



SUSU LGBTQ+ SOCIETY

Minutes

Meeting Date:	Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	Meeting Time:	14:00
Meeting Location:	Highfield Campus		

Attendees	
AI KD RR WW AW KR EM HD	President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer Ordinary Member Events/Socials Officer Welfare & Signposting Officer Welfare & Signposting Officer
Apologies	
AH AM NB	Media/Publicity Officer Outreach Officer Technical Officer

Handover Procedure

RR has created a Committee Master Handover Document which will be collaboratively finished by the current committee to be used by the 2025/2026 committee and any future iterations of the society. The document will also receive contributions from previous committees such as the 2023/2024 committee, this should hopefully benefit the society in future, allowing future committees to stand independently of previous committee networks and alumni.

The 2025/2026 committee have been added to the SUSU website as of this meeting. The handover meeting will be held within the next two weeks.

SUSU Affiliation Regulation Changes

KD has created a document that will summarise the discussion between the Society and SUSU which is aimed at informing our members about the consequences of these regulatory changes prior to a prospective EGM. This document should be easy to read, accessible, and



SUSU LGBTQ+ SOCIETY

informative. This will allow our members to understand all faces of the issue before they vote to comply with SUSU membership registration or not.

The committee had a lengthy discussion over all of the pros and cons that come with SUSU registration, and all present members agreed that the society should continue to protect our members data at all costs. If the members vote that they are comfortable with sharing this data, then this will be properly accommodated by the next committee, and vice versa. The committees concern lies in the fact that the enforcement of these rules would be detrimental to the condition of our society and the safety of our members, this would fundamentally include handing over a compiled list of queer members to a third-party of which we have no control over the usage of this data.

KD addressed that SUSU is perceived (by our members) to handle incidents regarding queerphobia (homophobia & transphobia) with a lack of care and consideration. Additionally, the proposed regulations would require a minimum of between 15-20 members per society, which may impact the security of the society as a group representing a protected characteristic. The committee is also concerned that this may force members to either choose between losing the society services through disaffiliation (lack of official membership) or allow SUSU to have access to their data and lose control over the use of their data. This comes with a plethora of other issues for gender non-conforming and queer students within the university system. The committee is, ultimately, committed to being member run and organised; we do not believe the collection of our data benefits our members due to prior incidents. There is also no official introduction date for these new regulations and online voting platform, we are completely in the dark regarding when these changes will take place and therefore, we have been unable to prepare for potential changes and protect the interests of our members.

SUSU believes that if they give us special considerations that they do not extend to other societies, then this will be 'unfair' to their other societies and go against their 'Equity policies' – we do not believe this is a proper application of equitable practice. Members should never have to register themselves with any kind of list to be a part of our LGBTQ+ society, and the fact that members have to disclose themselves to SUSU to vote in our elections is undemocratic and unfair to our members. As discussed before, we believe that SUSU have the potential to misuse our data (based on previous incidents with VP Welfare Laura Carpenter and presidential candidate Bill Kong). No visible action was taken against these candidates. If this happens again, there is nothing we can do to protect our members.

We have spoken with the 2023/2024 President (LB) who has had similar conversations with SUSU during his year as president, SUSU did not seem to have any prior awareness of this conversation/issue despite the fact that it has been addressed by prior committees and therefore we don't believe that they have any legitimate intention in addressing our concerns. They do not seem open to negotiation in any way shape or form. The committee



SUSU LGBTQ+ SOCIETY

acknowledges that SUSU do not trust us, nor do we trust them. If we agree to these terms, there is no way to ever take back our personal data when it has been submitted. SUSU is also not a part of the NUS so they are not held to a higher power outside of the university, which means that they cannot be held the National Union of Students (NUS) policy and data protection standards.

The following pros and cons of dis-affiliation have been acknowledged/discussed by the present committee:

1) PROS

- a. The society would be fully and entirely independent and self-organised. This means the society and its members would have full control over our members data and can deliberate on the use of this data.
- b. Current policy which has been beneficial to the society can be re-implemented outside of SUSU while also dropping policy that did not previously improve our member experiences.
- c. Dis-affiliation may make it easier to connect with the local Southampton based LGBTQ+ community, previously, the society would be expected to deliberate with SUSU if they where to collaborate with external organisations, we have the freedom to choose our collaborators more freely with dis-affiliation.
- d. This would also give us absolute freedom to decide how we democratically manage our AGMs and EGMs which benefit our members and their priorities.
- e. If we are in the position where data could be breached, the committee would have the ability to purge all data and systems of the society, if this becomes necessary for the safety of our members data.

2) CONS

- a. The society would lose SUSU grant funding, meaning the society would have to rely on corporate sponsorships, or operate on volunteer funding when sparsely available.
- b. Loss of access to all SUSU advertising and publicity including access to Bunfight, Freshers Fair events and all endorsement from SUSU would end.
- c. SUSU insurance will no longer cover our society and its activities; meaning if any incident where to occur on public or private grounds it would fall within the individual society responsibilities. This could be both costly and put the society into disrepair without these legal protections.
- d. We would lose access to SUSU spaces and block space booking across the university. This also may have an impact on booking using the Web Room Booking service. Due to new risk assessment changes within SUSU, there is no guarantee for SUSU to accommodate our bookings and means we could lose all spaces for the society.
- e. Collaborations with affiliated societies could be more difficult due to an outsider status. This may also affect other annual events such as Blossom



SUSU LGBTQ+ SOCIETY

Drive if we lose access to collaborative networks with SURGE and other SUSU sub-organisations.

- f. We would lose access to SUSU training and development tools, and any other resources they offer for their affiliated societies.
- g. The society would lose access to university IT support, the Teams group (and all of our affiliated files), and the university email inbox. Any other online storage platform we use for files, emails, etc... would be limited by the free providers available.
- h. The society will lose the opportunity to have a stronger negotiation stance after official disaffiliation. Once we are no longer affiliated, SUSU can forgo responsibility of our members and their welfare and not allow us to be affiliated in future unless we FULLY agree to their terms. At current, we have a better position as an insider organisation to negotiate terms.

Ultimately, disaffiliation is not something the committee wants to commit to, however, if SUSU are unwilling to negotiate or respond to our member's needs, we may be forcefully dis-affiliated. These consequences should be considered carefully.

Summer Events & Activities

RR will create posts for our upcoming events. RR is also in the process of communicating with Solent Queer Society (Solent University) to join their upcoming social during the summer for our members.

KR will also be organising further activities based on a feedback form sent out earlier last month.



SUSU **LGBTQ+** SOCIETY