

## Hertfordshire Students' Union

### Minutes of Student Council held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October in Room C152

**Members present:** See appendix 1

**In Attendance:** Rebecca Hobbs – General Manager  
 Jeff Wiltshire – Representation Coordinator [Clerk]  
 Steve Owen – Student Voice Manager  
 Warren Bingham Roberts – Representation Coordinator  
 Rachel Nield – Research Coordinator  
 Tash Crump – Campaign and Policy Advisor

**Apologies:** See appendix 2

1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Jeff Wiltshire (JW) introduced the meeting and explained the role of Student Council. JW outlined that he would be chairing the meeting until a new Chair of Student Council is elected.</p>	
2	<p><b>Elections</b></p> <p>JW, Amy Holloway Smith (AHS) and Rebecca Hobbs (RH) explained that we will be elected one student to SEEC, another to Academic Board as well as the Chair and Deputy Chair of Student Council.</p> <p>An overview of the positions were provided by JW and RH.</p> <p><b>S.C.2.1 Student Educational Experience Committee (SEEC)</b></p> <p>Katie Morton - elected unopposed</p> <p><b>S.C.2.2 Academic Board</b></p> <p>Emmanuela Osei-Asemani - elected unopposed</p> <p><b>S.C.2.3 Chair and Deputy Chair of Student Council</b></p> <p>Six candidates nominated themselves to be Chair of Student Council. Each candidate gave a two minute speech about why they would be suitable for the position. SCOs, Officer Trustees, Student Trustees, Campaign Officers, the candidates themselves and the Chair of Trident Media were eligible to vote for the positions and the following candidates were duly elected:</p> <p>Paul Dosunmu – Chair of Student Council      Maryam Zaman – Deputy Chair of Student Council</p> <p>Paul Dosunmu (PD) took over chairing the meeting from this point.</p> <p><b>S.C.2.4 Expression of interest for Scrutiny Committees</b></p>	

	<p>Attendees were asked by JW if they would like to be involved in Scrutiny Committees. This is a sub-committee of Student Council which involves ensuring the elected officers are meeting the objectives and fulfilling their manifesto commitments. Twelve students put their names forward and their contact details have been shared with the Student Voice team.</p>	
3	<p><b>Students' Union update</b></p> <p><b>S.C.6.1 Bye-Law One: Governance</b></p> <p>An update from the Students' Union has become a standing item for the Student Council agenda. On this occasion, an update to the SU's governance was presented by JW.</p> <p>JW explained that the SU is a charity and governed by bye-laws and Articles of Association. This particularly bye-law was out of date so it is being brought to the attention of Student Council for an update. The main change in the bye-law relates to the membership of Student Council. The updated bye-law can be found on the Students' Union website.</p> <p><b>Q – If we increase the number of students who are invited to Student Council will quoracy be increased?</b></p> <p>A – No. We feel that 20 students with voting rights constitutes a fairly representative Student Council.</p> <p><b>Q – How will students for Scrutiny Committees be appointed?</b></p> <p>A – We will have a pool of students and they will be invited to Scrutiny Committees based on their availability.</p> <p><b>Vote: 19 FOR 0 AGAINST</b></p> <p><b>S.C.6.2 Bye-Law Five: Societies</b></p> <p>The bye-law regarding Societies was taken to the final Student Council meeting of the 2018/9 academic year and is now available on the Students' Union website.</p>	
4	<p><b>Reports from the Elected Officers</b></p> <p><b>Rida Shafqat (RS) - President</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RS mentioned the various University committees she sits on, ranging from the Board of Governors to National Student Survey action plan groups.</li> <li>• RS referenced internal meetings such as Student Council and Governance as well as her monthly meetings with the Vice-Chancellor regarding Higher Education issues.</li> <li>• RS has four main priorities for the year: BAME STAFF representation, International students' scholarships, more counselling, women's only gym time and a quiet multi-faith room.</li> <li>• RS also wants to enhance student awareness of their rights as well as promoting the Students' Union to the wider student body.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions</b></p> <p><b>Q – You mentioned academic support in each School, I've been</b></p>	

**involved with excel workshops in the Business School, can I help?**

A – Yes, of course the more the merrier!

**Q – Would the Scholarships be just for International students?**

A – Yes, because there is no Student Finance available for International students.

**Q – What about for sport and academic excellence?**

A – It will be merit based and there are sports scholarships available already. However, if there is a demand for additional scholarships for Home students we will look in to it.

**Q – What does BAME stand for?**

A – BAME stands Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic. The reason I am looking in to this is because there is an attainment gap between BAME and white students of 18%. As a result, a white student is 18% more likely to achieve a first or 2:1 if they have the same grades on entry.

**Muhammad Sajid (MS) – Vice-President Activities**

- MS first priority was to revamp Trident Media and now a committee has been formed this has been handed over.
- MS has gathered a lot of feedback from society and sports club committee members, they were particularly impressed with the VIP membership which gives them free entry to the Forum on Wednesdays and Fridays. There has been an increase in funding for society of the month winners.
- MS has been working with the Commercial team so that student groups can book the Style Bar and the Vice-President Community to make the Oval a bookable space.
- A new night called Global Beats has been introduced which plays different genres of music than the Forum normally offers.
- The Cultural Series is being developed with Black History and Bollywood events coming up.

**Questions**

**Q – A lot of money is spent on flyers which are one use only. Can we use the interactive screens around campus?**

A – We will look in to it because a lot of useful staff has been shared during Freshers' Week.

It was mentioned that there have been communication problems within Engineering and between Society Committees and their members.

**Actions**

- MS to look at communicate issues between Societies and their members, particularly through the email system.
- MS to investigate whether it is possible for Societies to promote their events on interactive screens.

**Q – How have you promoted Advice and Support?**

A – Through signposting and solving issues such as Landlords exploiting students with their contracts.

**Farhan Rafique (FR) – Vice-President Community**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Officer team are focusing on promoting the Herts Community.</li> <li>• FR has met with a variety of University departments such as ULiving, Aramark, Estates Circuit Laundry and UNO Bus in order to support his manifesto commitments.</li> <li>• Some areas FR has covered include lobbying for a halal counter in the canteen, fixing the lift on College Lane and improving the security provision on campus.</li> <li>• The UNO bus app is available to download as of last week.</li> <li>• FR mentioned that the lockers have been installed and will be available for students' use very shortly.</li> </ul> <p><b>Q – Can you buy tickets on the new app?</b></p> <p>A – You will be able to from 30<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p><b>Amy Holloway Smith (AHS) – Vice-President Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AHS' main project is Wellbeing Wednesdays which is a programme of events and activities for students to reduce isolation and loneliness.</li> <li>• AHS will aim to broaden and strengthen academic societies in each School. She has had plenty of successes in developing Nursing and Education Societies.</li> <li>• AHS is also working with the SU's marketing team regarding website reform. This comes from her experience as a member of student staff and her work with societies previously.</li> <li>• AHS is using Speak Week as an opportunity to research graduation ticket allocation, date and location.</li> </ul> <p><b>Q – Wednesdays aren't great for Commuters because they come in for lectures and go home again. What are your thoughts on this?</b></p> <p>A – I've conducted research and I was surprised to see the results as well! But it's definitely something I will explore.</p> <p><b>Q – There is a Law Society but no Criminology one and I'm worried that students who do my course will be left out, how will you address this?</b></p> <p>Kazi Samiul Islam (Law SCO) – Supporting Criminology students will be my responsibility so we can talk about this after the meeting.</p> <p><b>Q – I'm having Timetabling issues for my Engineering course, what should I do?</b></p> <p>A – We can speak about this outside of the meeting and I will encourage the Timetabling Review group to communicate more about what the project involves.</p>	
5	<p><b>Oral update from Student Trustees</b></p> <p>Two of our Student Trustees, Bishal Saha (BS) and Kennery Borkhataria (KB) were in attendance to give a brief update about the work of the Trustee Board.</p> <p>KB clarified that the Trustee Board ensures that the Students' Union is financially sustainable. At the first meeting, Trustees received training and learnt more about the Students' Union and its plan for the upcoming year.</p>	

	BS summarised the second Trustee Board meeting, which had a greater focus on the University's strategic plan and how the Students' Union fits in to this.	
6	<p><b>Business submitted</b>  <b>S.C.9.1 White T-shirt Policy</b>  Proposer: Amy Holloway-Smith  Seconder: Muhammad Sajid</p> <p>AHS introduced her motion regarding white t-shirt events. At other Universities, student groups have received a lot of negative press coverage when offensive content has been written on white t-shirts during events. AHS proposed this motion so that we are ahead of the game and can help encourage societies and student groups to have inclusive and welcoming social events.</p> <p><b>Vote: 24 FOR 0 AGAINST</b></p>	
7	<p><b>Notice of elections</b></p> <p>JW gave notice of the upcoming by-election in October. 6 NUS Delegates as well as one Postgraduate and one Environmental Officer will be up for election (as of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019). Nominations open on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October and will close on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Voting will open on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October and will close on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. More information will be available on the website.</p>	
8	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – de Havilland</p>	

### Appendix 1 – Attendance List

Rida Shafqat  
Amy Holloway-Smith  
Farhan Rafique  
Muhammad Sajid  
Ujjwal Kakade  
Louis Filer  
Kazi Saimul Islam  
Katie Morton  
Jay Towler  
Jade Eeles  
Lucy Mackintosh  
Panashe Chisasa  
Nkosi Muntu  
Jessica Matuatia  
Louise Thomas  
James Mateer  
Maryam Zaman  
Paul Dosunmu  
Sudhanshu Savner  
Akshay Deshmukh  
James Mills  
Jessica Gonzalez  
Comfort Adusei Opoku  
Kelechi Ukokewlu  
Julie Osei  
Kaja Vijayanathan  
Afshan Shahid  
Syeda Naqvi

Erica  
Bishal Saha  
Kennery Borkhataria  
6x UH students

## **Appendix 2 – Apologies**

Imashi Dhanushika