

Agenda

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A Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the last student council of the year – and my last student council. Welcome to Louis, my successor. Code of conduct, respect, high standard of discussion etc. If anyone breaches the code of conduct, speak to a member of staff and they'll be removed from the meeting.

Explanation of Student Council and Slido

2 minute proposer speech, 2 minute speech against, quick points, questions, vote via slido (scan QR code).

Bristol code of conduct review

Bristol SU code of conduct review currently ongoing, as promised to women's hockey club, students' involvement is important. Focus groups taking place from Tuesday next week, sign up at QR code.

Microphone etiquette

Wait for mic to speak, do not take mic, don't hold phone close to mic, chair will decide who will speak.

Updates from the Full-Time Officers and Questions

Pat Gibbs, Sport and Development Officer

At the start of the year, committed to 3 priorities – student leader development, fair financial access to sport, enhancing sporting community.

First act was to bring club captains to SU to develop their knowledge of SU processes and support. Has led to trailblazers initiative – allowing clubs to be better informed.

Student development work, wellbeing champions have been an area of work this year. Recent focus group on what needs working on. Role description for these roles has been updated, on what they're expected to do, and made more relevant. Introducing dedicated wellbeing training. Incorporating wellbeing champions as a core committee role. Anyone who wants to be involved get in touch.

On fair financial access to sport – unprecedented increase in demand for activity hardship fund, aiming to decrease financial barriers to participation. Increased the amount students can apply for from £100 to £150. Increased the pot again, with boost of 10k from uni. 800 applications, way over double from last year. Exploring more funding, in positive conversations with the university to increase this fund.

Enhancing sporting community – Bristol SU world cup, 6 aside football tournament, 16 nations, 150+ participants. France won against Spain. Fair access – free event, free lunch. A proud achievement for Pat and Adam. Introduced Derby day – a big sporting day felt missing from sporting life at Bristol. Worked with SEH and SU staff, and club captains to put on this event – thank you club captains for your help. 500 athletes, 7 universities competing, VC in attendance.

Questions

KA: Most memorable experience? And how did this impact you/others?

Pat: Bristol SU world cup, international students officer took the students on a lap of the pitch. Too many to list.

Adam Michael, Union Affairs Officer

My last student council, my time in this role has been a journey with many ups and downs. Sharing some highlights. I was the officer lead for the representation review, leading democratic select committee, resulting in passing three big changes to byelaws and changing liberation structures. Hardest part of the job was being on the decision panel for hardship fund – prompted him to work on growing the fund to enable it to support more students. Has grown the pot by 800% - allowing many more students to get involved in sports. My work on elections, involved in increasing the turnout for nominations and votes in TB2 elections.

As a former ISOC VP, sees importance of student groups in student experience and SU work. Key highlights: SU world cup, Ramadan bazaar, Palestine fundraiser. Working on solving crises – working on lack of prayer space on campus. From 5 individual priorities set, I've achieved 4, with the 5th being worked on.

Thank you for this opportunity to represent students.

Questions

Pat: Did you do a dissertation at university – which was better, that or the one you did for the SU?

Adam: got a 2:2 at university, so the SU one was better.

Q: how do your priorities that you've worked towards align with the incoming Union Affairs officer's?

Adam: their priorities will not be finalised until later, but handover week is at end of June - I will impart my wisdom to the new officer.

KA: Anything you regret?

Adam: Can I say corruption? No, I'm joking. Maybe I regret not fighting certain people harder – university executives often air/ignore people, and this happens in the SU sometimes too.

Izzy Russell – Student Living Officer

Wins over the last 2 years. It's a broad role – one remit is sustainability – sustainability month in November, great for engagement. SU merch shop now works with a sustainable company. Set up swap shop in senate house – for donating clothes/other items so that it isn't thrown away. Source cafe committed to donating food to the swap shop that students can access. Set up donate a plate, to let people swap kitchenware when leaving university, for freshers to benefit from in sept, especially international students. Plant based motion to Student Council in November – didn't pass, but took it to NUS conference as a motion amendment where it passed as national policy.

Another priority supporting student activists – supporting occupiers, protesters. Workshops on rent, workers rights. Sexual violence awareness training.

Housing research, just wrapped up today, learning about students living situations in Bristol to present to the university. Lobbying for staff member housing advisor. Secured more wellbeing funding as officers.

Working with reclaim our buses, meeting monthly about bringing buses back under public control. Working with Barclays bank, there's a motion to boycott them at NUS, pressure to release a climate statement.

Questions

Adam: what do you believe is slowing down the guarantor scheme?

Izzy: worked on by officers for 10 years, university refusing to engage/fund it. Hoping to pass on this project to the incoming student living officer, and launch a pilot scheme.

Q: what's your vision for the continuity of your housing work, that could inspire student leaders?

Izzy: guarantor scheme, housing research – Lucy [incoming SLO] has similar goals, hope she will pick up on housing advisor, unsustainable expansion of the university. Up to Lucy.

VM: Plant based motion – you said it didn't pass at Student Council, but where did it, and what does this mean?

Izzy: NUS, at conference, motion on food funding and shelter – amendment encouraging vendors to move towards plant-based food. Doesn't mean we have to do anything, but lends weight to pushes for moving towards plant-based catering.

Izzy: Another point – I've been working on the register to vote campaign, important to go vote!

KA: what would you have done differently?

Izzy: been more confident going into it in the first year, often led by what other people wanted to begin with.

Timber Hill, PGE

I'm Timber, pronouns are she/they, and I'm your Postgraduate Education officer. I've been working on academic representation, reforming internal structures to support future FTO teams, and I've been involved in projects that impact student experience, eg updates to Blackboard, PGR supervisor training, representation review.

I've been a strong voice in university committees. Academic regulations have a big impact on students; Nicole (UGE) and I have represented students on academic-related committees - pushing the university on fairness, inclusive assessment, impact on

marginalised students, and equitable use of university resources. Have been involved with the changing structure of academic year – ensuring PG students aren't disadvantaged.

I've been involved with the teaching awards, in shaping the shortlisting process, and will present the winners with Nicole. Really important to recognise excellent teaching.

Student Academic Representation Network for student academic reps, staff, and academics to come together and share best practice. Co-chairing this space with Catherine Hindson (a University Education Director for Quality). This project shows what can be achieved by the SU and university working in partnership.

Working with Harry Mellor, the associate pro-vice chancellor for PGR students, on PGR experience – which can often be forgotten. This has included working on a training pilot for PGR supervisors, tackling low scores from trans PGRs in the PGR Experience Survey, and support for PGRs requiring disability adjustments.

Thank you to the other officers and KA, you've all made it a great experience. Thank you to the university staff and SU staff who've supported me.

Biggest thing about the role was doing something that my Dad told me to, only been in the role for a short time and worked with some fantastic people, I hope that makes him proud.

Questions

KA: What have you got out of being an officer?

Timber: A big part has been getting to work with great people; the other full-time officers, KA, people committed to the work they do. Working in a team that supports each other, key to achieving mutual aims. Getting to talk to students outside of your circles, speaking to many different people across the whole university. The job is representing students, which you can't do without talking to them, sharing in their successes, and fighting for them.

Bakhtawar's update, read by KA

My priorities were accessible services, community belonging, representation.

Access to services – brought in dedicated support for international students. Onboarding and smoothening transition for international students.

Community and belonging – international students' week, first ever. Celebrated experiences and skills of international students – with a variety of trips and events.

Representation at university and national level – influence at committee for international student experience. Lobbying government. Represented students at UKCISA and RGSU.

Thanking the SU staff for their support. Thank you to international students for reelecting me.

If you have any questions you can contact her.

Affiliations

Every year required to publish a list of external organisations it is affiliated to.

Scan QR code to see the published list of affiliated groups – encouraging members to vote on reaffiliation with these groups.

- NUS is separate from this list, voting on affiliation with NUS would be done by referendum every three years. This is voting on groups other than NUS.

Vote: 75% for, 14% against, 10% abstain. We will reaffiliate with the organisations listed.

MOTIONS

Motion 1 - Natural (Committee) Selection

Proposer: Adam Michael Second: Pat Gibbs

Speech for: Won't go too much detail, but will give an overview, can ask more in Q+A. Democratic Reforms Select Committee (DRSC) was important in the representation review; between June 2023 - February 2024, we met to discuss representation structures and practices. We authored research papers with recommendations on what we believe the structure should look like. Played a significant role in making sure the process is student led. We want to ensure that the committee continues next year, making sure student voices are in the room and the Union Affairs officer's work is supported. Not too much detail in the motion, so that the new Union Affairs officer can shape it.

If the motion passed, a new DRSC would be formed each year, should take previous year's work into consideration, and should be involved in decisions made as part of the representation review.

Speech against: None

Quick points for: None

Quick points against: None

Questions

Q: What's the process for selecting the committee?

A: this year it was very informal, people volunteering by reaching out to the Union Affairs officer and Student Council chair. This process can change, but shouldn't be either too formal or too informal.

Q: (Timber) how important was this committee on getting student voice heard in the representation review process?

A: Without the committee we wouldn't have been able to reach a decision in the representation review. It enabled a middle ground to be found, and meant that people who were well informed on representation structures to enabled decisions to be made. It also meant that the Union Affairs officer wasn't the only student voice in the process.

Q: Overall question on Student Council - are we quorate?

A: KA – we are not quorate, but any motions passed will be ratified at next Student Council.

Q: Will there be something in place before this is ratified?

A: The next Union Affairs officer can form a committee without the motion, this just ensures that it will happen. The motion means that the SU cannot ignore any recommendations made by the committee.

Vote: 100% for. Motion passed.

Break – 10 minutes.

Motion 2 - Remove the Colston Dolphin from the University Crest and Stop Selling Merchandise Featuring It

Proposer: Jae-Hyun Jo Second: Elena Taylor

Speech for: Hello, my name is Jae, first year politics and international relations student, vice-president of MUN. Here to talk about symbolism and representation at university. The fact that you're here shows you care about the university – last year the reparative futures programme made a commitment to increased accountability regarding racial justice – as part of this they changed the university's logo, but the crest was unchanged and is still sold on merch. The crest is not officially a logo but is still used on some things. SU profits from sale of this emblem. Two action items: to lobby university to remove the dolphin from its

crest. There is a costly and long legal process to do this, but worth doing, and nothing stopping us from lobbying the university to at least consider it.

SU most prominent user of this crest, and profits from it, so should change this and redesign to something that can represent everyone.

Speech against: costly and lengthy process – time and money could be spent on other causes – grants, housing, things with a more direct impact on the lives of students. The dolphin image doesn't necessarily need to represent slave trade.

Speech for: part of the point of the reparative futures project is to be clear on the history of the slave trade and to be clear about what we don't want to represent as the university.

Speech against: black students are least inclined to remove the logo, white and non-black students more inclined to remove it.

Speech for: around £20k to change/replace the crest compared to £10mil in reparative futures programme is small – not worth arguing over this amount, and wasting time arguing over it. Symbolism is important.

Speech against: none

Speech for: Timber: on the money point, £20k is not much to the university, it's spent in losses through the year. Doesn't matter the demographics that support it – it's whether we want to be a university that represents and supports Colston's actions.

Questions

Q: The motion says all sales should be ceased and create new signs – what will be done with existing merchandise – will it be thrown away?

A: Ceased, but not immediately. Practicalities are important, things shouldn't be thrown out. Can continue to sell it until a new design is in place to replace it.

Q: Hasn't the university already changed the logo?

A: The university and SU use two symbols – the logo and the crest. The logo has been changed, but the crest hasn't – it's used on sports kits and merch.

Q: Can I ask what survey the opposer [in their speech against] mentioned?

A: The research document, which is on the website.

Motion 2 Amendment

Amendment proposed by students

Jordan speaking for proposed amendment: Studying geography, and geography course rep and BAME rep in school. Rise of concept of EDI – as a geography student I want to try to link the amendment to the course. Question of individual and collective memories: the logo is a memory of something we are embedded in, link to slavery. Naming and claiming versus erasing. The amendment increases accountability and clarity of the motion.

Asking SU officers to produce a report with the information.

Showing where money is spent and what is involved in making this change.

Speech against: (Jae, proposer of original motion) - My concern with the amendment, is that it waters down the motion on action 1, 3 and 4. I believe that the additional action 5 is not relevant. These amendments are not relevant or enhancing the motion.

Quick points for: the amendment looks good in terms of publishing the report, so that the removal is embedded in institutional memory.

Quick points against: none

Questions

Q: (Izzy) Can the motion be broken down into parts?

A: Yes – discuss with DSC. [DSC leave the room with Izzy Russell, to discuss breaking the motion into parts. Discussion continues]

Q: Accountability with amendment 1 – forcing people to write a report is not a bad idea. Who will do this, and will you be involved?

A: Union Affairs Officer, and other officers involved in lobbying the university – to make the process clear for students.

Q: As the proposer of producing the report, would you be part of the team?

A: Currently I don't think so, but I'd be happy to be involved if they asked me. But the motion is to dictate the actions of the officers.

Jae: The amendment is not necessary – the officers already have to report on their work. I would support the writing of a report.

Q: Would it be possible to include academic professors/history dept to be involved in the report?

A: KA: these procedural issues depend on whether the motion is passed.

Adam clarifying DSC decision: proposal to split the motion into parts. First we will vote on whether to split the amendment into parts. Action 1 would be part one, actions 3, 4, and 5 would be part two. Once this is decided we will vote on the motion.

Q: Why split into two parts, as opposed to 4 parts, one for each action?

A: The amendment was proposed as one, so if we vote without parts, it would all pass.

Q: But why 2 parts not 4 parts?

A: Izzy proposed 2 parts not 4 parts.

Q: Can we now propose 4 parts instead of 2?

A: Yes.

Q: this meeting is not quorate – can we defer this motion to a later meeting with more attendees?

A: Meet with DSC to discuss.

[DSC, Union Affairs officer, Izzy, proposer of deferral, proposer of splitting to 4 parts, leave the room to discuss.]

Adam: Izzy has withdrawn their proposal. Now there is a proposal to defer this motion, and a proposal to split it into 4 parts – one for each action.

KA: Inviting proposer of deferring motion to speak.

Speech: proposing to defer as we aren't quorate, and it's complex to make this decision and then ratifying it later. Better to defer.

Speech against deferring: As Adam pointed out, there will be a new batch of merch produced for September with the crest, so it's better to decide now.

Quick point for deferral: (Pat) Pointing out that if anyone wants to work with officers on this, it doesn't have to go through student council, you can choose to work with officers on this until the motion goes through at a later date.

Speech against deferral: Izzy – changeover of officers means that work won't start until later, by voting for it now SU staff can begin work on it. Voting against deferral.

Speech for:

Speech against: SC November has full agenda, it might not get debated then and be pushed back to AMM – more time and space for it now.

Questions

Q: What happens if it's passed, but the meeting is not ratified at next SC?

A: The motions would not be passed.

Adam: meetings not being ratified is not due to disagreement with the motions, the ratification is based on whether the meeting was democratic and proper procedure followed. Disagreeing with motions would not be grounds not to ratify a meeting.

Q: (from the proposer) If the motion is passed, would I need to speak again to ratify in November?

A: No, you would only need to speak again if it's deferred.

Vote: Whether to defer this motion to November Student Council.

65% oppose, 24% in favour, 12% abstain

Motion not deferred.

Now speeches on breaking motion into parts.

Speech for breaking into 4 parts: As it stands, if it was broken into 2 parts, it doesn't allow different votes on the 4 different action points.

Speech against: Suggesting not to break it into 4 parts because it will take a long time. Only breaking into relevant parts, proposing to break it into two parts as Izzy suggested.

KA: Skipping further debate as we have had significant discussion.

Adam: we are voting to break it into 4 parts. If that passes, we vote on each part. If it fails, we vote on breaking it into 2, as Izzy proposed.

Vote: Breaking the amendment into 4 parts?

52% in favour, 42% oppose, 6% abstain.

Motion being broken into 4 parts.

Vote on part 1, amended action one:

73% in favour, oppose 27%, abstain 0%

Amendment to action 1 passed.

Vote on part 2, amended action three:

66% oppose, 34% in favour, 0% abstain

Original action maintained.

Vote on part 3, amended action four:

51% oppose, 46% in favour, 3% abstain

Original action maintained

Vote on part 4, additional action 5:

53% in favour, 41% oppose, 6% abstain

Additional action 5 passed.

Now voting on the motion, with the passed amendments.

Vote: 65% in favour, 32% against, 3% abstain.

Motion passed.

Motion 3 - Standing Committee Changes for the better

Proposer: Adam Michael Seconder: Pat Gibbs

Speech for: part of the representation review, making standing committee better. Standing committee a sub-committee of Student Council – Faculty Reps, Network chairs, Full-time officers. Standing committee has a pot of money for networks, where network chairs can bid for money to support events. Aiming to reduce the frequency of meetings as it's a big time commitment for part-time officers. Reducing to 6-7 times a year, rather than once a month. Allowing retrospective bids; where networks can spend money first and bid for it afterwards.

Speech against: none.

Quick point for: none.

Quick point against: none.

Questions

Q: What are the proposed actions?

A: Actions shown on screen. Changing the byelaws to rename (to Student Representative Assembly and change frequency of meetings – the name change will not impact the substance of the committee.

Vote:

90% for, 6% against, 3% abstain

Motion passed.

Close / Any other business

Reminder to vote, and to bring voter ID! Local elections on Thursday 2nd of May.