Student Council

Thursday 29\textsuperscript{th} October 2020
Before we start...

- Please mute yourself unless speaking – helps to avoid background noise/interference!

- Make use of the chat function, and keep an eye on it for any comments or answers coming through.

- Be respectful of others when they’re speaking/commenting – this is a place for everyone to have their say.

- Listen carefully to avoid repetition – we want to cover as much ground as possible!

- All of the papers referenced here, plus additional information on Student Council can be found here (https://hertfordshire.su/your-say/student-council/), so do follow along if you’re confused at any point!
• SC-1  |  Welcome and introductions
• SC-2  |  Apologies for absence
• SC-3  |  Acceptance of urgent business
• SC-4  |  Minutes of the previous meeting
• SC-5  |  Chair of Student Council Election
• SC-6  |  Updates from the Students’ Union
• SC-7  |  Reports from your Elected Officers
• SC-8  |  Discussion of any urgent business (if any)
• SC-9  |  Final questions
• SC-10 |  Confirmation of next meeting
Part 1 - Admin

- SC-1  | Welcome and introductions
- SC-2  | Apologies for absence
- SC-3  | Acceptance of urgent business
- SC-4  | Minutes of the previous meeting
- Refer to paper **SC-4.1 Minutes (29.10.20)**
What is the role of the Chairperson?

• The Chair of Student Council plays a crucial role in enhancing students' experience here at Herts, by leading and managing the meeting throughout the year. They act as the anchor of the Students’ Union’s democratic processes, and ensure that every student can have their say on the key matters being discussed.

• Refer to paper **SC-5.1 Role Description (Chair of SC)**
Candidates for the Chair of Student Council

Thursday 29th October 2020
1. Yusra Yacoubi

“I’m a student at Herts running to be the Chairperson for this academic year.

As a Chair of Student Council I commit to organise and manage the meetings throughout the year.

To stand in front and take the first step for Students’ Union’s democratic processes, serve them as a guide, be there to listen and understand their concerns with an open mind. I will make sure they have support and take their matters to the Council.

I seek to motivate students in these difficult times so their experience at the University is not affected.

This role is a great opportunity for me to develop a leadership ability as well as public speaking skills. Being one of the few women on my course and an ethnic minority I want to take this chance to use my capacity to address real challenges and leave a meaningful impact on student’s lives.”
2. Zohair Ahmed

“I'm in this university from September 2019 and I have seen many students having a problem to engage with university management as they feel shy and scared whole expressing their feelings to management. As an individual I understand all the student problems and I think so I can help them to get what they need from university. I represent them at all platforms. I would be a hope for those students who can't express their feelings or emotions in front of faculty and management. If you want a person who can understand your feeling than select me as your chairperson.”
3. Anoosha Athar

“I am Anoosha Athar and a current Student Representative. I feel that I can make a big impact in Students’ Union as a Chair of student Council. I possess qualities of being reliable, organized and passionate about making a success out of everything I do.

I will make sure that a significant amount of time is put into achieving successful student council where all our willing and strong students can work together in harmony throughout the year. I strongly believe that real building of a council is its satisfied students and to provide them with a pleasant and comfortable environment.

Being a Chair person is much more than planning events where it should be assured that both international and home students have a platform to discuss their key matters and valuable opinions. The warmth of being surrounded by supporting people and their assistance in unfortunate times such as current pandemic.”
4. Sasikanth Reddy Chinthareddy

“I would like to present myself as candidate for Student Council chairperson. Student council truly gives the opportunity to foster skills like leadership, communication, teamwork, organization and public speaking all of which i need in university. Not only do these skills help me in class but they’re also super valuable if i’m interested in co-op programs and job applications. i have leadership skills, which will help me organise events efficiently, i would be honoured to become chairperson of the student council.”
5. Supreetha Kanajanavar

“I am hereby interested in applying for the role of Chairman-Students’ Council to bring about a noticeable change in the Union by being the students’ voice representative.

My earlier experience in similar kinds of responsibilities will come in as handy, because I was representing the entire BMS Council during my college days in India. During my tenures, I made representations to the college management on various pressing issues of the students such as transportation aspects, student hostel facilities, opportunity for finding internships etc.

Also I made effective representations and solved important issues faced by the foreign students coming from African nations, especially the issues pertaining to communication and difficulty in interacting with the local service providers.

This being one of the most important platforms to make use of my managerial and leadership skills adds on to my career growth.”
“My name is Omonefe Davies, and I am running for the Chair of Student Council. I currently study MSc International Business and I am in my second year.

I am running because I would like to see a change in students perception of the SU and get them actively involved. I want students to gain insight of how the SU council works and how they can best benefit from it. I intend working with members of the Union Council to produce a quarterly report that students can read and submit feedback. I believe this would be an effective method of increasing students engagement with the SU thus enabling the elected officers to know areas to effect change.

I have a rational outlook and I have the confidence to chair meetings with diverse viewpoints especially when they turn emotive. I am a good communicator with excellent written, verbal and listening skills.”
“From my school time, I never lose a chance to take part in any curricular and co-curricular activities. Because of my confidence, time management and organisational skills, I am selected as a President of the Electrical Student Association and also a Representative of the Training and Placement cell of the Electrical department while pursuing my graduation.

This is a good opportunity for me to join our University student group as Chairperson. I have good leadership and convincing skills which I want to utilize with my experience and knowledge for serving our current and future students.

I already experienced what kind of problems and difficulties students are facing nowadays and I am also capable of managing those things and sorting them out. Because we have students from a diverse range of backgrounds, I know how to deal with them for improving students’ overall experience at Herts without wasting their time.”
“Hello, my name is Adham Wael and I am interested in becoming the chairperson of the student council. If it does happen and I do become the chairperson, I will try my best to make life better for university students, I still don't know the limits of the powers but I was thinking of arranging fun activities or events for all the students to engage in and have fun all around. I feel that university life most of the time has a huge physical and emotional toll on an individual, and in my opinion the duty of the student council is to take some of that toll off of the student, if I get picked for student council chairperson, I will try my best to do that.”
9. Buthaina Alhadi

“I would like to join the student council because leadership and public speaking are on of my best skills and With endless open doors it could give me later on, there are numerous reasons why I would want to be a part of the student council with my peers. To start with, I want to attempt to improve the university in any case conceivable , And I want to speak to my friends by bringing any of their extraordinary thoughts and ideas into the Student Council to ideally place their thoughts enthusiastically and improve them . I’d likewise prefer to be a functioning part in my university by aiding at functions like events and parties and all the activities and ,I want to be a pioneer and have the option to speak to my university at its best, be my colleague’s voices. Generally, I’d prefer to help other people around me in any circumstances.”
“As a Chair, it would be my privilege to be the Voice of the Students in a larger capacity. From the past 2 years of experience as a student and as a student representative, I feel that the students deserve more freedom of expression. If I am elected I would definitely make sure that the problems which persisted back won’t persist now. Attendance to the Student Council is one of the main issues and I would like to make a change for that. Even though not all students are willing to attend or can attend, I feel there should be an urge for at least 2 or 3 Students from each department of the School to have a say in each meeting.

I would like to introduce an extra position within the council for that purpose so that they willingly agree that they’d be available for all the meeting. If I am elected as the Chair, I would lobby for the leisure activities of the students such as at least once in a month trip which can either be conducted school wise or UH as a whole.”
11. Chante-Marie Dante

“I think I should be the chairperson of the student council because I think I have what it takes to be one. I’m going to be honest, I’m stand-offish, I like to work by myself, but with what comes with my flaws, I think my strengths outshine them such as me being a kind, honest and hard-working person. I want to be a journalist one day, which shows that I’m creative, ah well not really, I just wanted to add that for the sake of it. The point is, I think it would be good for me because I used to bad self-esteem issues, and.. sometimes I have off days, but I feel like everyday I’m getting stronger and stronger, and loving myself more everyday. That’s why I definitely have what it takes to be a good, balanced leader. I hope you consider it. Thank you.”
12. Angelo Mpiani

“A Chair of Student Council is a pivotal role in the Student Union. One that requires experience, dedication and willingness to sacrifice time for the benefit of the student experience at our uni. I, Angelo Mpiani, am now entering my second year of my course and as a student rep. As part of this I am supporting students in my course through the difficulties of remote learning, and feel that I will be able to contribute greatly to this cause on the student council and to students wellbeing.

I will make sure all students viewpoints are taken into consideration to create a fair and accurate outcome, provide a safe space for students to feel safe and speak their mind, and actively be in contact with staff members to be able to get a reasonable look at the student wellbeing at such an uncertain time period.”
“I’m a mature student studying Ecology and Environmental Management. I’ve been a local Councillor since 2015 and have gained experience chairing meetings. I’d love to use this experience to contribute to the running of the Student Council and develop these skills further. In 2016/2017 I was Chair of the Parish Council, and in 2018/2019 I chaired a committee on a District Council. I’ve also Chaired our Youth Council for three years. This allowed me to gain experience Chairing meetings, ensuring process was followed, introducing change and managing a diverse range of councillors and public participants, often with varying opinions. Chairing the Herts Student Council would allow me to learn new skills and practise some of the ones I’ve learnt.

If elected I will act in a professional and non-political/biased manner, allowing business to flow through the Council and Committees. I will strengthen relationships and look to build consensus.”
“My name is Muhammad Qasim and I think I would make an excellent fit for the role as I posses the qualities of a leader who can work hard, smart and multi-task. I can make a change as I believe in helping people and can use this position to help people from various backgrounds in many different styles. Being an international student, I understand the problems faced by international students. In these past 4 years, by studying, working and making friends in the UK, I have gained a substantial amount of understanding of problems faced by local students. I will use this role to work towards the well being of the students, international and local. Making sure no one is left behind by keeping different checks in position and enough awareness for the students to understand we are there to not just help but to make a difference for them.”
“My name is Joy Gyirepa Boateng, am a first year undergraduate student studying psychology. As a leader I believe that you have the chance to make things right at any period of time, and I know that being a leader comes with a lot of sacrifices and hard work as well as determination. And that is the main reason why I have taken upon myself to contest or participate as being a member of the student union.

I am a man of my words, and I have what it takes to help make things better at herts. I am fearless, confident, hardworking and above all I am a young intelligent man with a good heart.

If I am being voted as a member (chair) of the student union I promise to do my best and make Herts better place for us all.”
"My name is Victoria Udeh, I am studying Msc. Mental Health Nursing. The reason why I want to take on the role of the Chairperson of the Student Council is because I represent the interest of students. The University of Hertfordshire can be at its best when the voice of all students are heard. I have an excellent track record of Leadership during my undergraduate studies and some of the roles were:

1. Deputy Senate President (National Association of Nigeria Students Ghana) 2. International Students Association President
3. Departmental president (Environmental and Natural Resources Students Association) 4. Vice president (Environmental and Natural Resources Students Association)
5. Academic committee chair person 6. Sports Secretary

I am result oriented, an excellent communicator and a team player. I have the ability to multitask, organize and negotiate, I believe all these will make me a good choice for the role.”
17. Ralitsa Omoruyi

“I have been a student here for a while and want to create safe space for my peers. I love the fact that the University provides a lot of resources for mental health and fun and activities are everywhere to be found on campus. But with the new normal we have right now I want to advocate for a bigger change. I am someone who would never shy away from any opportunity to do so and I want to continue to preach this and make more change for our peers to create a better quality of life on campus. And fight for democracy between students and teachers. I will gladly host meetings and debates for our peers so everyone can share their mind and perspective on different issues and opportunities in our university.”
18. Srikar Reddy

“I'm Srikar Reddy (Computer Science Department). I believe a person with experience, a person you can depend on, a person that will voice the concern of and represent each and every one of you, I firmly trust that I’m the person of that type. The role of Chair should possess honesty, hard working, coordinating with a healthy environment with the chair Student Council to achieve maximum results. Through this Student Council within the framework of By-laws I ensure to provide a means for student expressions and assistance in activities and giving opportunities for student management, community relations and empower students. Through projects and activities we can promote human relations and cultural values. Stand up and speak out is my motto which made me forward to the role of chair and you can entrust me with the role of the chair as I possess the qualities that I mentioned above.”
19. Ana Ciofu

“I am a final year joint honours student, studying Psychology with Philosophy.

I am currently running a debating society as I am comfortable managing and welcoming other people’s viewpoints. I have a good understanding of students issues as I myself am an involved student within the community. This allowed me to make myself familiar with problems that arise and helped me to appreciate how most of the issues are actually experienced as a community rather than individually. I have good communication skills due to my work experience in customer service and teaching.

I am a culturally aware individual and concerned with diversity. I understand how important it is to create a healthy environment for students and I am committed to improving the student experience as I can empathise and recognise the sacrifices that most pupils have to make in order to join our university.”
20. Rajan Singh

“I want to become a chairperson so that I can motivate others regarding their attendance as I am previous student. Moreover, I have the leadership quality and I can easily understand others with the cool temperament.”
“Student council helps to understand and share student views and issues by providing a platform where students can raise their voices in form of motions, for anything they want Student’s Union to do in order to make their student experience better. It’s very important to look into our sabbatical officers’ progress who represent thousands of students and work for their betterment. They are accountable for their aims, pledges and their ways of working.

I believe I am capable of becoming Student Council Chair, as my past experience as NUS Delegate and current Student Trustee has enabled me to take decisions through my unbiased thinking. I have the patience to listen and welcome all kinds of ideas, opinions and debates. If you elect me as your Chair, you will have someone who understands the current issues faced by students in-depth.”
Congratulations!

• Thank you to everyone who put themselves forward, and for all of you that have voted!

• Your Chair and Deputy Chair will officially take up their positions from the next meeting.
Updates from the Students’ Union

Rebecca Hobbs, Chief Executive
Part 3 – Elected Officer Reports and Q&A

Your Elected Officers
Refer to paper *SC-7.1 Karthik Kumar Bonkur (President)*

Summary of projects:
- International Student Support
- Off-Campus Accommodation Assistance

Contact details:
Email - president@hertfordshire.su
Twitter - https://twitter.com/UHSUpresident
Bobbie Jay (Vice-President Activities)

- Refer to paper SC-7.2 Bobbie Jay (Vice-President Activities)

**Summary of projects:**
- Sports at Herts
- Black History Month
- Lobbying for Marquee
- Social Media Takeover
- Tool Kit

**Contact details:**
Email - vp.activities@hertfordshire.su
Twitter - https://twitter.com/HSUVPactivities
Kayleigh Malone (Vice-President Community)

- Refer to paper SC-7.3 Kayleigh Malone (Vice-President Community)

Summary of projects:
- Advocating for students on placements
- Student Wellbeing
- Supporting students with disabilities
- Quarantine Support
- Study / Communal Spaces

Contact details:
Email - vp.community@hertfordshire.su
Twitter - https://twitter.com/HSUVPcommunity
Saad Raees (Vice-President Education)

- Refer to paper SC-7.4 Saad Raees (Vice-President Education)

Summary of projects:
- Student Success Through COVID – Priority Campaign
- Building a Postgraduate Network
- Course Organisation and Communication
- Timetabling

Contact details:
Email - vp.education@hertfordshire.su
Twitter - https://twitter.com/HSUVPeduction
Any final questions?
Thank you for joining!

Next Meeting:
Thursday 26th November (5pm), Zoom