

Annual General Meeting 2025



Date: 14/05/2025

Time: 17:00 – 18:30

Chair: Karina Whelan

Voting Members Present

Ness Garratt (NG) – Activities and Opportunities Officer

Kit Boulting-Hodge (KBH) – Education and Community Officer

Bobola Ajibola (BA) - Welfare and Diversity Officer

Karina Whelan (KW) – Chair of Student Council

9 Total Student Members (SM)

Supporting Staff Members Present

Lou Fensome (LF) – Chief Operating Officer

Drew Humphry (DH) – Student Voice and Campaigns Coordinator

Voting Rights

The individuals eligible to vote included 9 students and 3 elected Full Time Officers (FTOs). Each vote resulted in a different count, indicating that all eligible voters did not participate in each voting instance.

Minutes

Agenda Point	Minutes	Owner
<i>General Introductions</i>	<i>General introductions commenced, and voting members were informed of the importance of an AGM and how to cast their votes.</i>	<i>KW</i>
<i>Approval of the Minutes and the Last Meeting</i>	<i>The minutes of the last meeting were approved with the vote being as follows: Approve: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 1</i>	<i>KW</i>
<i>Updating Items – Full-Time Officers Yearly Reports</i>	Ness (Activities and Opportunities Officer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>– Provided spike aware resources in SU spaces and events</i><i>– Carried out the SOSUK Drugs and Alcohol Survey with 162 respondents.</i>	<i>NG</i>

-
- *Implemented the Student Wellbeing project group to review and develop policies on Student Wellbeing, such as the Student Charter, Code of Conduct and Drugs and Alcohol Policy.*
 - *There is now a 5 year University and SU harm reduction plan in it's creation, collaboration and review stage.*
 - *Carried out multiple mocktail events.*
 - *Implemented Drugs and Alcohol training in Student Leaders Training*
 - *Hosted Feel Good Feb and took part in multiple activities. This was well engaged with by Sports Clubs.*
 - *Planned, supported and hosted Varsity series. Emphasised the importance of better marketing and opted for external venues again.*
 - *Re-activated the SU TikTok Page – improving our audience reach.*
 - *Implemented the HopeHouse and GDASS 'Fair Play' Campaign in Student Leaders Training.*
 - *Implemented the Varsity 'Play Your Part' Campaign into the Varsity pledge signing.*

Bobola (Welfare and Diversity Officer)

BA

- *Organised Diversity Night 3.0, promoting inclusivity among home and international students through performances, student showcases, university teams engagement, and SU officer campaigns.*
- *Welcomed MP Max to Park Campus and raised key student concerns, including immigration policy, housing challenges, and employment barriers for international students.*
- *Co-organised the Voice It with the VC event, enabling direct student engagement with the Vice Chancellor to foster transparency and address concerns.*
- *Hosted a Black History Month Movie Night featuring a film on Dr. Martin*

Luther King Jr., promoting reflection on civil rights and social justice.

- Delivered a guest talk to Journalism students about the Students' Union, outlining responsibilities, challenges, and successes.*
- Created a support group for new intake students, offering guidance and directing them to appropriate university services for a smooth transition.*
- Participated in the Undergraduate International Student Forum to understand student challenges and identify areas for improvement.*
- Collaborated with the Careers & Employability Team and stakeholders to plan a major NHS careers fair and expand job opportunities.*
- Participated in the Student-Led Staff Awards, recognising exceptional contributions to student success and wellbeing.*
- Led engagement in the Awarding Gap campaign, collecting impactful student data to support equity in academic outcomes.*
- Organised Diversity Night 4.0, a key social event celebrating cultural diversity and fostering community among students.*
- Participated in SHAG Week (Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance) through the "Sexibition" event to promote student health and well-being.*
- Co-moderated Voice It to VC, facilitating open dialogue between students and the Vice Chancellor.*
- Met with MP Alex to discuss student housing concerns, resulting in regular follow-up meetings to track progress.*
- Contributed to the APPG on student housing, advocating for policy changes around rent, guarantor systems, and housing rights at the Parliament.*
- Partnered with Gloucestershire Police to host an informative session on crime reporting for international students.*

-
- *Co-hosted a Job Fair with strong NHS and employer turnout, enhancing student career prospects and local job awareness.*
 - *Organised an international vs university football match to promote sports diversity and student integration.*
 - *Supported the annual Varsity 2025 with the University of Worcester, promoting team spirit and inter-university collaboration.*
 - *Organised the Bridging the Awarding Gap Symposium, presenting student data and recommendations to support institutional change and inclusivity in education.*

Kit (Education and Community Officer)

KBH

- *Completed 3/5 campaign goals; accountability surveys (establishing a framework), free alumni access to libraries and SU space, and ECs for religious observance.*
 - *Promoted the use of learning analytics to identify students falling through the cracks, tailoring assessment and course content. Fed into CTP.*
 - *In all meetings, promoted the idea that students should be more than partners in their education; they should be founders, co-creators and tailoring every student's journey.*
 - *Transitional sessions for international students in UK academic writing are now being discussed/implemented across the board.*
 - *Established a new framework for attracting SVAs, going to academics to see who they think would be best for the role, creating a sense of achievement for students and staff.*
 - *Supported officers in other parts of the country to tackle mental health.*
 - *Raised awareness of canteen costs to both staff (becoming a topic in Speak week) and it became a much-talked-about issue during the year*
-

-
- This led to an SVA campaign by Erika, who collected feedback and delivered a report to the catering board on my behalf, securing a permanent seat.
 - Increased awareness of the Financial Assistance Fund.
 - Organised connectivity events for students who may experience loneliness, and participated in diversity night.
 - Advocated for student interests, defended the participatory fund against attacks, and represented students at various panels and meetings.
 - Contributed to the Nova working group, moulding the final version.
 - Engaged with refugee charities, NHS (Our Future Health), and School House café, personally contributing or running valuable focus groups.
 - Organised SHAG week with the LGBTQIA society and wider partnership, which was the only event and will be repeated.
 - Connected with the ‘third sector’ and attended key connectivity events at the racecourse to embed students.
 - Elected as Vice-Chair of the Gloucestershire VCSE alliance, furthering student interests in employment.
 - Worked with the council to promote Gloucester as a University City my priorities were keeping young talent in Gloucestershire and providing pro-student/student-run events at the BID

Updating Items – The Chief Operating Officer of the SU gave an overview of the accounts from the financial year 2023/24. This was as follows: LF

- Our total income was: £863,680
 - Our total expenditure was: £849,579
 - The amount of income which came from the Block Grant: £588,700
 - If we assume 9,000 students paying £9,250 this
-

-
- accounts for 0.70% of total UoG tuition fee income
 - £65.41 per student
 - Where we spent money:
 - Biggest spend area was on 'student activities'
 - Overall the cost of employing people remains our largest spend - £446,468 (30 staff posts)
 - We maintain a healthy charitable reserve of cash, in line with our requirements (3-6 months of expenditure): £311,640
 - We continue to pay down an historic pension scheme deficit liability by approximately £30 - £35k per year for the next 14 years
 - Our opportunities to self-earn income are limited due to the nature of UoG (multi-campus, large commuter population, slow student number growth)
 - We are developing our ability to secure charitable partnerships which involve funding

Questions from the membership:

Q1: Can the SU invest using their reserves to generate income?

A1: This is something that is already being discussed and looked into by the SU's Board of Trustees. (LF)

Q2: Do we spend more on Clubs than we do Societies?

A2: Yes, but the income they generate is higher, also costs associated are higher such as the cost of a BUCS affiliation and Insurance. However, these are majority covered by the student through their Club and Team Glos Memberships. (LF)

Q3: Was the Activity Fund available this academic year?

A3: Yes it was available to students this year and is funded by a financial kickback from Akuma.

Q4: Why does the overview say 9,000 students rather than an exact figure?

A4: Because we don't have an exact figure given to us so we made an approximate for the financial update. (LF)

Q5: Could we go into more detail about the accounts?

A5: Yes, SU staff showed the members how to access and read the full SU accounts. (DH)

Voting Items –
The Auditors

The auditor's vote yielded no overall agreement with the vote being as follows:

KW

Approve: 2

Against: 2

Abstain: 6

Voting Items –
Approving the
Yearly Accounts

The Annual Accounts were approved, with the vote being as follows:

KW

Approve: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Voting Items –
Honorary Life
Time
Memberships

The vote to give the three outgoing officers an honorary lifetime membership was passed, with the vote being as follows:

KW

Approve: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Voting Items –
The
Participatory
Fund

The participatory fund motion was proposed by KBH, this policy would ensure that as long as the SU is in a surplus Student Council would manage a fund that enables 1 student-led event to receive funding between £1,000 - £1,500.

KBH/KW

The motion was passed and the vote was as follows:

Approve: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Voting Items – Democracy Restructure *The democracy restructure motion was proposed by KBH, this motion restructures the democracy structure at UoG SU in a way that improves accessibility and participation.* KBH/KW
The motion was passed, with the vote being as follows:
Approve: 9
Against: 0
Abstain: 1

Voting Items – Reinstatement of Facilities at Park Campus *The reinstatement of facilities at Park campus motion was proposed by a student member.* JW/KW
This motion requests the SU to lobby the university to bring back library and student facilities to Park Campus.
The motion was passed unanimously, with the vote being:
Approve: 11
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

AOB *A student member brought the following items to Any other Business:* KW

- Food - range of food available, quality, cost and hours available.*
- Access for students to resources for arts and creative activities (we have a lot for sport but little for other interests).*
- Accommodation contracts that end in the middle of placement, so student have to apply for additional weeks and move rooms.*
- Date if AGM should be earlier in the year to allow more students to attend*
- International students sleeping in the library on a regular basis. There are posters up in the library that state that this is not allowed and that student will be disciplined if caught which I personally find shocking. Our approach should be try and understand why these students are in this situation and to help them not to discipline them for potentially having nowhere else to go.*

The university has a duty of care to all students and if they are international student they are potentially paying even more to be here.

Close of AGM

All business was completed, and the meeting was adjourned at 18:35

KW
