



**Date:** Monday 31 October 2022  
**Time:** 18:00 – 20:00  
**Venue:** 31-34 Gordon Square - Archaeology 612

## Activities Zone

### Minutes

**Chair:** Mary McHarg, Activities & Engagement Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Mary McHarg, Activities and Engagement Officer, Chair	X		
Oluseyi (Seyi) A Osibamowo, Equity & Officer	X		
Kristina Georgieva in place of Angel Ma, LGBTQ+ Officer	X		
Callie Yoo, BME Students' Officer	X		
Chiamaka Agu, Sports Officer	X		
Camella Ramjet, Disabled Students' Officer			X
Amelia Sampson in place of Harper Taylor-Hanson, Trans Officer	X		
Manon Simmons and Sasha Green, Women's Officer (Job Share)	X		
Lewis Murphy, Arts Officer	X		
Jingi Ye and Yalin Chen, Volunteering Officer (Job Share)	X		
Alexa Wong, Societies Non-Portfolio Rep	X		
Alice McNally, Sports Rep	X		
Demetri Alvanis, Sports Rep	X		
Diane Le Rouic, Sports Rep	X		
India L Deans-Smith, Volunteering Rep	X		
Issy Smith, Sports Rep		X	
Kevin Fang, Sport Rep	X		
Martha Hancock, Societies Non-Portfolio Rep	X		
Maya R Khurana, Societies Rep – Performance Art	X		
Nell S V Wedgwood, Societies Rep – Student Media	X		
Toma Ogawa, Volunteering Rep	X		
Yifu Li, Volunteering Rep			X

In Attendance:
Julia Rooke, Representation and Democracy Coordinator, minutes
Anjumon Ali, Student-Led Projects Coordinator
Henry Warne, Sports Club Development Manager
Rupinder Sandal, Societies Programme Manager
Student Observers (Andrew Morrish, Ankith Mannath)

### 1. Preliminary Matters - Welcome and Introductions

Activities & Engagement Officer (chair) introduced themselves and their role. Staff members present introduced themselves and their roles within the union.

### 2. Preliminary Matters - Brief overview of Activities Zone

Representation and Democracy Coordinator gave an overview of Activities Zone and how it fits in the wider union democratic structures.

### **3. Announcements - Rep Elections Results**

AEO congratulated everyone on being elected and the high voter turnout

### **4. Matters for Information- Staff Updates**

Updates about staffing in Clubs and Societies. More staff are being recruited, so processes should be quicker moving forward.

Volunteering promoted Student-Led Projects the £750 grant that is available for Clubs & Societies. Find out more [here](#).

### **5. Matters for Information- Affiliations, disaffiliations disciplinary actions**

No updates yet – a standing agenda item

### **6. Matters for Information - Club and Society Grant Allocation 2022/23**

No updates yet – a standing agenda item

### **7. Matters for Information - Advertise Board Committees**

Overview of Board Committees given by Representation and Democracy Coordinator with input from AEO and EIO. Deadline to express interest is Monday 7 November and more information can be found online.

### **8. Matters for Approval- Appoint 2 Sports Reps to Somerstown Community Sports Centre User Group**

Sports Club Development Manager (HW) gave an overview of the Somerstown User Group and what would be required of the reps. Chiamaker Agu and Alice McNally put themselves forward for these roles and will attend the meetings.

### **9. Matters for Approval- Appoint 1 Rep to Bloomsbury Fitness User Group**

HW gave overview of the group. Demetri Alvanis put himself forward and will attend the meetings.

### **10. Matters for Approval- Elect One person to Union Executive**

AEO gave an overview of this role. Chiamaka Agu, Martha Hancock, Maya Khurana, Lewis Murphy and Demetri Alvanis all expressed interest in the role. Ultimately, Chiamaka Agu, Martha Hancock and Maya Khurana were the ones who put themselves forward and Chiamaka Agu was elected. Chiamaka Agu will jobshare this role with Demetri Alvanis.

## 11. Matters for Discussion- Agree priorities for the year

Members of the zone split into groups to discuss the priorities for the year. AEO then asked for feedback from each group:

- More financial support for sports clubs
- Stonewall
- General interest societies don't have a over-reaching umbrella brand like TeamUCL and this might want to be considered
- Improve accessibility in buildings around gender/sexuality
- More support for clubs & societies organising large scale events
- Hire costs of space has increased and this is an issue
- Increase space for students
- Increased investment and awareness around Project Active - (MM gave quick update that most who attend are postgrads, about 70% women 30% men, low commitment, affordable)
- Increase awareness and engagement of volunteering service – through workshops and information sessions. Volunteering Officers want to hear from students ideas for improvement, create more networking for volunteers and social opportunities and improve engagement of BAME students
- Increase accessibility for performance spaces – make it easier to book and use spaces
- Increase brand awareness of ArtsUCL (more on par with TeamUCL) – maybe marketing workshops for arts and media societies, training on how to market themselves

EIO reminded members to make sure that equity and inclusion are at the core of everything – easier to just include this from the start rather than as an add on.

## 12. Matters for Discussion- T2 Welcome Fair

AEO opened up the room for discussion:

- TeamUCL day – had in during Welcome period and was very useful. Another focus day. Give it a go again – trial period
- Re-advertise what is available and the events that are happening
- Re-advertise Participation Fund
- If the capacity of clubs is going to increase then additional support needed. If you want more people to join, need support. HW came in to clarify that maybe T2 Welcome Fair is about engaging people in the broader activity of TeamUCL and getting students engaged rather than specifically recruiting
- Keep events separate to This Girl Can campaign – make sure there is no crossover time wise
- Room bookings needs to be managed if lots of societies are trying to run events at the same
- How long is this period going to last? What are the timelines?
- Maybe a virtual fair and online Q&A sessions would be good so students can get all the information they need

- Showcase of the performing arts societies – this was really positive during Welcome Week
- Promote student media publications more – at the moment these are harder to find
- General welfare events – could line up with Blue Monday in January
- Events to promote liberation networks
- Are there subsidised memberships process if you join in Term 2? Clubs & societies can offer that specifically if they want – speak to a staff member about actioning this

### **13. Matters for Discussion- Ability for RUMS to produce new sports clubs and Societies**

Proposers of the policy - RUMS President (Ankith Mannath) and Sport and Societies VP (Andrew Morrish) introduced themselves and the policy. The current policy is that RUMS cannot affiliate new clubs or reaffiliate previous clubs. This prevents maintenance of communities and prevents clubs affiliating with RUMS

AEO provided an update on RUMS Badminton – last year the previous Activities & Engagement Officer started the disaffiliation process due to debt accrued by RUMS Badminton. AEO disagrees with the decision so has set in motion a review of the decision and looking to overturn that decision. This is not a reaffiliation process, but rather the overturning of a previous decision.

Proposers worried as they have lost other clubs in the past and feel there is disparity between how UCL clubs and RUMS are treated. They feel they cannot grow their communities and that RUMS networks cannot be formally established and have the same protections as clubs & societies. UCL is not in line with other London medical schools (like Kings and Imperial) on this issue.

EIO asked what is the need to have new clubs when these already exist in the SU?

- Answer from proposers – why not? Eg RUMS football and UCL football. Different clubs offer different things like different training days, different environments – meaning more options for students. Non-medics can play in RUMS – there are not an exclusive or elitist club.
- RUMS students tend to be there for 6 years rather than 3. Students more likely to stay in RUMS community. Timetabling also a factor – different schedules to other courses. RUMS clubs accommodate those timetabling issues, so are more accessible to medical students. Also strong alumni ties – RUMS identity allows them to come back to the community.

Concerns were raised about the divide between privately educated versus state education students in the medical school and how this is reflected in RUMS.

HW responded to contention that RUMS Clubs compete at a higher level by explaining that this was not the case, and that if you split the student body up then all clubs & societies will be less strong, with fewer members.

Chiamaka Agu (Sports Officer and medical student) stated she can see both sides of the argument, but that she has managed to balance the medic workload and timetabling with high performance sport. She stated that medics gain a lot from interacting with non-medics – more opinions and world views which is beneficial in training to be a doctor. She stated that recreating an SU for medics would make it harder for medics to see outside of RUMS and get benefits of what UCL can offer. On the issue of diversity and inclusion she stated that RUMS is shaped by the lack of diversity in medical school. She said that she has had 3 students come to her recently saying they do not feel comfortable joining RUMS clubs. This is an issue that SU clubs have been working on for a long time.

- Proposers stated that there are lots of non-medic members of RUMS and that RUMS clubs do the same diversity and inclusion training that SU clubs & societies

HW stated that the viability of RUMS clubs might feel under threat because of what happened to RUMS badminton. RUMS clubs that exist have very important value and no one wants them to be removed or eroded. However, conversations are needed about how RUMS communities can sustain themselves and the clubs that exist. There are more pressure on RUMS clubs in post covid world with less grant money available.

Demetri Alvanis stated that the issue is around the expansion of RUMS as this can hinder relationship between UCL societies and RUMS. Doesn't want there to be conflict if two of the same club exists. AEO clarified that the core policy is that there is not duplication within clubs & societies. Societies Programme Manager further clarified that the SU want to support RUMS clubs and not allowing duplication protects and supports RUMS.

HW summarised that the challenge of the debate is that there are lots of different arguments. Is the issue that there is not enough support? If so, more support is needed from the TeamUCL team. Is the issue that RUMS students have different challenges? In this case, maybe a re-evaluation is needed of how those students are supported in existing clubs. These issues are separate to the affiliation/re-affiliation debate, and this debate detracts from how we best support medical students. HW does not want to shelve the issue and wants to continue the conversation on this.

AEO stated that RUMS is a model for how other departmental societies should run and that there is work being done around this. AEO would like a separate conversation with the proposers around this.

#### **14. Officer Updates and Questions- Activities & Engagement Officer**

No questions

AEO gave an update on the Student Life Strategy. The SU is asking UCL for lots of money to help support and develop departmental societies and for a new union building. There will be lobbying work happening on this and AEO will be organising a protest and other events on this issue.

#### **15. Equity & Inclusion Officer**

No questions.

**16. Any Other Business**

Trans network issue – EIO dealing with it.

<b>Minutes approved as a true and accurate record</b>	
Chair:	Mary McHarg, Activities & Engagement Officer
Signature:	Mary McHarg
Date:	07/11/2022