



Date: Monday 30 January 2023
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
Venue: 26 Bedford Way Room 305

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		
Margaret Cheung in place of Callie Yoo, BME Officer	X		
Demetri Alvanis, Sports Rep	X		
Diane Le Rouic, Sports Rep		X	
Haoyu Wang, Societies Officer	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		
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
Rhiannon Ellis, Representation and Democracy Coordinator, minutes
Darcy McGuinness, Societies Development Manager
Henry Warne, Sports Club Development Manager
Rupinder Sandal, Societies Programme Manager
Nicky Fawcett, Head of Volunteering
Student Observers (Hannah Casbolt, Andrew Morrish, Ankith Mannath)

1. Preliminary Matters - Welcome and Introductions

MM (Chair) Welcomed everyone to the third Activities Zone

2. Announcements - Nominations open for Leadership race

MM highlighted that nominations are now open until the 6th March 2023 for the Leadership Race and encouraged zone members to run for any of the positions available.

You can find full details of the Leadership Race here -

<https://studentsunionucl.org/leadership-race>

3. Announcements - Student Life Strategy

MM announced that the Student Life Strategy has been published and as part of this £2.4 million is going towards clubs, societies, volunteering, and the arts. If students have any questions about the strategy, please contact MM or Deniz Akinci (DA).

You can read the full Student Life Strategy here -

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/strategic-plan-2022-27/supporting-strategies/student-life-strategy>

4. Announcements – Colours

MM announced that planning has officially begun for the Awards and the dates for the awards are:

1 June 2023 – Clubs and Societies

2 June 2023 – Volunteering and Arts

Darcy McGuinness (DM) – Informed Zone members that those that have been elected to Activities Zone will be automatically allocated to awards panel committees and then there will be a further election for anyone from societies that would like to also sit on the panels at the end of March.

DM will be sending an email to all voting Zone members with the list of the awards categories and has requested for any feedback or questions to be sent to her. The awards categories have remained the same as 2022.

5. Matters for Information- Staff Updates

Henry Warne (HW) – Updated that they are recruiting another Sports Development Coordinator – Equity and Inclusion. This role will be the main point of contact for sports clubs, and they will focus on increasing availability of disabled sports. He also advised that he will be speaking to sports reps about the TeamUCL Board and the Masters Series Events which are coming soon.

Rupinder Sandal (RS) – Affiliations are open for Term 2 for any new clubs/societies. The friends trust will be opening soon.

Nicky Fawcett (NF) – Introduced herself to the Zone and asked for any feedback about volunteering. Further updates included applications for new Think Tank (student committee) has closed and more details will be coming soon, and they are looking for more ways to encompass volunteering at UCL East.

6. Matters for Information- Affiliations, disaffiliations disciplinary actions

MM read out the following list of societies that are being put forward for disaffiliation:

- Aerial Silks Society
- Alcohol-Free Society
- Backgammon Society
- Brewers and Vintners Society
- Construction and Property Society
- Cosmetology Society
- Hanfu Society
- upReach Social Mobility Society
- Urban Miscellanea Society
- Chinese Business Innovation Society
- Ghana Society
- Jewellery & Collocation Society
- Language, Inequality and Politics Society
- Leading Women Society
- Tharsos Society
- Planetary Health Society
- Kuwaiti Students Society
- Baha'i Society

Question from member – Why is Ghana soc being put up for disaffiliation?

MM responded stating that there was only one member.

Question from member – Why is CBIS up for disaffiliation as there are currently ongoing meetings?

MM advised that they would speak with member at the end to get further details.

7. Matters for Information - Club and Society Grant Allocations 2022/23

HW – currently reassigning money from sports clubs that haven't used funds for booking facilities etc and are now looking to allocate the grant elsewhere.

8. Matters for Information - Follow up on action points from previous meeting

N/A

9. Matters for Discussion - Improve the management of the UCL Clothes Swap event

Proposer Attended (Hannah Casbolt) – Highlighted that the Swap Shop idea is great as it helps the environment, but in its current form it is not effective. At the moment there is no quality control – lots of damaged items, clothes are piled onto tables, a lot of children’s clothing. Clothes are also swapped on a 1:1 basis meaning that you could take a good item but give a bad item. The person running the store has also informed the proposer that they have been accepting any clothes to make sure that something is available, and they are doing it alone.

Proposer suggested that there should be a token system based on the quality of the clothing and a database could be created which is linked to each student’s ID number. Proposer also mentioned that this Swap Shop should have student involvement and be student led as it is for the students.

MM provided further context around the Swap Shop and said that currently UCL hosts the event, but University of London hires a separate company to actually run the events which is currently being done by one person.

MM suggested that they could reach out to UCL and ask them to work with the Students’ Union instead on a Swap Shop rather than outsourcing.

Further discussion points:

Member – Sustainable UCL are currently hiring for Swap Shop volunteers so that there can be more student involvement.

Julia Rooke (JR) raised that Sustainable UCL would like student feedback on the Swap Shop, and they will provide the proposer with contact details so that they can work directly with Sustainable UCL.

HW mentioned that Sports Reps could get involved especially when it comes to being more sustainable with old kit.

Member responded to HW’s point saying that sports clubs could get involved with donating, however felt they shouldn’t be in charge of running the Swap Shop.

Action – Rhiannon Ellis to provide proposer with all contact details of Sustainable UCL and the Sustainability Officer – Vaania Achuthan.

10. Matters for Discussion - Feedback on C&S committee training

MM asked members for their feedback on the clubs and societies committee training on pieces of paper and then a discussion. Highlights from the feedback include:

- **Social Secs need more training, and they should receive the same as the Welfare Reps – Tackling sexual violence/Active Bystander Training should be mandatory for Social Secs as a minimum.**
- **Introductions to Volunteering Reps/Clubs for further collaborations**
- **Sustainability training**
- **Additional training for Captains**
- **Training flowcharts are good, however it is difficult to remember the information and therefore it would be better if there was a PDF manual that could be easily referred to.**
- **Room bookings continue to be a challenge**
- **Confirm an official handover date for clubs/socs**
- **Equity and Inclusion training module and how to incorporate this into event management**
- **Unconscious bias training for those holding auditions**

MM will feedback to the Zone once there are updates on any of the above points.

11. Policy Proposals - Re-affiliation of RUMS Clubs

Ankith Mannath (AM), Proposer – RUMs clubs consist of 12 clubs for medical students. Currently SU societies can apply for re-affiliation, and it will go to a panel for a decision, but RUMS clubs are not included within this and if a RUMS club is disaffiliated, they will not be eligible to apply to be reaffiliated.

Therefore, they propose that policy should be changed to enable RUMS clubs to reaffiliate. They are not asking to affiliate any new clubs.

Open to discussion:

Chiamaka Agu (CA) – Spoken with Sports Reps and they have all agreed with this proposal. They deserve to know that they can come back if something happens that leads to a disaffiliation.

Sasha Green (SG) – raised that it would be detrimental to some of the bigger clubs if RUMS did not exist. For example, if RUMS netball didn't exist there wouldn't be enough space for everyone to join the main netball team.

Martha Hancock (MH)– From a societies perspective we should do what the sports reps are saying, and we will be supporting this as well.

MM also raised that they support the proposal.

Policy Proposal passed – 100% For

Policy will now be pushed to Union Executive on Monday 6 February 2023 where it will be discussed further.

12. Matters for Approval - Approval of minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

13. Officer Updates and Questions - Activities & Engagement Officer

CA – Now that the Student life Strategy has passed, do we know how this will impact Sport?

HW – The funding will be coming in over the course of five years and because there were cuts to funding during Covid the SU will be focusing on getting back to that pre-pandemic level. Short term there will be more support for clubs and societies through additional staff being hired. Long-term goal is to have 50% of students at UCL participating in sports/activity. Facilities and embedded sports performance programmes are also being discussed.

MM highlighted that there will also be a focus on making the Arts more accessible such as investing in more instruments. MM asked Zone members to read the strategy.

Action – Send PDF of Student Life Strategy to all Zone Members

CA – Are there any options for student representative to help decide and prioritise where the money is being spent?

HW – Student input has already happened, and it has been included within the strategy when it was being created. All the main priorities that underpin the strategy has come from student feedback.

DA– Highlighted that if there are areas in the strategy that the Zone feels need more of a discission they can bring it forward to be spoken about in the Zone.

Member Question – What progress has been made on the new Students' Union building?

MM – Explained that there is an old University of London building and it was previously an SU building and Birkbeck bought it and has slowly been converting it into teaching space. Within this building there is an underground swimming pool, big venue space and a bar and there are concerns about this being turned into teaching spaces as leisure zones and spaces for students are declining in London. UCL are currently speaking with Camden Council and working with an external company to communicate their concerns. Liaising is still ongoing and there are no further updates at this time. MM will update if she gets any further information.

Member Question – When you submit a policy proposal will it go to the next Zone?

JR responded and advised the member that someone from the Representation and Democracy team will liaise with the policy proposer and then it will come to the next Zone. If someone has an idea and they want to discuss it before submitting a proposal, then they can get in contact with the Team, and we can support.

MH – had some concerns from society members about the Women's Place UK conference, especially from trans students. We have made the choice not to have any additional events this week because we do not want to bring students onto campus where they feel unsafe. Concerned about what the SU is doing.

MM responded and explained that Women's Place UK are hosting a conference in the IOE, and they have been known to be a transphobic organisation. MM stated that the Students' Union have condemned the event as it does not align with the SUs principles of diversity and inclusion.

Seyi Osibamowo (SO) added that there is a statement on the website, and it is signed from all the networks. There will also be a protest taking place on the concourse area of the IOE on Saturday and any student can attend. Protest will start from 08:00 and the Head of Security is aware and will be briefing the protests leaders. Seyi also highlighted that the SU cannot stop them from doing the conference and if anyone is concerned about coming onto campus security will be present to support students. From 09:00 there will also be a safe space in Phineas where a crafting session will be happening if anyone would like to make banners for the protest. SOAS have also organised a conference in opposition, and this will be happening at the same time.

Member also raised that international students should be informed about their rights to protest as there are some concerns that they may not want to participate due to fears of breaching their visas. Seyi will be speaking with the protest organisers to make sure that information is included so that international students feel that they can participate.

Members from the networks also offered to share information about the protest on their social media channels and SO will be speaking to the SU Marketing Manager about getting everything shared on the SUs social media.

14. Officer Updates and Questions - Equity & Inclusion Officer

SO updated that LGBT+ history month has now launched on the website and there are lots of events/activities that you can get involved with.

Click here for the full list of events/activities - <https://studentsunionucl.org/lgbt-history-month-past-present-and-future>

15. Any Other Business

MM informed the Zone that they are currently organising a BUCS regional meeting for activities officers and asked for any feedback from the sports officers/ reps around BUCs. This will be the first major meeting of all the London sports officers!

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Mary McHarg, Activities & Engagement Officer
Signature:	Mary McHarg,
Date:	16/02/2023