



**Date:** Tuesday 6 December 2022  
**Time:** 18:00 – 20:00  
**Venue:** Roberts Building Go6 Sir Ambrose Fleming Lecture Theatre

## Activities Zone

### Minutes

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

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

In Attendance:
Julia Rooke, Representation and Democracy Coordinator
Samira Chowdhury, Democracy Assistant, minutes
Katie Sykes, Head of Sport and Physical Activity
Cynthia Allen, Student-Led Projects Manager
Rupinder Sandal, Societies Programme Manager
Carol Paige, Policy and Research Coordinator
Student Observers (Deniz Akinci, Maria Jevic, Andrew Morrish, Danna Nitzani, Ankith Mannath, Tom Jenkins, Chris Savvas, Thomas Borthwick, Lokmane Kherbane, Jessica Holmes)

### 1. Preliminary Matters - Welcome and Introductions

MM (Chair) warmly welcomes attendees to the zone. KS introduces herself.

## **2. Preliminary Matters - Follow up on action points from previous meeting**

There were no actions from the previous meeting.

## **3. Preliminary Matters - Approval of minutes from the last meeting**

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

## **4. Announcements - Results of Referendum**

MM announces that students voted for the Union to support the strikes.

## **5. Announcements - Term 2 Welcome Updates**

KS announces events that will take place:

- Term 2 5km run - 15 March
- London Varsity Series - 16-20 March
- This Girl Can Week - 23-29 January
- Get Active Fair - 11 January

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

KS gives updates on events that are taking place, such as the Varsity project that Henry Warne is leading on. She states that volunteering roles are available for the London Youth Games. Dates of upcoming events can be found on the Union's [What's On Calendar](#).

CA (Student-Led Projects Manager) gives updates on Student-Led Projects. For example, students have been teaching secondary schools about different cultures in the UCL community. Further information on upcoming events can be found in SU's newsletters that are sent out to every student.

RS gives updates on events coming up, such as the Winter Arts Festival this Friday.

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

There were no updates.

## **8. Matters for Information - Grant Allocation**

RS gives update on Club and Society Grant Allocation 2022/23. She says that a spreadsheet will be shared with members about funding for clubs.

KS states that there is specific pot of funding for UCL East, that is being underutilised. She encourages students to submit more applications.

MM promotes Student Activities Participation Fund, which provides financial help for students to take part in extracurriculars. The Union has received 160 applications and given away nearly £10,000 so far.

## **9. Policy Proposals - Re-affiliation of RUMS Clubs**

The proposers of the policy, RUMS President (Ankith Mannath) and Sport and Societies VP (Andrew Morrish) from RUMs, state how they have updated their policy proposal from the last Activities Zone, taking into account the feedback they received. They emphasise how they want to prioritise improving the relationship between UCL and RUMs clubs.

RS responds to the proposer's point about funding not being available to RUMs, stating that that is not true and that RUMs societies can apply for grants the same way as other societies. RS states that ED had met with the proposers before and the proposers ultimately reached the decision to stay under the RUMs network. RS states that the proposers are welcome to speak to her again about their proposal. MM states that every single grant application is reviewed by a panel that includes her and RS. She reiterates RS's point that it is a fair process, where every application is considered carefully.

Student Observer, who states they are a medicine student and part of the LGBT community, argues that a specific network for LGBT medicine students is necessary as they all share unique experiences and thus require a legitimate community that they can turn to Student Observer, who states they are a medical student and part of the LGBT+ community argues that the current RUMS LGBT+ Network should be allowed to affiliate as a new RUMS Society, which is currently not permitted under Union regulations. The network currently exists as part of the RUMS Society. RS states that while this is an important issue, converting the current RUMS LGBT+ Network into a new RUMS Society will not solve the issues that have been identified (e.g. microaggressions on placements). RS notes it is not possible to affiliate a new RUMS LGBT+ Society as this would duplicate the work currently being carried out by the Students' Union UCL LGBT+ Network."

HT (Trans Officer) poses the question whether a LGBT+ medic network would be a society or a network, as the currently there is a LGBTQ+ network, not a LGBTQ+ society. MM explains the distinction between societies and network: networks recognise marginalised identities- you cannot buy membership to networks. Networks operate differently from clubs and societies: they have separate funding and do not interact with the Clubs and Society Team at the Union. HT states that network funding is a limited pot of money and raises her concern that a separate LGBT network for medics would take away from this limited pot of money. MM agrees with HT's point, stating that the rule of duplication exist purely for monetary

reasons: they do not want money split between 2 groups so neither are able to do as much as they want to do. MM recommends that the proposers discuss this with the LGBT network or with Equity and Inclusion Officer. HT wants RUMS to collaborate with existing networks, stating that it is hard to get funding as it is. JR states that after the meeting she will help the proposers get in touch with existing networks.

CA (Sports Officer) asks whether website can be changed, in response to proposers' argument that there are logistical issues with the website that prevents the process from running smoothly. RS said she can look into this. CA states that as a Black medic, she does not find it necessary for medics to have their own networks. She argues that a lot of professions would experience similar microaggressions and so can support each other.

MM states a bylaw change may need to happen to streamline the application process for RUMs committee members. Proposers state they are happy with this this alternative. Student observer argues that medic students have a busier schedule than other students on other courses and thus deserve their own clubs. MM responds to this point, explaining that RUMs was not created to necessitate medicine students' busy schedules but rather as UCL had historically absorbed lots of different medical schools.

MM states that changing bylaws requires 75% of Union Executive to agree to change the governing documents. She emphasises that this would have to occur for changes to take place.

MM and staff clearly inform the proposers of this policy that their policy cannot pass, due to breaching current regulations and bylaws.

MM clarifies that no department can create their own societies that already exist outside of the department, due to rules against duplication: this is not a rule only applicable to the medicine department.

Student observer DA states that this policy zone is not the correct forum to discuss whether policies breach regulations and bylaws- rather the focus of the zone should be the merits and shortcomings of proposed policies.

Members vote on amendment to remove any reference to networks in the policy proposal.

Amendment passes with 100% of the vote.

Members vote on policy proposal of reaffiliating RUMs clubs.

Policy fails to pass. For – 44%, Against – 50%, Abstain – 6%.

Action Point: MM states she will ask the policy department at the Union to gather research on the minutiae of current rules and regulation. MM will feedback this information back to members at the next Activities Zone so they are aware of this.

#### **10. Matters for Discussion - Teaching Excellence Framework**

CP (Policy and Research Coordinator) explains what the Teaching Excellence Framework to attendees: it is a measure used to assess teaching quality in universities. UCL is currently at the Silver level, but they are aiming for Gold. There are a number of indicators used to judge a university's overall TEF score. Existing Data Review shows that UCL is weakest at Assessment and feedback and Academic Support. CP states another issue is that only 65% of disabled students feel like they are getting the support they need from UCL.

However, CP states that UCL is doing well in some indicators, particularly the ones measuring student progression.

Members split into groups to discuss their current academic experiences.

#### **11. Matters for Discussion - Improve the management of the UCL Clothes Swap event**

Proposer was not present.

Action Point: JR states they will follow-up with the proposer and invite them to the next Activities Zone.

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

MM recommends that members attend the Winter Arts Festival this Friday.

#### **13. Officer Updates and Questions- Equity & Inclusion Officer**

No questions or updates.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

<b>Minutes approved as a true and accurate record</b>	
Chair:	Mary McHarg, Activities & Engagement Officer
Signature:	Mary McHarg
Date:	12/12/2022