



**Student Council  
Monday 26 February 2018  
The Venue @ 6pm**

| <b>Item No.</b> |  | <b>Action</b> |
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|                 | <b>Chairs Business</b>   |               |
| <b>1</b>        | Attendees and Apologies –<br>Liam Jordan was voted in as Chair of Student Council for this meeting by a clear majority.<br>Meeting was confirmed as quorate.   |               |
| <b>2</b>        | Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting – these were confirmed as a true and accurate record.  |               |
| <b>3</b>        | Responses to the matters arising - there were no matters arising.  |               |
|                 | <b>Formal Business</b>   |               |
| <b>4</b>        | <b>Other Business</b>  |               |
|                 | <p>RFS Update – Josh Blanchard<br/>Key things and trends:<br/><b>School of Humanities</b> – feedback was mostly positive, there was praise for the delivery of taught sessions. Support from academics was particularly strong. Blackboard was praised for being a useful tool to have. In general there was an issue with the amount of books available in the library for Humanities courses. It was noted that the library was a hugely useful support service. Bunching up of assignment hand in dates has been an issue.<br/><b>School of Social Sciences</b> – feedback was generally positive with assignment information, Blackboard provision, opportunities and events were particularly commendable. All constructive feedback from this school was course specific.<br/><b>School of Teaching Development</b> – in general the courses were viewed as positive with teaching, feedback and library resources as highlighted as areas of good practice across courses. Much of the constructive feedback involved was course specific. However the ERPD was brought up as an issue, with Reps saying it was hard to connect with the ERPD online. Also that it was time consuming, complicated and that more training was needed to be more beneficial in the future.<br/>JB still waiting for quite a few RFS forms from course reps to be uploaded or completed. If these haven't been done please could a meeting be arranged with a programme leader as soon as possible.</p> |               |

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| <b>5</b>  | <b>Motion Proposals</b>  |  |
| <p data-bbox="245 432 292 461"><b>5.1</b></p> <p data-bbox="209 819 328 891"><b>5.6 (part of)</b></p> | <p data-bbox="357 353 807 385"><b><i>Vote to split the motions - passed</i></b></p> <p data-bbox="357 432 842 463"><b>Community Officer – Gareth Hughes</b><br/>The Community Officer position is one of the hardest roles to recruit, which is potentially due to the vagueness of its remit. It is also one of the most resigned positions in the SU. The Community Officer has a poorly defined remit despite work being done to enhance the role. The workload of this position could easily be split between the Campaigns and Welfare Officers fairly intuitively without effecting the roles. GH proposes that the Community Officer position should be removed.</p> <p data-bbox="357 819 512 851"><b>Adam Coy -</b><br/>The merger of the newly approved International Students role, with the Communities Officer which thereby creates the International and Communities Officer.</p> <p data-bbox="357 1016 1262 1279">The Community Officer is a role that has always struggled to be filled. It has a bizarre remit and it can be fulfilled by other roles. AC doesn't believe that this can be done by the Campaigns and Welfare Officer, as it would put too much pressure on the Welfare Officer. AC proposes to merge the newly created International Officer role and Community role will add a fresh feel to it and have the ability to do more with the role.</p> <p data-bbox="357 1328 1262 1514"><i>Counter argument from GH</i> – The Community Officer workload is so little which is why people in the past have struggled to do the workload as it doesn't mean anything. The only workload that would be shifted is environmental campaigns and this would most probably be already dealt with by them.</p> <p data-bbox="357 1525 1262 1749"><i>Counter argument from AC</i> – we don't want to discourage people running for these roles if they feel that there is too much to do. By combining the role with the International Officer it would give the Community Officer the chance to do more not only in the local community but also in International community. This will give the roles the chance to do more.</p> <p data-bbox="357 1794 1126 1865">Vote – GHs motion proposal – 13, ACs motion proposal 15. Therefore ACs motion passed.</p> |  |
|   | <b><i>Vote to split the motions – passed</i></b>   |  |

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| <p><b>5.2</b></p> | <p><b>Liberations Reform – Gareth Hughes</b></p> <p>The Liberations Officer was introduced in 2014 to introduce a Liberations presence in BGSU. The 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, there would be less need for a Liberations Officer.</p> <p>This would raise the status of the reps further would be a step closer to properly representing Liberations groups and is a step in right direction. The remit of Equality Rep is very similar to that of the Welfare Officer, and would cause an overlap of work if the two officers co-existed. The union believes that the Liberations Rep positions should be made full officer positions i.e. Gender &amp; Sexuality Officer, Disability &amp; SEN Officer, International Officer, and that the Liberations Officer and Equality Rep roles should be removed.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>5.6</b></p> | <p><b>Motion for the creation of Liberations Hub – Adam Coy</b></p> <p>Creation of the Liberations Hub, by which moving the entire Liberations team to then form an entirely separate new hub. The creation of this new hub would allow the Liberations team to begin afresh with a new sense of ability to improve representation of students and allow smoother changes in direction for team to achieve this, furthermore it has been suggested that in the past the Liberations team have caused too much of a strain on the Welfare Hub, its resources, time and budget.</p> <p>The merger of the Liberations Officer and Equalities Rep roles to create a Liberations and Equalities Officer role to try and increase the abilities of the Liberations officer to manage the new hub. Whilst also promoting the hub and engagement in students. This also would reduce the number of roles in the SU that would otherwise remain empty. There is a proposal with regard to create a new budget. However this is not how budgets are decided.</p> <p><i>Counter argument GH</i> – with experience of managing the work of hubs, getting 3 hubs to meet and report to the Exec team is quite difficult and a stress to manage. So having a 4<sup>th</sup> hub to report to the team would be quite a lot more workload to try and manage them to meet. The Welfare hub should already have in it remit GH believes Liberations at the heart of it. So this would be taking away a lot from Welfare. GH believes that reducing these roles means AC would be taking away 1 role and GH would be taking away 2 roles. GH would be</p> |  |

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|  | <p>making a closer knit Welfare hub, which is much more practical and able to pass what is needed.</p> <p><i>Counter argument AC-</i> to take away the Liberations Officer and Equalities Rep roles. By taking the Liberations Officer role away, this would be taking away the opportunity to feel like the Liberations is correctly heard and all their needs put as a priority. In the past it has been raised that the Welfare hub has had a lot to be doing. So to put more into this role AC does not think is wise. The Equality reps role has been commented on that it has been a token role, and the need wasn't really there. But buy getting rid of 1 role you have the chance to fill in the cracks.</p> <p>Abi Rogers clarified how the budgets work. The SU gets its amount of money for the year based on student's numbers (predicted for first year via application numbers). Therefore the SU never really knows how much money it is likely to get from year to year. Various fixed costs have then come out of the budget, NUS, wages, insurance, licence fees and various other costs. Whatever is left is then divided up between the various areas. So this may not be the same amount each year.</p> <p>Questions for both motions – It was suggested that high workload leads to officer retention lowering, can you justify your inputs &amp; changes for this statement. GH – we won't be putting more workload onto Liberations Rep. If we don't pass this motion the liberations reps will continue to act as officers. We need to make them officers. Things won't fall through the cracks if the Liberations rep goes.</p> <p>AC – proposes that we give the chance for the team to have a voice of its own. By creating a new hub it will give the chance for the Liberations Officer to do more but also for the two reps to do more. AC doesn't believe it would give them more pressure on workload and give them more chance to speak and be heard and do more with their roles.</p> <p>Question – Last year's team worked so well. It was created based on facts of what went well from previous years. What has changed so much since last year's team that you need to reform the whole team? GH – What's changed is that the team has become a lot more effective, and GH thinks that the Officer status should reflect that. However GH doesn't think that we need a new Hub as the roles overlap so well with the Welfare Rep roles, that they can continue despite this and increase productivity and intermingle with the roles in the Welfare hub.</p> |  |
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|                   | <p>AC – Doesn't think so much has changed, the reps have done more, but the end of 2017 saw the entire collapse of the Liberations team. There was no communication and no events being held. Then the start of 2017 saw the collapse of the Welfare hub. By creating a new hub this might make this happen less and give them a sense of their own budget and resources, and not having to run as a bolt on and a secondary thought. It has been commented on that primarily the Welfare budget has been used for Liberations campaigns.</p> <p>Question - Is this the right time to create a new hub? AC believes it's the perfect time to do this. If we get this new hub working with its own budget and responsibility, it will bring more interest into these roles and less resignations.</p> <p>Question to GH – Who would the officers report to? The Welfare hub and Student Council.</p> <p>Question to AC – If AC motion is passed would he accept help from last year's team? Yes of course anyone in that role would take general advice and help from past Officers and Staff.</p> <p>Unfortunately due to members leaving the meeting it was no longer quorate. So this will now go to a proxy vote for this motion.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>5.3</b></p> | <p><b>Social Sports Officer (revote) – Gareth Hughes (on behalf of the Trustee Board)</b></p> <p>The Trustee Board noted that at Student Council on the 30<sup>th</sup> 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.</p> <p>At the Trustee meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> 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 that were too much were more appropriately carried out by a BG Union staff member, and that this staff member was going to be taking this on anyway as it had been decided upon at meetings. 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. GH presenting the new evidence to allow Council to have another discussion on this and to have a vote on for keeping this role, against or abstaining.</p> <p>Jake Harness – originally put in the proposal due to the fact that the workload was too great for one person. JH this has worked well and given him the experience to organise events and deal with finances. JH believes that the Sports Officer should do this job and not a BGU staff member as this would be detrimental to the role. Getting more quality with two roles rather than one.</p> |  |

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|            | <p>JH counter proposal would be to do this for a year and if it doesn't work then go back to the Trustee Board.</p> <p>Due to members leaving the meeting and no longer being quorate, this will now go to a proxy vote for the counter proposal and if approved will go through. If rejected will then go to GH proposal and then have a re vote and this will take place at the next Council.</p>   |  |
| <b>5.4</b> | <p><b>Motion for amendment to Skinner Building – Adam Coy</b></p> <p>AC proposes that the SU lobby the University of behalf of the students to amend Skinner building to be more accommodating for students with wheelchair access needs. Some students have struggled with access to various seminar rooms, even though there is a lift this only goes up floor by floor but there are still some stairs in between levels. The wheelchair lifts here are not always ready or have access with a key. Some staff are unsure of how to operate the lifts.</p> <p>This will now be taken to a proxy vote.</p>  |  |
| <b>5.5</b> | <p><b>Motion for the creation of SEN safe place – Adam Coy</b></p> <p>It has been put to the Liberations Officer and Liberations Team that a number of autistic and SEN students have suffered with a lack of quiet stress free areas, to sit, study freely and relax when needed to be away from other loud university environments, or otherwise difficult social-heavy areas.</p> <p>The Liberations Team concluded that despite the university having quieter study areas (Library, SU Common Room, and The Snug), these are not very well sign posted and are often not quiet at the best of times. However, there is the library which does have a quiet area but it feels very academic. The team suggested that a proposal be put forward to have these areas signposted better and for the SU to lobby the university to create a new space designed specifically to encompass stressed students and students with disability, SEN and mental health needs.</p> <p>Question – have you considered the use of the peace garden? There was a motion about it previously at council. This is a protected space. The motion to renovate the Peace Garden was meant to be happening during Well Being Week, however this could not happen due to the weather and has been postponed.</p> <p>Question – how would the space be monitored so that it was only being used by the people it was intended for? Any space at the University would have to be accessible to all. But will have to have an emphasis on it being a quiet space.</p> <p>This would probably be to amend a room and not build a new one.</p> |  |

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|                  | <p>Shane Dangar suggested amending the motion – instead of calling it an SEN space to a general safe space instead.<br/>This will now go to a proxy vote.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>6.</b></p> | <p><b>Reports:</b><br/><b>Welfare Hub (Adam Coy)</b><br/>This year saw the collapse of the Welfare hub with the resignation of the welfare officer. Furthermore we saw the collapse and breakdown in communications of the Liberations team. However, from the start of this year AC and the rest of team have been working together to ensure they have a clear plan to move forward. Starting again from basics we have worked well and moving in the right direction. Struggled with only having two officers in a Hub which is designed to have four. We have still held several successful events including Chinese new year quiz, securing of the Positive Health Lincolnshire agreement, and involvement in Wellbeing week, LGBT History month and attendance at the National conference.</p> <p>Nightline – still working on this, it needs to be put to the University and if the University agrees with it we can contact Nightline to sort this out. Also need to look at if we have the budget for this.</p> <p><b>Opportunities Hub (Craig Ferguson)</b></p> <p><b>Societies Officer</b> - with the recent elections Josh hasn't been able to alot, but before these he has been working on improving relations between societies and the SU. We have seen a keen interest in societies after Societies week. It is his goal to keep that interest ongoing.</p> <p><b>RAG Officer</b> – would like to get random acts of kindness off the ground as soon as possible and is working with CELT in order to make this happen.</p> <p><b>Sports Officer</b> - The process to get the Sports and Society awards night has begun and he is well underway to finding a host for this year. A number of places have been contacted to discuss price and deals this includes HOME night club and The Doubletree Hilton, and as a final act of their job role will be able to confirm where we're going, the price, and the date of the event come the next weekend if all goes accordingly.</p> <p>Sports itself has been going well over the past few months in particularly with the Dance society raising a lot of money for Cancer Research and for the society to get to competition. The Cheer Society</p> |  |

with their showcase earlier on in the year and last but not least Netball firsts playing for the top spot of the league with only 3 points separating the top 3 teams.

The Sports Officer would thank everyone that has worked with him during the time of him being Sports Officer. It was a massive learning experience and wishes good luck to all societies in the forthcoming months and years.

**Volunteering Officer** - Much like Josh, due to the recent elections CF hasn't been able to do a great deal in regards to his role. What he has been doing is identifying various volunteering opportunities in the local area that may appeal to our students. There are a few minor adjustments and last minute elements that he needs to work on for the Peer Support Programme and will hopefully be launching this within the next month.

CF would like to thank everyone that both ran in the election and cast their vote, he expressed his congratulations to everybody that ran and indeed to everybody that was successful. CF looks forward to working with the exec team and our students over the next academic year to help make the SU what you need it to be.

**Extra item :**

**Joshua Berrington – society creation numbers request**

One of the major problems at the moment with societies is the requirement count for societies is way too high. JB proposes that the count be lowered by 2 and hopefully this will then generate interest. Also by lowering it by 2 change it from a society to a club.

A debate took place with regard to numbers in society. Would club execs still hold the same position as Society execs? This might throw representation all over the place. JB said that club exec would still have the same say and power, just the name that would be different. If a Society does not recruit enough members would they shrink to the level of a club? This systems seems to be too confusing. Some societies do exist on fewer numbers.

The by-laws would have to be changed at Student Council if this was to be approved.

Owen Lewis change to the motion – have a trial process and just remove it by 2 for new societies, re look at training and not change the name.

Adam Coy change to the motion –keep Josh's proposal but amend it slightly. If your numbers fall below the 8 you need – you would have a society pending status, you would still have the same powers and

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|                  | <p>responsibilities of a society. This would be considered a trial but with a different name.<br/>This will now go to a proxy vote.</p> <p><b>Activities Hub (Kieran Wiseman)</b><br/>Following feedback received we have created a rota as of April and have included more variety of events and will allow for adverts to go up earlier. At the next Exec meeting KW will be pushing for brand advertising recognition plan, KW appreciates everyone's input in how we can further advertise on and off campus and to PGCE students. In Dec/Jan we hired to Activities assistants which have helped Liberations team as well as Welfare. Started planning BGU'S Got Talent has been pushed back slightly due to advertising.<br/>Do you utilise the skills that you have in your hub? Should use them more.</p> <p><b>Vice President : Education (Josh Blanchard)</b><br/>JB expressed his happiness for being re-elected for his role in the elections and looks forward to working with all those elected for next year. Has worked on Society and Surveys week, both of these events were successful and saw a high turnout of students filling in the surveys. Also we had lots of students engaging with societies, filling in the society's board and attending taster sessions. JB was pleased to announce that we now have Archaeology, BGSU newspaper and Psychology societies. These are some of our first academic societies. JB also attended a TEF conference. Also working on Student Engagement Conference with GH.</p> <p><b>President : Gareth Hughes</b><br/>GH has since he was elected been supporting students in their welfare and academic needs. Has also been working on Survey and Societies week along with JB. Just come through a busy election period. GH wishes all those elected the best for the next year. Has been working with SU Manager on GDPR. This week is Well Being week, the SU has been working with CELT, the Sports Centre, the library, BG Futures and BG Retail to deliver a programme of events for the week. Planners are available. The University Mental Health Day is being held on Thursday 1 March at the end of Well Being Week. Lastly we have been working on Graduation Ball, and the results of the survey will out next week.</p> |  |
| <p><b>7.</b></p> | <p><b>AOB</b><br/>JB – due to the last Council meeting nit being quorate there were 2 proxy motions. First one – First Aid for sports teams and the second</p>  |  |

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|           | <p>was about Postgraduate and Foundation students and quoracy at council. Both of these motions were passed. JB thanked everyone for their proxy votes.</p> <p>Could we have a SU noticeboard with activities on?</p> <p>A board will be created in the SU reception area with members of the team on.</p> |  |
| <b>8.</b> | <p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>  |  |