

Student Council Minutes

From meeting dated 07.05.2026

Chaired by:	Muhammad Razza	MR
	Maddie Willey	MW

Student Leaders in attendance

SVL – Communities	Twig Smalley	TS
SVL – International Experience	Aamira Waghmar	AW
SVL – Academic Experience	Precious Ikechukwu	PI
SVL – Employability	Badhri Durgapu	BD
SVL – Inclusion & Wellbeing	Dilpreet Kaur	DK

Election of Student Voting Members

No students were elected as Voting Members since the meeting did not reach quorum.

Minutes from the previous meeting

The previous minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Manifesto Progress Reports: Student Voice Leaders

Precious Ikechukwu – Academic Experience

Twig Smalley – Communities

Aamira Waghmar – International Experience

Badhri Durgapu – Employability

Dilpreet Kaur – Inclusion & Wellbeing

Scrutiny Panel Report

The Scrutiny Panel report is available in the minutes of the Scrutiny Panel meeting for 1st May.

Verbal Trustee Board Update

The Trustee Board Update can be found in **Appendix A** of this document.

Motions

The following motions were discussed during Student Council but could not be voted on due to not meeting quorum.

Motion to replace the “Liberation Officer” roles & introduce paid “Liberation Community Organizer” roles

Proposed by Dilpreet Kaur

Discussion:

Would it be good for Liberation Community Organisers to have a team of people around them? Role is not about representation; it now focuses on facilitating community. Number of organisers relies on funding from DMU.

Where did the name “Liberation” come from? Is it the most appropriate name for this incoming group of individuals.

Does the paid element of the role come with more responsibility than previous years? Feedback from consultation was that the responsibility to the people in these roles was too large for a volunteer role, hence the paid element.

Motion to make changes to the structure & timing of Student Council for next academic year

Proposed by Twig Smalley

Discussion:

It would allow more time to build more marketing plans to help reach more students and increase turnout.

Having less meetings does mean more research on availability and turnout, and it can create a sense of rigidity. First Council of year is always prone to more attendance, due to nature of academic year. It would also allow more “rich” meetings with more updates and debate.

Quorum would not increase if meeting frequency decreases.

Minimum attendance could be introduced, like how students are expected to attend 80% of lessons. However this could promote the idea of DSU promoting “skipping lectures” to attend volunteer obligations.

Could we create more promotion space downstairs in DSU, especially in times around Council Café to help promote engagement?

Quorum seems to be the main issue, but is there scope to do “delayed” voting and reveal results on day of Council? Kind of like a public referendum but consistently during academic year.

General Discussion

The theme for this general discussion is:

“How do we make Student Council more accessible / engaging?”

&

“How do Student Leaders engage the unengaged?”

The biggest challenge faced by SVLs is that they feel they do a lot to reach out to students, but have trouble with scheduling conflicts and classes. SVLs can’t encourage students to skip classes so stuck in an impossible scenario. Could SVLs and Student Leaders get in touch with module leaders to figure out biggest “blank spots” on courses to help with scheduling.

Hybrid solutions have tried and failed, so DSU are attempting to work with DMU to create a purpose-built hybrid space to help facilitate Council participation and accessibility.

Students seem to appreciate increased interaction and “active marketing” rather than passive things such as posters – could DSU try to use screens and TVs around campus to make a more visual piece than just a static poster?

The promotion style of DMU’s Community Week was very effective and maybe similar strategies of promotion could be used in next academic year for Student Council. Should the SU integrate with more DMU events to drive engagement?

Students want more things promoted on the big screen outside Vijay Patel.

Could DSU have a dedicated screen, like the one on Vijay Patel, to work as a digital billboard of SU

events and services?

Any Other Business

Any other business that falls outside of the previous topic points will be discussed here.

The Chairs expressed gratitude and appreciation toward DSU staff for their work and facilitation of Student Council, as the coordinators related will be leaving their roles in the coming weeks.

The Chairs took time to promote DSU Celebrates the following evening and reminded them of the committee member promotion related to tickets.

Meeting Close & Actions Arising

At 12:31, the meeting was closed.