

## Student Council Meeting

Meeting held in MR1 Students' Union, Frenchay Campus, at 17:30 on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April

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**001:** The Chair introduced himself and welcomed those present to the third SCM of the year and set out the agenda and purposes of the meeting and role of the Democratic Procedures Committee.

**002:** The Student Executive had provided reports of activities to date that had been circulated to members beforehand. The Chair invited members to ask questions of the Presidents present.

David to all: although recognising that this was in part addressed in VP Ed's report, what is the SU's stance on the future use of B Block?

VP Ed answered that the Exec is looking for student feedback to present to the university and that his understanding is that areas will be allocated to different faculties, with HAS most likely to be the main beneficiary, but that based on initial conversations student feedback in the spatial planning was being sought.

David supplemental: can the Exec assure Council that it is still SU policy to turn part of the old SU bar into a sleep pod bay as had been agreed by a previous meeting of Council and where was the feedback from the Exec on Ideas that had passed and they were mandated to action?

SU President explained that much of the space had been returned to the university and that the space that was previously Red bar had been allocated.

VP C+W said that the SU policy will be raised with the Directorate and that it would be an excellent idea to feedback progress on policy mandates to future Council meetings.

Derya to VP C+W: who is undertaking the feedback for DSA and what will happen with this feedback?

VP C+W explained that she was holding several sessions across campuses and that her intention was to build a report of lived experiences to go to the university's Modernisation Board.

Derya to VP C+W: is a Halls Reps system still something that you plan to introduce?

VP C+W explained that she had encountered numerous institutional hurdles in getting the system up and running but that for Glenside and Frenchay based halls of residence, a system would be in place for September 17 and that the future success of this will demonstrate to Unite housing the need for Halls Reps across all accommodation.

Alastair to VP S+H: could the VP explain more about the student input in to the new Sport Strategy and how the structures will change for clubs?

VP S+H explained that focus groups will soon be set up to gather additional feedback as student input so far had been limited and that the no one wanted to put the strategy out without sufficient student input.

Shantour to SU President: SUP made a commitment to increase student parking provision in his manifesto, managerially and spatially what processes have taken place and what outcomes have been achieved?

SUP explained that he did not have exact figures at hand but that this was a difficult area to work on as space is limited and there are increasing demands with increasing student numbers but that it remains a priority.

Derya to VP Ed: what will be the priority if you can't achieve free black and white printing for all students?

VP Ed answered this was an investigation into the costs associated with printing credit and how that money could be best spent; the university has been mandated to do this through Academic Board due to feedback he had brought from Student Rep Committee.

David to all: the university has released its redesign logo with the intention of updating this across all media across all campuses; is the Exec aware of any student desire for this, especially when money is being taken from student service budgets, and what representations will the SU make to the university in regards to the environmental and financial sustainability of the roll out of the new design?

VP C+W said that she was unaware of any student desire for this and that students should lobby (perhaps through the SU) the university to make their feelings known on this.

Derya to VP S+C: how was the decision achieved in regards to the new "Societies Fee" to cover the cost of insurance.

VP S+C explained that this discussed at Societies Conference and that the feedback from there was taken to the Societies Exec who made the decision based on this.

David to SUP: can the SUP clarify, after comments he made to the Tab, that he has faith in the integrity of SU elections and the SU staff and he does not believe these to have been fixed.

Chair: this is not the time for such questions; the election was fair; breaches of rules took place; there was an investigation; there was an appeals process; two disqualifications were made and the decisions were taken in proper regard to the processes and procedures laid down.

Chelsea supplemental: if now is not the right time for such questions, when is?

VP C+W voiced her opinion that it was always the right time to ask questions of the Exec and hold them to account, either in the Student Council Meeting or directly through other means. This position was endorsed by VP Ed and VP S+C.

Derya to VP S+H: what comments can be made in regards to the events at Varsity Rugby?

VP S+H explained that what she could say was limited because of an on-going police investigation but that it had appeared that a small number of students had instigated UWE's role in the events; the main priority now was identifying any wrong doers and the SU was working with Student Conduct to achieve this.

Derya supplemental: who was involved in the decision to suspend Varsity Football?

VP S+H said that she sits on a Varsity Board along with Bristol SU and the university and Bristol university and the Varsity Manager and that the decision was taken by this Board whilst the police investigation was on-going. The decision was unfortunate but understandable as student safety is the top concern. There will be another meeting next week and students can pass any feedback to VP S+H who will submit this to the Board.

Alastair supplemental: future events at Ashton Gate now appeared to be uncertain, did this include the Sports Ball and were contingency plans in place?

VP S+H confirmed contingency plans did exist but that everything would be done to keep the Sports Ball at Ashton Gate which was still the plan at present.

Derya to VP S+C: have you had any meeting with your successor?

VP S+C said that she had not but that meetings were planned in addition to the formal hand over.

**003:** VP Ed presented his review in to the Part-Time Officer Positions and explained the processes and reasoning behind his proposals and invited members to ask questions and make comments.

Council was of the opinion that more resources needed to go to the Officers representing the satellite campuses in order to address some of the real discrepancies felt by students based on those campuses. Council additionally expressed the need for a named contact to be given for Frenchay based students if their dedicated Campus Officer were to be removed; VP Ed agreed to this. Council was of the opinion that more staff time (including part time student staff time) should be directed to the non Frenchay campuses as the offices were not open long enough and at key times for the students based off of Frenchay.

Proposal 1: Council **endorsed** this with 8 votes in favour, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

Proposal 2: Council **endorsed** this with 11 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Proposal 3: Council **deferred** discussion on this until a quorate meeting could discuss the Student Idea relating to this proposal.

**004:** The meeting was inquorate (quorum being 75% of those elected) and so Council deferred decisions on this matter until a later meeting, to be held within this academic year, could be called.

**Action:** Secretary to organise a new meeting.

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**007:** Council requested the Secretary and the DPC to discuss ways going forward to ensure future meetings were quorate and that the Student Council continued to function properly and effectively.

**Action:** Secretary and DPC to discuss strategies for ensuring future meetings reach quorum and maintain effective.

Derya requested that it be minuted that he completely objected to the DPC overreaching their mandate in deciding what questions could and could not be asked by members to the Executive.