



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes - (04.12.2025)



Time: 17:30

Date: 4th December 2025

Present

Bianca Holland (Education and Community Officer) - BH

Zainab Yusuf Abdul-Raheem (Masters Communications, PR and the Media) - ZY

Joseph Atton (Accounting and Finance) - JA

Regina Adebajo (Masters Education) - RA

Matthew Ayres (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics) - MA

Moesha Batchelor-Letts (Business and Management (Human Resource Management)) - MB

Elenor Bayliffe (Forensic Psychology) - EB

Catriona Brown (Geography) - CB

Louis Barrett (Performing Arts) - LB

Maisie Chelu-Walmsley (Criminology and Psychology) - MC

Nina Connell (Journalism) - NC

Roarke Conybear (Business and Management) - RC

Martinha Barbosa De Freitas Alves Costa (Drama and Performance Practice) - MBd

Caliegh Cox (Criminology) - CC

Dominik Culic (Drama and Performance Practice) - DC

Izzy Cordwell (Mental Health Nursing) - IC

Finley Davies (English Literature and Creative Writing) - FD

Georgia Duckett (Education, Inclusion and Special Educational Needs) - GD

Freya Dalgarno (Popular Music) - FDA

Hannah Davies (Adult nursing) - HD

Maddie Davis (Computer Games Design) - MD

Leah Doughty (Architecture) - LD

Molly Dyke (Adult Nursing) - MDy

Noah Earey (Drama and Performance Practice) - NE

Mia Edwards (Sports Therapy) - ME

Kareem Fahmy (Sports Therapy) - KF

Sharon George (Law) - SG

Ruby Goldthorpe (Sport Business Management) - RG

Ciara-Mai Gleeson (Early Childhood Studies) - CG

Abi Goodman (Early Childhood Studies) - AG

Jack Gough (Masters Game Development) - JG

Mike Greensmith (Business and Marketing Management) - MG

Abigail Harrison (Biology) - AH

Sydnee Hodges (Wildlife Conservation Biology) - SH

Jaxson Hundt (Sport Business Management) - JH

Aida Hashemzadeh (Diagnostic Radiography) - AHa
George Hewett (Computer Science) - GH
Grace Holloway (PGCE Primary Education) - GHo
Rebecca Honeyborne (Sound and Music Production) - RH
Moss Hughes (Animation) - MH
Elis James (Physiotherapy) - EJ
Luke Jones (Computer Science) - LJ
Ben Jordan (Computer Games Programming) - BJ
Joshua Kingscott (Law (Corporate Law)) - JK
Yasir Khan (Course Rep - MSc Data Science) - YK
Kat Kraus (Documentary Photojournalism) - KK
Kieran Kristian (Computer Games Programming) - KKn
Charlotte Leeman (Primary Education with QTS) - CL
George Manix (Biomedical Science) - GM
Ruby McLennan (English Literature) - RM
Erika Messineo (Law) - EM
Poppy Mulford (Masters Physiotherapy)- PM
Patrick McGonnell-Burrows (Popular Music) - PMc
Azeez Mustapha (Masters International Business) - AM
Thomas Neal (Geography) - TN
Daniel Neate (Zoology) - DN
Eunice Omolere (Masters Human Resource Management) - EO
Sharmon Pearson (Accounting and Finance) - SP
Grace Rodney (Sport Business Management) - GR
Sumaya Amin Reya (Masters International Business) - SA
Karl Roberts (Nursing Learning Disability) - KR
Hannah Rose Rogeness (Animation) - HR

Benjamin Taylor (Business and Management) - BT
Annabel Tindal (Law) - AT
Aidan Travasso (Accounting and Business Management) - ATr
Charlotte Turley (Business and Management) - CT
Luke Thomas (Apprenticeship Cyber Security Professional) - LT
Rebekka Tozer (International Hospitality and Tourism Management) - RT
Arwen Tyler (Diagnostic Radiography) - ATy
Lois Walley (Clinical and Health Psychology) - LW
Nathan Welham (Zoology) - NW
Harry Wellington (Masters Physiotherapy) - HW
Chanice Westcarr (Animation) - CW
Abi McKenzie - AMc
Drew Humphry (Student Voice and Campaigns Coordinator and Clerk to the Chair) DH

Officer Update

BH welcomed attendees and explained the voting process for future decisions. She confirmed the meeting was recorded for minute-taking purposes. She shared updates from her officer report:

- Accommodation Issues: Upper Quay prices are increasing significantly (up to £7,500 per year), despite ongoing problems such as broken gates, poor security, mould, leaks, power outages, and inadequate maintenance. Students reported stolen bicycles and parcels left unsecured. A meeting with students is scheduled for 6th December at the Comfy Pew in Gloucester to address these concerns.
- Transport: The n bus service was removed due to low usage and driver shortages. BH plans to launch a survey to assess demand for reinstating the service.
- Francis Close Hall (FCH): A drop-in session on 11th December will clarify any concerns. BH confirmed FCH is not being sold but options are being reviewed. She urged students to attend and ask questions.
- Academic Board Updates:
 - OFS (Office for Students) is pressuring universities to remove the discounting policy that currently allows students to drop 30 credits per year.
 - NSS (National Student Survey) remains critical for maintaining the university's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) rating. Falling to bronze could lead to course closures and reduced funding.

Actions:

- BH to contact accommodation management regarding Upper Quay issues.
- Launch survey on N bus reinstatement.
- Promote FCH drop-in session.
- Monitor OFS developments and NSS guidance.

Key Discussion – OFS Proposal to Remove Discounting

BH explained that the OFS wants universities to stop discounting modules, meaning all 120 credits per year would count toward final grades. This change would remove flexibility for students facing illness, disability, caring responsibilities, or mental health challenges. The university opposes this, but OFS may require costly calibration exercises, which could strain finances.

Member Feedback and Concerns:

- AMc: Supported starting a petition and raising awareness. Highlighted the impact on disabled students during flare-ups.
- LJ: Suggested collaborating with other universities and ensuring transparent policies to prevent misuse of discounting.
- NW: Warned of negative effects on mental health, cost of living, and assessment bunching.
- JA: Raised concerns about poor module delivery and how requiring perfection would disadvantage students.
- BJ: Emphasised the need for leeway for first-year students adjusting to university life.
- EM: Questioned the logic of the change, noting it could harm employability and course viability.
- KR: Highlighted the impact on nursing students with heavy placement schedules.
- NE: Warned that drama course changes combined with this policy could lead to course closures.
- HR: Asked for the reasoning behind the change; BH explained it was to reduce grade inflation, though current data shows no inflation issue.
- General Consensus: The change offers no clear benefit and disproportionately harms smaller universities and vulnerable student groups.

Actions:

- BH to draft a policy for Student Council to campaign locally, regionally, and nationally against the OFS proposal.
- Contact OFS for clarification and reasoning.
- Coordinate with other universities and student unions.

- Create and distribute a petition; members to share widely.
- Engage local MPs for support.
- Policy paper to be written by BH and submitted before Student Council meeting next Tuesday.

National Student Survey (NSS)

BH stressed the importance of the NSS for third-year students. Responses affect TEF ratings, which determine funding and course viability. She urged students to be honest but balanced, as falling to bronze could lead to course closures.

Action:

- BH to email guidance on completing the NSS and follow up on revalidation workshops.

School Feedback– ACE (Arts, Culture & Environment)

- NE: Drama course revalidation ignored student advice against introducing 30-credit modules. Students fear reduced flexibility and loss of course identity.
- TN: Raised concerns about FCH's future, emphasising its importance for geography and environmental courses and the university's identity.
- AG: Reported serious issues at Upper Quay accommodation, including power outages, mould, leaks, cockroaches, poor maintenance, and rising costs without improvements. Parcels and medication were left unsecured during staff absences.

Actions:

- BH to support Noah in raising revalidation concerns at ACL meetings.
- Investigate FCH module changes and communicate plans clearly.
- Address Upper Quay issues in upcoming meeting and push for improvements.

School Feedback – EHS (Education, Health & Science)

- KF: Reported difficulties booking rooms for practical sessions, delaying revision and coursework. Current process is slow and unclear.
- KR: Nursing students found the first six weeks rushed and overwhelming due to course restructuring.
- HD: Confirmed this is a known issue and will be raised at ACL meetings.
- NW: Suggested implementing “Apps Anywhere” to allow remote access to licensed software for assignments requiring university programs.
- IC: Raised concerns about additional accommodation costs for extended placements.
- EJ: Asked for clarity on NHS reimbursement schemes for placement-related expenses.
- GM: Highlighted lack of postgraduate and career support for biomedical science students.
- GD: Reported similar concerns for education students, noting confusion about career options and changes to promised opportunities.
- MD: Noted no longer having a Nursing SVA has had an impact on representation on the course.

Actions:

- BH to raise room booking issues with Estates and explore better systems.
- Organise meeting with nursing and physiotherapy reps to discuss placement costs and reimbursement.
- Investigate the feasibility of Apps Anywhere for remote software access.
- Follow up on career support gaps for biomedical and education courses.

School – BCSS (Business, Computing & Social Sciences)

- EM: Law students lack awareness of SU activities and feel disconnected from student voice processes. Raised concerns about reduced study spaces after removal of the Global Room and poor support for international students, including late classes and overcrowded rooms.

- RT: Hospitality and events students face assessment bunching and unclear guidance on assignments. Personal tutor access is limited.
- BJ: Computer games programming students struggle with timetable changes, unclear expectations, and insufficient support for complex projects. Assignments are bunched together, and students lack clarity on what help lecturers can provide.
- MB: Business and finance students struggle with unclear module delivery and lack of pre-reading guidance. Some students have dropped courses due to poor communication.

Actions:

- BH to explore ways to improve SU visibility and communication.
- Raise concerns about study space availability and international student support with university leadership.
- Address assessment bunching and teaching quality issues with relevant ACLs.
- Investigate clearer guidelines for module delivery and pre-reading requirements.

Closing Remarks

BH confirmed that all feedback will be minuted and published within five working days. She will email attendees with a summary of actions and next steps. Members were encouraged to email further concerns or suggestions and attend the next sub council meeting in February.