



STUDENT COUNCIL

Minutes - (24.02.2026)

Time: 17:30

Date: 24th February 2026

Chair: Nathan Welham

Vice Chair: Erika Messineo

Present

Nathan Welham (NW) - School Rep for ACE and Chair of Council

Erika Messineo (EM) - School Rep for BCSS and Vice Chair of Council

Bianca Holland (BH) – Education & Community Officer

Freya Rowley (FR) – Activities & Opportunities Officer

Aidan Morris (AM) – Sport Rep (American Football)

Daniel Neate (DN) – Society Rep (Biosciences)

Karina Whelan (KW) – LGBTQIA+ Welfare Rep

Raya Bocus (RB) – Care Leavers Welfare Rep

Tammy Storer-Rogers (TSR) – Students with Disabilities Welfare Rep

Luke Hillier (LH) – Mature Students Welfare Rep

Joshua Roden-Crabtree (JRC) – Societies Rep (Law and Mooting)

Finley Durham (FD) – School Rep (ACE)

Connie Jordan (CJ) – Sport Rep (Women's Rugby)

Ellie Mallard (EMa) – Sport Rep (Dance)

Aisha Noor (AN) – International Students Welfare Rep

Maz Bamford (MB) – Society Rep (Table Top)

Victor Bannan (VB) – Black, Asian and ME+ Welfare Rep

Azeez Mustapha (AzM) – School Rep (BCSS)

Drew Humphry (DH) - Student Voice and Campaigns Coordinator and Clerk to the Chair

Officer Updates

NW opened the meeting and invited officer updates.

BH summarised improvements made to Course Rep Accreditation, especially for placement students, and shared progress on her Be with B series of funded community activities.

FR updated members on recent cooking classes, the relaunch of the student food bank, Rainbow Laces participation, and the Varsity pledge signing.

DH, updating on behalf of IJ, highlighted recent events including International Students Day, the Career Confidence Workshop, Finance Pop-Up, “Art of Hello,” the upcoming Unmask the Colours of Your Identity event, and a poetry competition for Mother Tongue Language Day.

Sub-Council Updates

BH reported on the Education & Community Sub-Council, including the FCH Working Group, progress on the OFS discounting letter, MP lobbying work drafted by NW, and discussions with councillors about safety and lighting around Park and Pittville. She also raised concerns about the draft RAP policy and proposed AI feedback tools.

FR noted ongoing engagement challenges in her sub-council and explained the recent breakdown of Team Gloss Points. She highlighted efforts to improve sports–societies communication through a shared WhatsApp group and encouraged reps to help break down existing social barriers.

DH summarised the Welfare & Diversity Sub-Council. KW raised concerns about trans-exclusive language on trip forms; LH and TSR detailed accessibility issues at City Campus (doors, parking, toilets, seating). Concerns around reasonable adjustments and inconsistent communication were discussed. RB reported issues regarding support visibility for care-experienced students and inappropriate staff questioning. The Women’s+ rep shared plans for an International Women’s Day video project.

Policy Proposal – Trustee Term Extension

BH presented a proposal to amend the Articles of Association, allowing the Chair of the Board of Trustees to serve for four years instead of three. She explained the need for continuity while trustee recruitment remains challenging.

Vote:

- For: 13
- Against: 0
- Abstain: 1

The motion passed.

FR thanked members and invited suggestions of strong trustee candidates from the community.

Update on Previous Policy – OFS & Discounting

BH shared progress on the OFS campaign. A cross-university meeting is being rescheduled. The university's formal letter is ready to proceed, pending Academic Board approval, and the NUS OFS roundtable is awaiting a confirmed date.

JRC asked about MP meetings, and BH confirmed they are being arranged.

Speak Week Feedback

DH summarised Speak Week outcomes. Overall survey engagement was lower due to half-term, but volunteer participation increased significantly. Student sentiment toward the SU improved. A full report will be shared in the coming months.

Elections Update

DH reminded the group that nominations close on 6th March and voting runs from 16th – 20th March. He encouraged members to run and highlighted available manifesto-writing support.

BH shared the nominations link and “Nominate a Mate” option.

NW asked whether studies can be paused to take officer roles; DH confirmed this is normal and permitted.

Any Other Business – Harm Reduction Work

FR raised harm-reduction work around drugs and alcohol, asking whether the SU should explore this more formally.

KW strongly supported this due to known risks and prevalence within LGBTQIA+ communities.

A member noted they overheard students mentioning drug use outside of halls.

Members agreed that education and signposting are essential.

It was agreed a student led working group would be beneficial to supporting a move towards a harm reduction approach

FR will now take this feedback back to the Wellbeing Group and suggested each sub-council provide a short statement to contribute to a joint SU–University harm-reduction commitment.

Meeting Close

NW thanked everyone and closed the meeting.