has increased to the extent of sharing an overlap of workload with the Liberations Officer. If the current reps were made officers, that there would be less need for a Liberations Officer. Raising the status of the reps further would be a step closer to properly representing Liberations groups and is a step in right direction</p> <p>The remit of Equality rep is very similar to that of the Welfare Officer, and would case an overlap of work if the two officers co-existed. The Lib Rep positions should be made full officer positions i.e. Gender & Sexuality Officer, Disability & SEN Officer, and International Officer. The Liberations Officer and Equality Rep roles should be removed.</p> <p>Arguments Against: Taking away the Liberations Officer position limits the liberations teams’ chance to be heard and for their ideas to be prioritised. Without a liberations officer, some ideas will not be paid enough attention and this holds the potential for student’s issues to be marginalised. By taking the Equality rep role away could lead to some important areas of liberations being overlooked and issues slipping through the cracks – the Equalities rep is designed to fill in any Liberations issue that the other two reps cannot cover with their roles.</p> <p>Option 2 - To create a separate Liberations Hub, keeping the Liberations Officer</p> <p>The creation of the Liberations hub would allow the team to begin afresh with a new ability to improve representation of students and allow smoother changes in direction for the team. It has been suggested that, in the past, the liberations team has caused too much of a strain on the Welfare Hub and its resources.</p> <p>To merge the Liberations Officer and Equalities Rep roles, to form the new Liberations and Equalities Officer role, would increase the</p>	
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abilities of the Liberations Officer to manage the new hub, while also promoting the role in their engagement with students. This also works in reducing the number of roles in the SU that might otherwise remain empty through either; resignation or lack of interest.

Although the issue of communication can be raised; the two teams (Welfare and Liberations) have already effectively acted as separate entities throughout the 2017-2018 year and there has been no issues of communication throughout this period.

There has been comments that Liberations team does not work as effectively as it could because it currently works as a 'bolt-on' team to the current Hub, with little ability to carry their own voice forward and therefore Liberations issues. To create the new hub would prevent the team from feeling as if they are simply a sub-team to Welfare, as they have in the past.

The Union should create a new budget for the Hub; in order to create this the Union would need to potentially take away a small section of the welfare budget and a small section of the activities budget – some of which was not necessarily spent last year in its entirety anyway. The best way to do this would be to potentially take £250 each from Welfare and from Activities – leaving the Hub with £500 to begin with, which could always be reviewed and changed. (these figures are only an idea)

To clarify, this motion is not against the idea of the creation of the Liberations Officers and there is still possibility for these reps to become officer in the future.

Clarification: This is not how budgets work. The budget changes each year and depends on student numbers, so cannot be set like this. Abi Rogers – to clarify all the budgets were spent last year, there was no money left over.

Arguments Against: Three hubs are hard enough to ensure they're meeting regularly already. The management of hub workload is difficult enough without a fourth. Plus, a large part of what Welfare should be doing is Liberations work and you would be taking that away from them. Liberations is a part of Welfare and making it a separate entity will lead to confusion and poorer communication. Bringing the team closer by focusing the workload better will improve workload and the hub will be more able to support students.

Vote for option 1 - 18 , vote for option 2- 15 , Abstain – 0

Option 1 was passed.

<p>4.3.3</p>	<p>Sports Social Officer (Revote) At Council on 30th October, it was decided that a second Sports Officer position should be created to take pressure off the Sports Officer in relation to organising Cathedral Cup, Sports Awards and Tour. At the Trustee meeting on the 29th January, it was brought to the attention of the Trustees that since the motion was passed, it has been concluded that the aspects of this workload were too much and should more appropriately be carried out by a Union staff member. It was decided that in light of this that Council deserves to be given the opportunity to have a second vote on this considering the new evidence. Arguments Against: The Remit of the Sports Officer is too great for one exec officer to cover. Having staff take over organising events such as the Cathedral Cup and Tour is detrimental to the role as the executive officer does not gain any skills, such as organisation and making external partnerships. The remit of the SU staff is also large and adding more to their workload would be counterproductive. Clarification: Since a meeting with Lincoln SU, it was decided that there must be a staff lead for this and this workload will be taken on by staff whether this motion passes or not.</p> <p>Vote for - 12, Vote against 21, Abstain - 0 Vote against - passed</p>	
<p>4.3.4</p>	<p>Amendment to Skinner Building The SU lobby the University, on behalf of the students, to amend Skinner building to be more accommodating to students with wheelchair access needs. Students, both recently and in the past, have struggled with getting up to seminar rooms – as found recently by a student who could not get to one of the seminar ‘Base’ rooms because, although there was a lift going up to the top floor of the building, the student would still have had to get out their wheelchair or be carried up the stairs to get to the room, neither of which was possible. The Union lobby the University to amend this issue and have the building be more disability and SEN friendly.</p> <p>Vote for –clear majority</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Motion Proposals</p>	
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Creation of a SEN safe space – Adam Coy It has been put to the Liberations Officer and Liberations Team that a number of autistic students have suffered with a lack of quiet area, stress free areas, to sit, study freely and relax when needed to be</p>	

	<p>away from other loud university environments, or otherwise difficult social-heavy areas. The Liberations Team concluded that despite the university having quieter study areas such as the Library, SU Common Room, and The Snug, these are not very well sign posted and are often not quiet at the best of times.</p> <p>The team suggested that a proposal be put forward to have, these areas signposted better, and that the SU lobby the University to create a new space designed specifically to encompass stressed students and students with disability and SEN.</p> <p>Qu- how would you differentiate this being a SEN safe Space as opposed to another social area being used? We would form a group who would talk to the University and discuss how best to approach this. Some suggestions were to have this monitored in some way.</p> <p>Vote for – clear majority</p>	
<p>5.2</p>	<p>Lessening of the amount of students needed to create a society – Joshua Berrington</p> <p>JB - Reduce society numbers by two (from 9 to 7), and give it a different name to help the society get off its feet and to give the exec a bit of training before they take on a big society with all its members.</p> <p>Owen Lewis (amendment) - to reduce the number of people needed for a society by two at this time. From 9 down to 7.</p> <p>Adam Coy (Amendment) – would be to keep the same idea and reduce it down to 7, but the society would have a ‘society pending status’. If not enough numbers would cease to being a society.</p> <p>Owen Lewis amendment is passed</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p>Activities Hub (read of behalf of Kieran Wiseman)</p> <p>Throughout February there have been a few issues with the activities, therefore the Hub has created a plan to solve this. The Trustee Board approved the use of reserve funds to buy a new computer, but due to technical issues this has had to be returned. Currently looking at purchasing a new one. This has delayed the hub slightly on the planned upgrade of the activities software, which will now take place after Easter. In the next few days the HODs and Sabb team will meet for a brand identity and communications improvement meeting to see what can be done to help people. If anyone has any suggestions then please email the team. Numbers at events has declined quite sharply in the last few weeks, despite the Hub running more varied</p>	

events. The Hub is going to investigate this, but it could be due to bad weather in the last few weeks or lack of advertising. The trip to Playzone will be the last trip before the Easter break.

Opportunities Hub (Craig Ferguson)

Societies Officer: Since the last council, Josh has mainly been working on assignments but has been able to set up a page on Facebook for the society execs, which is allowing him to keep in contact with all societies easily. He has also assisted Sam and Owen with the cake and coffee morning that took place on Friday 9th March.

RAG Officer: doesn't have anything meaningful to report.

Volunteering Officer: Has been approached by a volunteering organisation and advertising for this can be found on the SU Facebook page and within the SU itself. All information can be found on the advertising material. CF has also been continuing to work on the Peer Support Programme and look to formally launch it on 18th April which is when University Mental Health Day has been rescheduled for.

Welfare Hub (Owen Lewis)

This month has been a busy time for the Welfare hub, LGBT History month saw an active engagement with the students, however it was at the same time as Elections, so did struggle with some parts. So will look at how to do this better for next year. We also had an active engagement with the Fairtrade fortnight. Currently we have Sports Relief going on, pyjama day and International Happiness Day.

Both OL and AC have attended LGBT conferences in the last month. AC has decorated the notice board and SU Reception foyer with all the current BGSU staff and Execs so people are aware of who is who, advertisements and the permanent Pride flag.

The Disability Officer has been working with students on a fundraising campaign for a local cause. Unfortunately the hub saw the resignation of the Equality Officer, which now leaves only 3 members. However they are working on a wide variety of other things. They have a good number of events planned for the next few months, and had some successful events already this month.

Vice President

JB has been working hard on Student Council and proxy votes. Looking at finding out which Course Reps have dropped out and no longer want to be Course Reps anymore. JB has booked himself on to every

	<p>course that doesn't have one to elect course reps. Also looking into the issues of quoracy and how we can solve this, by possibly reshaping and changing Council. Also working on the SU Awards, this comprises of Course Rep awards and also Student Led teaching awards. Nominations open on 2 April.</p> <p>President GH starting to work on how we can improve voting numbers and trying to finding reasoning behind the drop in recent numbers (140 drop since 2016). Going to adapt our impact survey to capture data on voting and running for positions. Looking at how we can enhance how we engage with students overall. Also looking at moving out of our space to promote our services - Portal SU. Continuing to work with data capture during Societies week in order to enhance the variety of societies we provide. University Mental Health Day has now been rescheduled to 18 April from 1 March due to the snow day at University. Graduation Ball will take place at Jocasta's, we closely followed the student feedback on this. The Sabbatical Officers will now be able to opt in to an Apprenticeship - Level 2 in Team leading. BGSU are the first University in the country to offer this level of support to Sabbatical Officers. BGSU is rolling out a mentoring scheme which Abi is doing a lot of work on. This will help elected officers in their role.</p>	
7	<p>AOB AR – please be mindful of how many slices of pizza you take this evening. At the last council, there were some students taking whole boxes with them. Eat as much as you want here but any leftover will be distributed to the common room for any hungry students. Playzone tickets are on sale, this venue will be exclusive to BGSU on the night.</p>	
8	<p>Matters Arising There were no matters arising.</p>	