



**Date:** 27/02/2020  
**Time:** 18:00 – 20:00  
**Venue:** Wilkins Garden Room

### Activities Zone

### Notes

**Chair:** D'Arcy McGuinness, Activities Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Clara Baltay, Sports Officer (Job Share)	✓		
Conrad Woolley, Sports Non-portfolio Representative		✓	
D'Arcy McGuinness, Activities Officer, Chair	✓		
Elly Chaw, Sports Non-portfolio Representative	✓		
James Henderson, Sports Non-portfolio Representative			✓
Jim Onyemenam, Postgraduate Students' Officer	✓		
Joey Jepps, Arts Officer	✓		
Laura Dell'Antonio, Sports Officer (Job Share)		✓	
Megan McKee, Sports Non-portfolio Representative	✓		
Melissa Hanger, Sports Non-portfolio Representative		✓	
Molly Hartill, Community Relations Officer	✓		
Sam Currie, Sports Non-portfolio Representative			✓
Samuel Jones, Societies Representative - Performance Arts	✓		
Tanya Dudnikova, Societies Representative - Media	✓		

In Attendance:
Bikram Bains, Project Active Coordinator
Carl Salton-Cox, Societies and Media Manager
Emer O'Driscoll, Policy Zone Assistant, Minutes
Katie Sykes, Sports Development Manager

## 1. Preliminary Matters

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. There were none and so the minutes were approved.

The Chair followed up on the action points from the previous meeting:

- Water Fountain in the Bloomsbury Building: due to the plumbing necessary for installation, the Union does not currently have the funds to do this.
- Music Rehearsal Room: need for more music rehearsal space will be addressed by the refurbishment of the Lewis's Building.
- Phineas Room Bookings: the Democracy, Operations and Community (DOC) Officer was not present, so the Chair will check in with them about any progress on this.
- Welcome Fair: feedback from the Zone has been given to the Marketing team and will be taken into account when planning the Fair.

## 2. Guest Speaker – Bikram Bains

Bikram Bains spoke to the Zone about Project Active and the Union's social sport leagues. They asked members for feedback and requested that they let their peers know about the projects.

**Action: Members to spread the word about Project Active and the Union's social sport**

### **leagues to their constituents**

Reps fed back that largely they were not aware of the social sports leagues and felt that more publicity would be helpful.

It was noted that the current publicity methods are primarily: flyers, emails, the Welcome Fair, and the Union Instagram account.

The Arts Officer and the Societies Rep (Performance Art) suggested establishing some kind of inter-societal competition to increase engagement.

The Chair suggested advertising in the back of programmes for arts shows and the Societies Rep (Performance Art) suggested contacting arts societies' Publicity/Social Secs.

The Postgraduate Students' Officer asked if it would be possible to market through departmental societies, as their members generally have fewer time commitments than arts societies members. The Chair suggested taking the matter to Education Zone.

**Action: Policy Zone Assistant to include Project Active on the Education Zone agenda**

### **3. Updates from Officers**

The Chair invited student officers to update the Zone about what they are working on.

The Chair (Activities Officer):

- Went to BUCS in Sheffield
- Working on the upcoming Varsity events
- Planning Arts and Sports balls
- Working on grant applications

Postgraduate Students' Officer:

- Planning the Welcome Fair
- Encouraging UCL to work with arts societies for their media projects

Arts Officer:

- Bloomsbury show season
- Looking at bids for next year's shows
- Helping to organise a Music Soc ball

Sports Officers:

- Preparing for Varsity
- Looking at plans for a new Union mascot, consulting with Sports Clubs
- Sports Ball

Community Relations Officer:

- Trying to organise a Question Time event for the London Mayoral election
- Working with the DOC Officer on further political events

#### 4. **Announcements**

The Chair announced that the Women's Officer has requested idea submissions for the Full Stop to Racial Harassment campaign. Details can be found in the document that was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Any idea submissions should be sent to [reportandsupport@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:reportandsupport@ucl.ac.uk).

##### **Action: Members to submit ideas for the Full Stop campaign**

The Chair announced that nominations for the Leadership Race are still open until March 4<sup>th</sup>. They encouraged members to talk to prospective candidates and ask them to run.

##### **Action: Members to encourage prospective candidates to run in the Leadership Race**

The Chair reminded members that nominations for the Student Choice Awards are open until March 27<sup>th</sup>. They encouraged members to nominate their academic and professional staff, as the awards are a great way to celebrate and promote good practice. The Societies and Media Manager noted that Union staff are also eligible for Student Choice Awards.

##### **Action: Members to nominate staff members in the Student Choice Awards**

#### 5. **Changes to Awards Criteria**

The Chair introduced the changes to the awards criteria and asked for feedback. There were no comments or questions.

The Sports Development Manager announced that the Sports Reps would also be introducing a new award in memory of Louis Carr. They had spoken to Louis' family, who are supportive of the idea. The Louis Carr Memorial Award will be awarded to a Sports Club for service to welfare. The details of this will be sent to Zone members after the meeting.

#### 6. **Changes to Sports Colours Criteria**

The Chair introduced the changes to the sports colours criteria and asked for feedback. There were no comments or questions.

The Postgraduate Students' Officer pointed out that the following requirement excludes Postgraduate students: "Has been a member of the 1st team throughout their time at university (for a minimum of 3 years) or has represented TeamUCL at BUCS National events". The Community Relations Officer noted that this requirement also excludes those who were in the second team in their first year but then moved up.

The Sports Officer responded that the three year minimum requirement was not necessarily

important and could be changed.

The Postgraduate Students' Officer asked whether the colours could be awarded simply for representing UCL at BUCS.

It was asked whether the award was specifically about Varsity or about sporting excellence more generally. The Sports Officer responded that the award had originally been just about Varsity but had become more generally about sporting excellence throughout the consultation process.

**Action: Sports Officer to liaise further with Sports Reps about the specifications of the award.**

The Chair announced some changes to the Arts Awards. The 'Best Garage' award has been changed to 'Best Small Show' (for shows in venues for fewer than 300 people). The two 'Best Event' awards (previously for performance and non-performance events respectively) have been combined into one. The 'Overall Arts Society of the Year' has been renamed to remove the word 'overall' but there are no substantive changes. The Arts and Sports Balls will also include 'Officers' Awards', to be decided by the Chair and the relevant Arts or Sports Officers.

The Sports Development Manager asked who would make decisions about Honorary Life Memberships under the new democratic structures. The Chair responded that they would be decided by Union Executive. It was noted that the process and criteria for HLMS still need to be finalised.

## **7. Clubs and Societies Election Rules**

The Chair asked if members had any feedback or questions about the clubs and societies elections rules.

The Societies and Media Manager explained that any complaints made during the elections period go to the Deputy Returning Officer. If the complaints are upheld, there are three possible outcomes: verbal warning, written warning, or the complaint can be referred to Activities Zone for a decision. As there will not be an Activities Zone meeting within the election period, they recommended that the Zone form a smaller panel who would be available on the evening of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and the morning of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March to rule on elections complaints. They noted that any members of the Zone who were also running for sabbatical or non-sabbatical positions should abstain from the panel, due to conflicts of interest.

The Chair asked if anyone would be interested in joining the panel. The Arts Officer, the Community Relations Officer and one of the Sports Officer (Job Share) volunteered. It was noted that the offer will be circulated to any members absent from the meeting. The panel will then be contacted with details of the election complaints meeting.

**Decision: The Arts Officer, the Sports Officer (Job Share), and the Community**

**Relations Officer to join an elections complaints panel****8. Questions to Officers**

A Sports Rep asked how the changes to clubs and societies' constitutions will work with the new requirements for online AGMs.

The Societies and Media Manager explained that under the new rules clubs and societies can still have physical AGMs to make changes to their constitutions, or they can ask the Clubs and Societies staff to set up an online vote to approve changes.

The Arts Officer asked the Chair how the Arts Panel will be decided, as there have been concerns about conflicts of interest.

The Chair explained that any decision which the Arts Panel is unable to make due to conflicts of interest will be decided by the Sports Panel and vice versa. They also noted that two more people will be elected to sit on the Arts Panel, as there are not enough Societies Representatives.

**9. Any Other Business**

The Chair reminded members that anyone interested in putting themselves forward to be an additional NUS delegate should contact the Leadership Development and Change team.

**Action: Members interested in running for additional NUS delegate to contact LDC.**

The Chair announced that there will be a hustings event for candidates running for Activities Officer and the Activities Zone's part-time officer roles on Tuesday, 17 March. More information will be available soon.

**Action: Members to promote and attend the Activities Hustings.**