

Student Council & Forum 16.04.26

Papers Pack

Table of Contents

Agenda	2
Approval of previous minutes:	2
Full-Time Officer Updates	2
Motion: “Rent Review” – Epigram’s “Break the Mould” Campaign	3
Appendix A: Student Council Forum	4
Appendix B: Democratic Terms & definitions.....	4
Appendix C: Procedural Actions.....	6
Appendix D: Debate Process	7
Appendix E: Minutes from Student Council 11.12.2026.....	9
Appendix F: Minutes from AMM 19.02.2026	19

Agenda

Item	Owner	Timing
Welcome	Chair - LA	5 min (17:05)
Intro to Student Council & Forum	Chair	10 min (17:15)
FTO Updates	Full-Time Officers	30 min (17:45)
Motions		
“Rent Review” – Epigram’s “Break the Mould” Campaign	Motion Proposer, Chair	15 min (18:00)
BREAK – 10 mins (18:10)		
Forum		
Discussion within tables	Forum	20 min (18:30)
Swapping tables	Chair	5 min (18:35)
Discussion within tables	Forum	20 min (18:55)
AOB	Chair	5 min (19:00)
END / PIZZA		
GUILLOTINE – hard stop in case the meeting overruns. Nothing further will be discussed after this point. We will still aim to finish the meeting by 19:00.	19:30	

Approval of previous minutes:

- [Student Council 11.12.2025](#)
- [Annual Members Meeting 19.02.2026](#)

Full-Time Officer Updates

You can access the updates from the Full-Time Officer Team here:

- [FTO Updates for Student Council & Forum 16.04.26](#)

Motion: “Rent Review” – Epigram’s “Break the Mould” Campaign

Background:

The student renting market in Bristol is broken. According to Bristol SU’s Housing Report 2024, 53% of students said their experience with landlords had been ‘negative’ or ‘very negative’. In 2014/15 an SU survey found that 75% of students had experienced damp or mould. According to an Epigram survey last year, 93% of students had experienced these issues.

In response to this, *Epigram* launched ‘Break the Mould’, a student-led housing campaign highlighting the pitiful state of private housing in Bristol and demanding accountability from landlords. Part of the stated goals of the campaign was to introduce an online rating system for landlords, and introduce an accreditation scheme partly informed by these reviews. The campaign’s petition has nearly 700 signatures, and received national coverage at the time.

If the university and SU are serious about improving the renting model in Bristol this must be passed.

Purpose:

- To improve the student renting experience in Bristol
- To ensure students have as much information on renting as possible before finalising their accommodation
- To ensure students know their options if they are in a poor renting position

Actions:

1. The SU will continue support for *Epigram*’s Break the Mould campaign.
2. The SU will explore partnering with an existing accreditation scheme/online rent review system for landlords that can be used in their accommodation listings
3. The SU to create a signposting mechanism for students to report their renting experiences to Bristol City Council
4. The SU will work with Epigram to raise awareness on rent reform that is due to come into place
5. The SU will work to effectively communicate all the resources available for students to make informed renting decisions

Appendix A: Student Council Forum

How will the Forum work?

- There will be 5 tables set up in the room, each corresponding to a topic you, our students care about. Each table is chaired by a relevant FTO or by the Student Community Organisers. The topics are:
 - Activism on Campus
 - Assessments
 - Renting / Student Living
 - Societies
 - Safety
- You will have a chance to discuss the issue and share your experiences around it & join a working group at the end if you wish to continue this work!

Appendix B: Democratic Terms & definitions

Motion: A formal proposal from a student that calls on the SU to take certain actions. This is typically:

- A statement or a belief for the SU to support
- Long-term work that needs to be enshrined in our policies
- If passed, will become enshrined in our policies

Policy: What happens to a motion after it passes. These are active for 3 years and direct the work of our Full-Time Officers.

Democratic Standards Committee (DSC): A group of five elected students plus the Chair of Student Council and the Union Affairs Officer. They ensure that our structures and democracy are accessible, fair and productive for all students. Their powers are:

- Discussing and allocating Ideas that come through the Ideas Board
- Setting the Agenda for democratic meetings
- Agreeing the wording of referenda
- Approving Election Rules

- Making procedural decisions during democratic meetings
- Advise and explain procedure to students during democratic meetings

If you have a question or want to raise a Procedural Action, you can go speak to them! They'll be set up from 4:30pm, so if you arrive early they'll have plenty of time to hear you out.

Student Representatives Assembly (SRA): a committee made up of Full-Time Officers, Student Community Organisers, Faculty Reps, Student Trustees and DSC members, chaired by the Chair of Student Council. During their meetings they:

- Scrutinise the actions of the Full-Time Officer team
- Develop and action student ideas sent to SRA
- Follow up on policy passed at democratic meetings
- Share Academic Experience among Faculty Reps and Education Officers
- Bid for funds to build collaborative campaigns

Speech For: 3 minute speech In Favour of the Motion

Speech Against: 3 minute speech Opposing a motion

Statement For: 1 minute speech In favour of a motion, delivered during the floor debate

Statement Against: 1 minute speech Opposing a motion, delivered during the floor debate

Amendment: A suggested edit of a motion, submitted in advance of the meeting during the amendment window.

Guillotine: A hard stop to the meeting in the event it overruns. This does not mean that the meeting will automatically finish late; rather, it's to ensure *that in the event it does overrun*, we have a hard deadline after which any items left will be postponed to the next meeting.

Appendix C: Procedural Actions

These are actions available to you during a democratic meeting that are laid out in the byelaws; suggestions you can make to DSC if you're not happy with a motion being voted on in its current form or at this particular meeting. You can suggest the following options:

- **Call for a formal referendum**
 - You can suggest this if you think the motion:
 - should be enshrined in our policies for longer than 3 years
 - covers an important issue that all students should be allowed to vote on
 - is a yes/no issue
 - If DSC approves your suggestion, a vote will be held on whether to turn the motion into a referendum
 - If the vote passes, the motion will not get voted on in the current meeting and will instead be turned into a referendum.
 - If the vote fails, the motion will be voted on as normal.
- **Postpone the motion to the next democratic meeting**
 - You can suggest this if, for example, it would be more appropriate to discuss the motion at AMM rather than Student Council or vice versa.
 - If DSC approves your suggestion, a vote will be held on whether to postpone the motion
 - If the vote passes, the motion will not get voted on in the current meeting and will instead be added to the Agenda of the next democratic meeting.
 - If the vote fails, the motion will be voted on as normal.
- **Vote on a motion in parts**
 - You can suggest this if you agree with **only some** of the actions of the motion
 - You will need to decide **how** you want to divide the motion, i.e. Part 1: actions 1 & 2, Part 2: action 3
 - If DSC approves your suggestion, a vote will be held on whether to split the motion into parts

- If the vote passes, each part of the motion will be voted on separately – they might still all pass, they might not.
- If the vote fails, the motion will be voted on as normal.
- **Vote on an amendment in parts**
 - You can suggest this if there has been an amendment submitted, and you agree with **only some** of the amendment
 - You will need to decide **how** you want to divide the amendment, i.e. Part 1: actions 1 & 2, Part 2: action 3
 - If DSC approves your suggestion, a vote will be held on whether to split the amendment into parts
 - If the vote passes, each part of the amendment will be voted on separately – they might still all pass, they might not.
 - If the vote fails, the amendment will be voted on as normal.

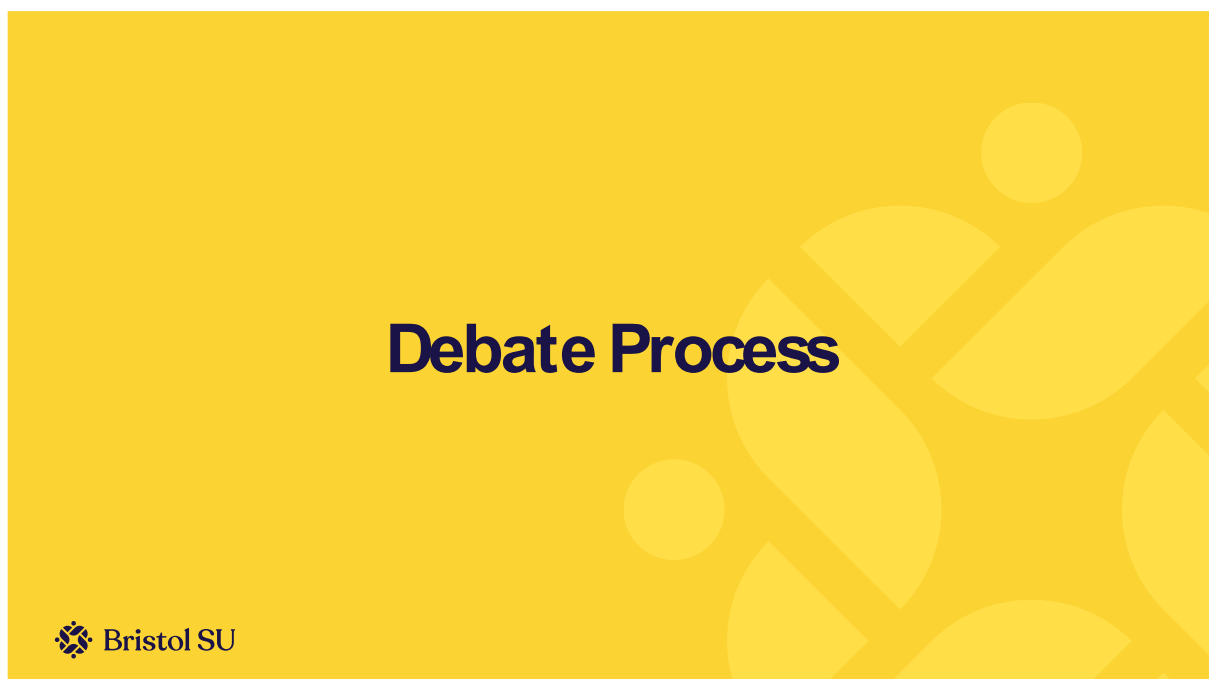
You can go speak to DSC at any point during the meeting, but if you already know ahead of time that you'll want to raise a Procedural Action, we suggest arriving a bit earlier and speaking to DSC while the sign-in process is ongoing. If you do choose to speak to DSC during the meeting, please try to speak quietly so as to not disrupt the meeting.

Appendix D: Debate Process

1. Motion proposer gives a 3 minute speech for their motion
2. The Chair will call for a Speech Against. They will have 3 minutes.
3. The audience has a chance to ask practical questions on the content of the motion. This is not a chance to debate the validity of the motion: it is strictly a space for you to clarify on the contents of the motion. After you raise your hand and the Chair calls on you, wait for a member of staff to bring you a microphone so you can ask your question.
4. If you want to make a statement For or Against a motion, please use this time to make your way to the front rows. Sit on the For side if you wish to make a statement in support of the motion, and on the Against side if you wish to make a statement opposing the motion.

5. If no one wishes to speak against the motion, we will move directly to voting after questions. If someone does, the Speech Against concludes the first round of debate and kicks off the floor debate.
 - i. The Chair will call on the first person in the queue in the For side to come give their 1 minute statement
 - ii. The Chair will call on the first person in the queue in the Against side to come give their 1 minute statement
 - iii. Rinse and Repeat until everyone has spoken, or, if the debate seems to keep going, until the Chair calls for a second round of 3 minute speeches, which will conclude the debate.
6. The Chair will call for a vote.

Double click below  to open the Debate Process Animation



Appendix E: Minutes from Student Council 11.12.2026

Item	Owner	Timing
Welcome	Chair - LA	5 min (17:05)
Intro to Student Council	Chair	10 min (17:15)
Approval of previous minutes	Chair	5 min (17:20)
FTO Updates	Full-Time Officers	25 min (17:45)
Motions		
Mission Mandir – Bristol Hindu Prayer Room	Motion Proposer, Chair	20 min (18:05)
BREAK – 10 mins		
Motions (cont'd)		
Move Democratic Standards Committee elections into Teaching Block 2	Motion Proposer, Chair	20 min (18:30)
AOB		
Expression of dissatisfaction: Bristol SU Trustee Board Override Student Council decision	Proposer, Chair	20 min (18:50)
Any Other Business	Chair	10 min (19:00)
END / PIZZA		
GUILLOTINE – hard stop in case the meeting overruns. Nothing further will be discussed after this point. We will still aim to finish the meeting by 19:00.		19:30

Welcome & Intro to Student Council

- Introduction from the chair
- Safety information
- Please maintain a respectful debate, and adhere to the code of conduct
- Microphone etiquette

- Democratic Standards Committee available for questions, requests, or procedural questions
 - Student asked about quoracy, Louis confirmed that attendance is being monitored.
- Chair explained voting process
- Order of the motions has been set by DSC, and according to the voting on the ideas board
- DSC has set a guillotine to the meeting at 7:30 – we will still aim to finish by 7pm.

Approval of Previous Minutes

- No concerns with previous minutes raised.

FTO Updates

Union Affairs Officer, Katie's updates put on screen – contact her via email, or raise your question and leave your email so she can respond. Her update read:

- 🦷 Unfortunately, I cannot be at Student Council because I am getting surgery to have my wisdom teeth removed (after being on the NHS waiting list for 3 years!). If you have any questions about my updates – please do email me and I will get back to you when I can.
- I've created an external spaces list – to make finding an activity space for groups easier. From pubs to theatres, the Student Activity Space Finder is now live on the website, see it here: <https://www.bristolsu.org.uk/student-groups/student-activity-space-finder>
You can browse venues, see how to book them and update info if something changes. And if your group finds a new spot that works well, add it to the list - so other groups can benefit.
**And no businesses pay to be included, and the SU doesn't earn anything from it.
- Signage for the Bristol SU Basement has been installed to make finding the new space I secured easier. You can see it opposite Senate on Woodland Road.
- Society Forums at the start of TB2 (end of Jan), look out for an email from me for dates! In this, I will ask for feedback/edits on the draft society representation structure I'm currently working on, to have societies be able to escalate issues, work together to solve problems and be represented in our byelaws. If you are wanting to know or get involved beyond attending Society Forums, please reach out to me :)

- You can use empty teaching spaces as study spaces – I worked with university to keep these rooms open, so you can use them for silent or group study. See the list and what is available here: <https://www.bris.ac.uk/where-is-my/find/free-room/table>
- I'm also working with the university to increase bookable society spaces, and you can keep up to date with any progress here: [Bristol SU | UEB Agreement](#)

Postgraduate Education Officer, Sharan's Updates

- Met with sustainability team, confirmed she can put on a climate fresk workshop. Event for students to think about sustainability in their own lives and with regard to their academics.
- Building postgraduate community and connecting people from different cohorts.
- Focus groups to research how the careers service supports PGR students.
- Financial Assistance Fund is an emergency fund for students in hardship - short term support. She has got the university to increase the amounts granted in each tier.
- Foundational work on disability initiatives. Eg postgraduate research disability forum, university disability work that Linlu is also working on – Sharan has been feeding in PGR experience input to this.
- Events: Postgrad Pints events – have run several of these, and planning more plus a range of other postgraduate events.
- Postgraduate Research study space: this is a key concern, that Sharan has been raising with campus division.

Equality, Liberation and Access Officer, Linlu's Updates

- Fostering consent culture. Conducted a focus group with the SU Research and Insight team – looking to create better training on consent. Also looking to put on events during SHAG week.
- Working with Russel Group SU unions on 16 days of action regarding gender based violence. Students can scan QR code on screen to fill out the survey on this.
- Campus accessibility – a map which you can use to find accessibility information around campus.
- The university has signed the Disabled Student Commitment, which concerns improving the experiences of disabled students. Looking to co-create these plans and will compensate those involved.

Undergraduate Education Officer, Mia's Updates

- Letter writing campaign regarding government plans to align tuition with teaching quality. Unfortunately, this has gone to the budget now. This creates further inequality. The government is running a consultation on this, students getting involved in this to inform future plans on this.
- Assessment feedback and engagement fellows – this project is embedded on an institutional level so it will continue to run and involve student voice in this.
- Update from last student council – the joint honours motion passed. Looking for examples of good practice regarding joint honours students experience.

Sport and Student Development Officer, Ella's Updates

- Movember closed – thanks for everyone who was involved in fundraising. At Bristol University we raised over £43k!
- Hosted two club captain forums, shaping Derby Day.
- Injury support group still making positive impact, open to new members.
- Working with SEH on student access to sports
- Attended BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) meeting in Derby

Lucy's Updates

- Laundry: on top of 15k funding secured last year, which is about to be distributed, Lucy has pushed the university to make a commitment to capping prices at £3.80.
- Working on changing the affordability and quality of halls accommodation, aiming to close the gap between the cheaper and more expensive accommodation options, so that there isn't such a jump.
- Exam buses to Coombe Dingle – we are running these again after students fed back that it was useful.
- Increasing number of sensory rooms, including getting one at Langford. Great feedback from the Student Community Organiser forum Siân ran on this.
- Working with the university to embed accessibility focus in the university's strategy

International Student Officer, Jessie's Updates

- Hosted international students week – distributed lots of free food! And karaoke and global food fair. Another karaoke will run in refreshers!
- Went to parliament to platform international student voice. Talked about anti-migrant narrative, international student levy, and how much international students being here improve the financial situation for every U citizen.
- Sanctuary students work – have increased funding and support.
- Russell Group SU meeting regarding the government budget – lobbying against anti-migrant narrative.

- Budget and white paper have brought up lots of issues that impact international students; starting letter writing campaign to Bristol MPs to ask for support for international students
- Mumbai enterprise campus – looking to support this project.

Questions for Officers

- Q: Trustees overrode last student council decision – on what grounds did you make this decision?
- A: Lucy: Can't remember the specifics of the articles on this decision, but you're welcome to email so that I can give you the appropriate level of detail in response to your question.
- Q: Sensory rooms – as someone who uses them, issue with it being occupied by people studying or holding meetings in there – are there plans to address this?
- A: Lucy – yes, plans are underway to solve this. The issue is lack of spaces on campus more generally – first thing is to increase number of sensory rooms. This takes time, so we are also trying to identify other quiet rooms that can be used. Second, rooms should not be being used in this way – we are increasing signage, we are open to feedback so will put further work and thought into this. We won't police the room as it's an important space to be open, but we will keep reiterating the purpose and importance of these rooms being available. Aiming to get it written into university strategy long term that there will be further sensory rooms available.
- Q: what's causing delay in getting the laundry money to students? Will it only be new accommodation that has the £3.80 cap?
- A: Lucy: Yes, unfortunately the cap is only on new accommodation. But the university is moving away from lots of the existing accommodations so it's a gradual move away from the leased properties with the more expensive laundry options. Some leases are until 2030, but it's on leases that are up for renewal where the cap is being introduced.
 - Q: (follow up) why is the money delayed getting out to students though?
 - A: administration by the university has been holding this up, but it is in progress.
- Q: you're doing some amazing and relevant work, but I feel there's an information barrier – it's hard to find out what you guys are working on. How can wider students be better informed about your work?
- A: Mia: Fortnightly officer updates by email – each time a different officer heads that email. This is a quick summary of the updates, but if you click on these through to the website, you can access more detailed updates and track our

progress. If you have any feedback on how to make it more relevant and accessible, please email us or share that here.

- A: Jessie: you can also keep up with our work on Instagram, talk to the SCOs, and come into the office to speak to us.
- A: Lucy: Campaigns page coming soon on the website for more info on students campaigns which will also include officer work.
- Q: How do you need help with the Mumbai campus work?
- A: Jessie: initial stage of engagement on this, looking to organise focus groups to research experiences of students who have studied in India – we'll be calling out for this, or you can email.
- Q: new accommodation – is this for first years?
- A: Lucy: Yes, a lot of accommodation is advertised to new undergraduates.
- Q: [follow up] if there'll be more first year accommodation, how will this impact 2nd/3rd year private accommodation? Any work on making this more affordable?
- A: Lucy: the university does civic engagement work in the city, which includes strategy regarding private accommodation. The cost coming down in our halls does have a small impact on this. I also attend Bristol fair rent campaign who are working on this. SU Lettings are seeing private beds not being taken up and therefore prices coming down. Also Renters Rights bill should impact. Bristol city rent commission are also working on living rent.
- Q: will the rent work be only on new halls?
- A: Lucy: all halls! Looking to improve affordability across all accommodation, or at least to reduce the gaps between prices.
- Q: Bristol Future Research Leaders project on housing and transport – does this relate to your work?
- A: Sharan: the SU has been working hard on a project that will have a lasting impact, this year we are working with Housing Matters (housing advice service in Easton).

Chair notes that we are not quorate, so any decisions made in this meeting will be ratified at the next democratic meeting, Annual Members Meeting on 19th February.

Motions

Mission Mandir – Bristol Hindu Prayer Room

Speech for: The speaker introduced themselves as the Vice President of the Hindu Society. Representing not just the society, but rather to represent all Hindu students on campus.

Asking attendees to vote in favour, not simply as a small step to create a new room, but to progress towards fairness and wellbeing, and towards the university's inclusion statement. Hindus are the third largest faith group on campus, growing with a 62% relative increase. Nationally the Hindu student population is also rising. Not enough universities have proper provision for students of Hindu faith. There's no locally available prayer space for Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist or Jain students – the nearest is a 45 minute walk away in Clifton – this is simply too far away. Our SU is part of NUS – in 2019 NUS passed a motion for equal access to provisions for non-Abrahamic faiths. Muslim students have dedicated prayer space, Christians have lots of access to churches and faith space locally. Voting yes is in favour of the SU and university to commit to the provisions that the university's EDI statement describes. Requirements of the room are not currently met by multi-faith spaces, so Hindus on campus are compromising. Asking not for special treatment but equal treatment.

Nobody wishes to speak against the motion.

Questions

Q: I'm involved with the multifaith chaplaincy. The chaplaincy is looking for more involvement and input from Hindu students, and wanting to appoint a Hindu chaplain. Are you working with the multifaith chaplaincy?

A: we've spoken to the head of the multifaith chaplaincy, he's supported this motion. We've also spoken to the recently appointed Hindu chaplain who also supports.

Q: No prayer space for a range of faiths (eg Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists etc) - are there plans to address this?

A: Looked at examples from other universities, such as King's College London where there are spaces open for all of these faiths. We are also hoping to create a space that is open for all of these faiths.

Q: [one of the Student Community Organisers spoke] The Student Community Organisers are in support of this. Do you have an idea of where you'd want the space located, and how much funding do you think it will require?

A: We don't know where exactly, but we are hoping to work with estates department to find an appropriate space. Not looking to construct a new space, but to use an unused space. Funding: we think at the max £1-2k, which pales in comparison to the university's overall spending. Mumbai campus – they're putting money into a campus in a Hindu majority city, so should be able to support their Hindu students who are here.

Q: regarding organisation and logistics – if it's a space to be used by students of different religions. Who will handle the organisation of this space, especially if it's being used by 4 different groups. And should it be named Hindu space if it's catering to other groups as well?

A: a good question – we could name it differently according to the needs of the groups using it, to encompass all of the faiths using it. Hindu soc is a big society, and there are Sikh and Buddhist societies – we could involve all relevant societies in organisation of the room. Chaplains at the multifaith chaplaincy could also assist with this.

Nobody wants to speak against the motion.

Vote on whether to have an anonymous vote: we will not vote anonymously.

Vote on the motion: Motion passed. (1 abstained, 0 against, rest of the room in favour).

Chair reminds the room that as we are not quorate, we will need to approve these votes at Annual Members Meeting.

Move Democratic Standards Committee elections into Teaching Block 2

Speech for: Democratic Standards Committee (DSC) look after the democratic standards of our democratic meetings. The SU holds Term 1 elections and Term 2 elections – there's a much bigger promotional push on the Term 2 elections, as it's in education law that we must notify students of these elections. Want to move the election for these roles into term 2 so that they can be trained earlier and they can be trained with the rest of the representative roles. Would also mean we can move our democratic meetings earlier in the year to better suit student schedules.

Speech against: This motion has some good and bad points. I had submitted an amendment which was rejected as DSC didn't understand what it was trying to achieve. Only 3 members are here today, we need better engagement. We should have a referendum on DSC. The motion is badly worded, there are parts mentioned in the actions and not the purpose, which is poor practice. Action 4 is wordy, removes ability of DSC to vote in these meetings, which they already don't do by convention. The motion puts DSC members in a separate section of the byelaws to other similar roles. Mandatory members of student council (Full-Time Officers (FTOs), Student Community Organisers (SCOs)); this motion creates a new section which would make DSC the only mandatory members that the Union Affairs officer can influence. Worried that DSC will want to keep in Union Affairs officer's good books, which could influence their decisions.

Questions:

No questions on the motion.

Speech for:

Comment on DSC being unable to figure out the amendment – I think we are united on the positive impacts of the motion. Apologies on the writing of the motion. I didn't cover some things in my proposing speech, but the information is available in the motion, I aimed to just highlight key points.

Speech against:

We've not heard a reason for point 4 – the purpose is not clear on the impact of the motion and the actions. I will probably vote in favour of the motion because it does more good than harm, but I think the motion is not good practice.

Speech for:

DSC members are unpaid – they're separated from SCOs and FTOs in the byelaws to allow them to be paid in future. The union affairs officer wouldn't have control over DSC, but the motion would allow the Union Affairs officer to campaign for them to be paid in future.

Against: the motion isn't about DSC being paid – this is misdirection. Having them in the same place in the byelaws should be consistent. The byelaws do not mention payment.

Vote on whether to vote anonymously: Not voting anonymously

Vote on the motion: Motion passed. (3 against, 5 abstained, rest of the room in favour).

Any Other Business

Expression of dissatisfaction: Bristol SU Trustee Board override Student Council decision

Chair: we received a motion of censure regarding the Trustee Board overturning Student Council's decision from the last meeting. DSC agreed the motion of censure was not appropriate, as it is usually used in response to inappropriate conduct. DSC will now focus on how students can raise dissatisfaction. We've decided to make space in this meeting, to allow students to debate, and the vote will be on whether students are dissatisfied, the outcome of which will be published on the website.

Chair confirms that Ned (Speaker for this item) didn't propose this.

Speech for expression of dissatisfaction: It hurts that we couldn't have the censure motion, and I've complained externally about this. This is our space to express dissent. I would assume we will hear about how the trustees are allowed to take this decision. The issue is whether student council should be allowed to debate a motion when we know it will be

overturned by trustees. Vetoing the motion was them telling us that they would close the issue; that Student Council's opinion has been rejected. The overturning of decisions should be for issues of emergency. We gave our time to represent students and it's inappropriate if the trustees decide in advance to overturn these decisions. Frustration that trustees can't remember the articles that governed their decisions. Asked that student council be allowed to discuss it further.

Speech against: I'm open to feedback – there being no space for dissent is disproved by your speech. The original decisions regarding the removal of associate membership happened as a result of student requests to take action against sexual misconduct complaints. The decision was made to protect the safety of students in societies. There's no format which would allow trustees to make decisions without proper consideration of safeguarding. The decision was made at a strategic level to ensure this safeguarding. The motion at student council was brought to introduce the changes to the byelaws to enable changes going forward, after associate membership was already abolished.

Speech for:

Completely understand concerns Lucy raised, but don't think the answer to these concerns was to remove associate membership. Incidents of complaints against associate members were lower than against students. Societies have long-term relationships with associate members, I think it would be better to do this through other processes.

Speech against:

Decision regarding associate membership was made by the SU – whether we were happy or not, it was scrapped. The motion at Student Council was around putting in more support for societies after this decision was made. It would only have benefitted societies. Moved the SU closer to its charitable aims – to support students, not those who've already graduated. The Women's Hockey club raised concerns – you (speaker against) don't know what their concerns were, and therefore can't say that the move to abolish associate membership doesn't address these.

Speech for:

This isn't about ladies hockey society, or removing associate membership. This is about the overturning of the vote at student council. Overriding the motion was about suppressing dissent. The decision will change if we continue to register our dissent and apply pressure.

Speech against:

[Lucy, Student Living Officer] This is taking a lot of time. There will always be a difference of opinion. If you ask me as a student my opinion it would be different to my opinion as a trustee. This motion is about dissatisfaction regarding overturning student council decision.

Speech for:

The decision on associate membership has been made. There are 6 people here today who feel one way, there were 74 at Student Council who felt another. There will be a chance to campaign on this during TB2 elections, and apply pressure. SUs are built on applying pressure to make change. Associate membership should continue to be a topic on the agenda. I'm frustrated that the motion of censure was not allowed. The motion is about trustees overwriting student council decision. The point of the motion is to express your dissatisfaction with the trustees overturning the decision.

Speech against: the message to take away, is that you can come to speak to Lucy, or contact her to discuss more. The decision wasn't taken lightly. 11 of the 16 trustee members are elected. You're welcome to continue scrutinising this system.

Vote on whether to vote anonymously: we will not vote anonymously

Vote on whether you agree that you're dissatisfied with the actions of the trustee board in this instance: vote in favour, motion passes.

Any Other Business

N/A

Appendix F: Minutes from AMM 19.02.2026

Item	Owner	Timing	Minutes
Welcome	Chair - LA	5 min (17:05)	Chair welcomes everyone
Intro to Student Council	Chair	10 min (17:15)	Chair goes through conduct
Approval of previous minutes & ratification of December Council	Chair	5 min (17:20)	Minutes approved

Affiliations	Trustees	10 min (17:30)	Affiliations approved
FTO Updates	Full-Time Officers	30 min (18:00)	
Policy Renewals			
Supporting Trans & Non-Binary Students and Campaigning for Gender Justice	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (18:10)	Policy renewed
Muslim Prayer Room	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (18:20)	Policy renewed
Sanctuary Scholarship Legal Fund	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (18:30)	Policy renewed
BREAK - 15 mins			
Motions			
Raising Awareness for gambling harms on campus	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (19:00)	Motion passed
Cuts to Medical Leave for Part-Time PhD Students funded by UoB Scholarship	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (19:10)	Motion passed
Regulate the use of Generative AI in Bristol SU in order to safeguard students and their futures	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (19:20)	Motion passed
AOB	Chair	10 min (19:30)	Don't forget to nominate yourself for elections!
END / PIZZA			
NUS Referendum	Chair		
GUILLOTINE - hard stop in case the meeting overruns. Nothing further will be discussed after this point. We will still aim to finish the meeting by 19:30.		20:00	

Welcome

- Welcome from the Chair

Intro to Student Council

- Safety and housekeeping
- Code of conduct
- Microphone etiquette
- Procedures of AMM

Approval of previous minutes & ratification of December Council

- No vote on approval and ratification as we are not in quorate, will be ratified in the next student council meeting.

Affiliations

- Ismail Zarif (IZ) and Allan Allison (AA) present list of affiliated groups and discuss governance and role of trustees.
- Student trustees take students opinions into account, but act on their own personal opinions.
- External trustees are independent professionals, are currently in the process of recruiting another external trustee.

Questions

Q: regarding fee of NUS affiliation cost (£30,090) - what do we get out of this membership, and students have not seen much from it?

A: Trustees refer to figures on PowerPoint, pointing out there that there are two, NUK UK and NUS Charity. NUS UK is a campaigning political org, NUS Charity supports training and staff, policies, structure, rights. There will be a referendum happening in March.

Q: Who is responsible for interpreting the articles and byelaws

A: Unsure how to best answer this question.

Q: Does approving affiliation count as policy under the byelaws?

A: The bylaws are there – NUS referendum needs to be held every three years, there is not a law that says we must, it is a student decision.

Trustees point out that if there are any concerns with affiliations, this can be discussed in this meeting.

There was further clarification to students that this vote is not for the NUS, not about the referendum on the NUS UK affiliation.

Vote for affiliation

Affiliations approved

FTO Updates

Union Affairs – Katie Poyner (KP)

- Society Forums: Katie hosted 5 of these categories and spoke about issues and challenges around engagement, events and SU processes.
- Society ambassadors were introduced in each of these categories to communicate feedback to the Union Affairs Officer and will be chairing the next network society forums.
- Worked with Lucy Pears to reopen the SU Hatch for cheap meals at Hawthorns.

Postgraduate Education Officer – Sharan Khemlani – (Mia Stevens spoke on the behalf of Sharan)

- Mia and Sharan have been working together on rebranding the Student Teaching Awards and making sure students can get involved in all aspects.
- Sharan and Jessie have been working with the Global Engagement Team on the Mumbai campus to ensure that there is SU presence and access to resources for students.
- Working on Blackboard evaluation project.
- Collaborating with university for summer activities for students who will be there here around that period.
- Lobbied the university regarding winter graduation for PGT International students who would need visas to attend their graduation so working around restructuring dissertation period so that graduation can be moved earlier to overcome visa restrictions.
- Expanded Bristol mentor skills to support 40 postgraduate students and pairing them up with 40 professionals.
- Has been part of PG research committee, working to better support disabled students.
- Consulting with Student Success Advisors on inter-cultural accessibility and compassionate communication.
- Sharan has been attended many postgraduate events such as Postgraduate Pints and Yoga.
- Designing surveys to learn more about postgraduate events in societies.

Undergraduate Education Officer- Mia Stevens

- Secured student representation in universities optimisation timetable project, to make teaching timetable work better for students. Has successfully lobbies for prioritised earlier release of timetables.
- Advocated to make timetables more accessible for commuters, students with disabilities and part time students.
- Assessment Feedback Fellows programme is up and running to improve feedback.

- Working on university wide overhaul of marking criteria, rewording descriptors and making it more explicit and useful for students.
- Personal tutoring reform to make it work better for students.
- There has been progress in Bristol SU to campaign for joint honours to stop clashes and has been considered within the timetable optimisation project.
- Researching experience of commuter students and will be presenting this work.
- Planning academic society showcase in April.

Equality, Liberation and Access Officer – Linlu Ye

- Hosted S.H.A.G Week (Sexual Health and Guidance Week) with Lucy, this included pub quiz, outreach and STI testing kits.
- Secured second round of Gender Expression Fun – Linlu hopes this fund will be ongoing.
- Working the SU Digital Team on venue accessibility information being available with SU venues on the website.
- Attended Disability House Meeting and thanked attendees and lifts will hopefully be fixed and more information around alternative accessible routes are available.
- There will be a Study Recharge fest in April and will be working with Student Wellbeing Service on better signposting for students.

International Students Officer – Jessie Yeung

- Has been on Bristol SU's submission on International Student Levy and Earned Settlement lobbying, advocating for international students against government hostility towards migrants.
- Launched a letter to write to your MP to get students voice heard nationally, to show politicians that students are key players in democracy.
- Continuing work with the Mumbai Enterprise Campus to see what will be offered and what that campus will look like, ensuring that student wellbeing and student experience are at the forefront.
- Secured more support for students with English as an Additional Language: now 4 additional EAL teachers.
- Secured 10k funding for Chinese international student in engineering school, those findings will be used to support international students further.
- Jessie has written an update after consulting with students regarding arms trade companies.
- There will be an Anti-Racism Definition motion, has been working on bringing these into important universities committees to further embed this work.
- There was a 1-1 work with international students from migrant backgrounds.

Sport and Student Development Officer – Ella Lovibond

- Derby Day, the biggest sports competition will be on the 18th of March.
- Secured another round of funding for the Injury Support Group
- Ella is working on alternative options to the University Crest (featuring Colston dolphin) for sports kits SU Shield.

Student Living Officer – Lucy Pears

- Looking to give back to students with the SU Hatch, looking into loyalty cards for students.
- Expanding swap shop/ pantry – there will be an upcoming poll to get students opinions.
- Swap shop will be opening at Langford.
- LP showcases ongoing work around housing; there are now more affordable beds for students.

Questions for Officers:

Q: What will study spaces look like in Temple Quarters?

KP answers: More study spaces, looking at a booking system for Temple Quarters. There will be bookable study pods, group spaces, adjustable lights and quiet zones. Still waiting to find out any further information.

Q: Timetabling changes for students with disabilities and commuters- are there considerations for accessible location when placing lectures for disabled students?

MS answers: Yes, this has been raised as part of the timetabling optimisation project. The university has not been considering this but there will be a series of quality control to see which builds that are assigned to students are accessible.

Q: Accommodation – is there a reason that bus passes has been taken away for those living far away from campus?

LP answers: The university has stopped this due to it being expensive, we have not managed to get it reinstated but is now being consolidated into getting more support for students. Lucy has been doing regional lobbying with southwest SU's around buses and urges students to campaign and complaint to university about the buses.

Q: Guarantor services: housing hands still has a lot of drawbacks of guarantor services; one being needing a co-signer.

LP answers: Aware of issues with housing hands. Have previously tried to push to university to provide its own guarantor scheme, will be meeting Housing hands to discuss this issue. We are exploring Bristol SU making their own guarantor scheme, will

be a long process. We are putting pressure on Rent Guarantor and Housing Hands to improve their services and lower prices. Encouraging students to send this feedback to Lucy.

End of question time – Chair directs students to email officers if they have any additional questions.

Policy Renewals

Supporting Trans & Non-Binary Students and Campaigning for Gender Justice

Proposer Speech:

Statistics about abysmal trans healthcare waiting list. Leads to expensive or risky access to healthcare for trans people. It is a national and international crisis. This policy has been in place for the past three years and has led to support such as Gender Expression Fund, lobbying student health services, lobbied to allow students to change their names more easily. This policy will ensure that the SU continues to work with supporting trans students.

No Speech Against

No Questions

Vote: 4 abstentions, rest in favour

Policy is renewed

Muslim Prayer Room

Proposer Speech

Proposer has been working with Katie for a few years, and overall work has been ongoing for upwards of 7 years prior with the goal being creating a permanent praying room for Muslim students. The required space must be accessible as students need to pray multiple times a day and must adequate capacity for 800+ Muslim students at Bristol. University has proposed for students to go to local mosques but there are none near enough to campus for students to attend prayer time and lectures. Want SU to continue with supporting to deliver these spaces.

No Speech Against

Questions:

Q: As this is an ongoing motion, what have been the barrier to achieving accessible and adequate praying spaces?

A: This is the question we have been asking the university, they have not been acting and thus having to renew the Motion to sustain pressure.

W: Would the focus be on getting one space for everyone, or multiple spaces spread across campus?

A: Main goal is to have an appropriate and adequate space that houses all Muslim students.

Q: Why aim for one central space, was there research conducted to see if it was better in one location or spread across?

A: The smaller spaces across the university cannot accommodate the number of students who need access prayer space.

Q: Is there anything the wider student body can do to make sure this campaign is heard and supported?

A: Yes, the Islamic Soc page is where campaigning will be happening, check it out.

Vote: unanimous in favour

Policy renewed

Sanctuary Scholarship Legal Fund

Proposer Speech:

University of Bristol of Sanctuary. Asylum seekers face a variety of barriers to accessing education and support. Study bans have a huge negative impact on students attending the university as Sanctuary Scholars. The legal aid support fund allows students to access legal aid that they would otherwise not be able to afford. The policy allows the SU to commit to fundraising to continue this fund and to support sanctuary students.

No speech against

Questions:

Q: Why do students receive study bans?

A: Immigration enforcement sometimes cuts short asylum cases, rescinding the right to study in the UK, so receive a study bans. This fund allows for these students to receive legal support to appeal such bans.

Q: How will the university fight the immigration laws when it is a legal and national problem, not a university specific one.

A: Question goes beyond this policy, but Jessie can discuss. We are lobbying MPs such as Carla Denyer to push back against anti-immigration sentiment and policy. Jessie encourages students to get politically involved, writing MP letters and registering to vote. Many international students can register to vote, make our voices heard.

Q: How many students require the fund and support; how many students does the fund support?

A: Jessie not allowed to disclose but confident that through fundraising, we can support students who need it.

Speech against motion:

Many people that need more support are local Bristol residents. Students who receive study ban may have come to the UK illegally.

Proposer replies:

This policy renewal is specifically about the legal fund, as an SU we can only support UoB students, there are lots of people who need support, but this fund is specific to this issue. There are a lot of other organisations that support local group such as STAR.

Jessie adds that the far-right rhetoric is damaging, nobody wants to leave their home country, they come here for support and to access education and deserve support.

Vote

One against

No abstention

Rest in favour

Policy renewed

Motions

Raising Awareness for gambling harms on campus

Proposer Speech:

There are a lot of students who are turning to gambling to deal with stresses. They are experiencing serious harm; missing lectures and their mental health is deeply impacted. Gambling harms are barely on the radar whilst alcohol and drugs are. This motion is not about judgement, but about awareness and support. Proposer is asking the union to implement the following actions: recognise gambling harm, partner with gambling awareness organisation, working with university wellbeing services, and work alongside societies to increase awareness and provide resources. They want to embed information in SU communication, work with gambling charities to develop training for

SU staff, officer and society leaders. They want to create a judgment free space to support student who may be struggling with this issue and get ahead of the curve to support students early before reaching a point of crisis.

No speech against

Questions

Q: Are there any considerations for how this can affect student groups such as Poker Society.

A: Not currently planning for how this interacts as the issue is not with gambling itself. We want to raise awareness for the harms that can stem from gambling – not to prevent it.

Q: Gambling online and digitally, it is a quickly changing landscape, how to can the SU support and ensure that relevant advice is being given.

A: Will work with gambling support organisations who have expertise in these areas.

Q: What are the motivations for this motion?

A: I have worked in bookmakers and saw some of the harmful impacts of gambling. When speaking to affected groups, they started when they were at university and this can be a good point of intervention.

Vote

Unanimous vote in favour

Motion passed

Reverse Cuts to Medical Leave for Part-Time PhD Students funded by UoB Scholarship

Proposer speech:

Raising awareness of discriminatory policy regarding medical leave for part time students. Part time PHD students receive much less medical leave access compared to full time students. The changes are financial exclusion with many part time students having protected characteristics and this will disproportionately affect women, people with disabilities. There has also been a lack of communication that medical leave has been cut, has not been clearly communicated for part time students and has also been applied retrospectively. Proposer wants to SU to support their lobbying and call for ethical medical leave for all students regardless of their studies.

No one speaks against motion.

Questions:

Q: What was the universities justification for this change?

A: There was no justification given nor was report conducted to reach this decision. This came from the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Q: How can the wider student body support?

A: Go to Instagram @uob_ndpgr and sign our petition.

Q: Can you research while on medical leave?

A: No, while on medical leave, you do not have the energy or are capable to do research. This means that a lack of medical leave impacts your research outcomes. It also endangers students' source of income, as they are forced to take unpaid leave.

Q: Can there be any potential legal issues with retrospectively applying this policy?

A: We are starting by trying to get the university to understand the issue and removing the policy. If they do not, we can escalate and be more forceful and potentially pursue legal pressure if that does not work. The purpose of the motion is to allow the SU to work with UCU to push against these cuts,

Speech against motion:

130 days is more than 1/3 of the year, if you are unable to do research while on medical leave then the money should be spent elsewhere. People could find funding from other sources.

Proposer responds:

PhD stipend is less than minimum wage, and this is our job we are paid for. The issue at hand at hand is the inequitable treatment of part-time student's vs full-time; your feelings about whether PhD students should be paid is another issue.

Vote

One against

Rest in favour

Motion passed.

Regulate the use of Generative AI in Bristol SU to safeguard students and their futures

Chair: we have suggestion to split the motions into two parts, action 1 and 2 are separate from action 3. The debate will be whether to split the motions.

Proposer speech:

Proposer gives background on Generative AI, such as ChatGPT and asking the SU to create guidance around using AI safely and ethically. AI has disastrous environmental effect including the use of water and mining of minerals and that is set to double by 2030 and is also damaging the livelihoods of those in the creative industries. The motion is not about banning AI but creating resources and support on the topic. Also wants to survey students and use this to inform the SU's support around AI, and to use that information to lobby the university.

Speech against splitting the motion into parts:

The motion would not be productive as they feed into each other. Action 2 is about the SU gathering feedback from students, finding out what they think about AI. Action 2 is about asking whether university can fund the research and any findings used can be used to negotiate with the University.

Speech for splitting motion into parts:

Action 3 focuses more on teaching and assessments and is not in line with the purpose of this motion which appears to be wellbeing and sustainability. Assessment and teaching should be taken separately so that can be spoken about more in depth. AI is now a part of teaching and assessment and does not want to jeopardise the motion, focus should be on wellbeing and ethical use of AI.

First proposer:

The motion is not solely about wellbeing – it covers a range of issues. We can't separate the ethical use of AI from the use of it in assessment and teaching.

For splitting motion:

We should discuss the use of AI in wellbeing and teaching, but these are two separate things. Voting to split is about having more time to discuss and elaborate on the ideas.

Against splitting the motion:

Ethics and wellbeing are strongly linked to academics; you cannot separate these. It's valid that it's important to have an in-depth discussion, but this doesn't mean that this should be separated out.

Vote on whether to split the motion into parts:

Majority vote not to split the motions

Speech proposing the motion (as a whole)

The motion is not about telling students what they can or can't do with AI, it is about finding out what we think as students the SU's policy and guidance on AI should be. AI is

very present in our society, so it is important, so it's past due to have guidance and support from the SU.

No speech against

Questions:

Q: How would the research be structured? PGR students have a very different outlook when it comes to assessments and AI therefore will have a different guideline on how to use AI – would you look at the use of AI spitting out taught and research students?

A: we've not planned out the research yet, but this could be considered as an important aspect of the research. Research would get account from all student bodies.

Q: on action 3 – what feedback do you hope to gather? How students use AI – any other aspect?

A: Aim is to gain an understanding of how students use AI, and how they view it. The purpose is to inform the SU's guidance, and how the SU works with the Uni on this. We'd want to gather a broad range of feedback.

Q: Once the research is done, what would the pipeline towards action be?

A: One of the challenges is that the motion at AMM doesn't necessarily create policy such as a ban on using AI creatively – it would use the feedback to create resources for students, and to inform the SU on how to communicate with the University on this.

Vote

7 abstentions

1 against

Rest in favour on motion

Motion passed

Any Other Business

- Chair reminds students that election nominations close tomorrow
- The SU is also running a referendum on whether we should stay affiliated with NUS UK and if anyone is interested in campaigning, to come to speak to Chair

Student Council & Forum

16.04.2026

17:00 – 19:00

**Anson Rooms,
The Richmond Building**