



Date: Monday 29 November 2023
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
Venue: Roberts Building – Go6 Sir Ambrose Fleming Lecture Theatre / Microsoft Teams

Activities Zone

Minutes

Chair: Aria Xingni Shi, Activities & Engagement Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Abraham Selby, Volunteering Rep			X
Addina Binti Amran, Volunteering Rep			X
Ahmad Ismail, Equity & Inclusion Officer	X		
Anji Suri, Trans Officer		X	
Ankit Mehani, Volunteering Rep			X
Aria Xingni Shi, Activities and Engagement Officer, Chair	X		
Ashley New, Societies Rep (Performance Art)	X		
Blessing Echefu, Societies Non-Portfolio Rep	X		
Demetri Alvanis, Sports Officer			X
Elisa de Aragao Bibay, Women's Officer	X		
Elisia Sebastian Swaby, Sports Rep		X	
Ella O'Brien, Societies Non-Portfolio Rep	X		
Ghali Moutawakil El Oudghiri, Sports Rep			X
Himanshu Keshari, Societies Officer	X		
Hrishita Agrawal, Societies Rep (Non-Performance Art)			X
Issy Smith, Postgraduate Officer	X		
Jack Sibeon, Sports Rep	X		
Jiayu Louise Liu, Volunteering Rep	X		
Jingyi Ye and Yalin Chen, Volunteering Officer	X		
Lorcan O'Kane, Sports Rep			X
Maya Khurana, Arts Officer	X		
Micah Gerstner, LGBTQ+ Officer	X		
Nick Miao, Societies Rep (Student Media)	X		
Philip Greger and Suzanna Chen, Disabled Students' Officer			X
Rawleka Wilson and Rachel Lim, People of Colour Students' Officer	X		
Seth Harris, Societies Non-Portfolio Rep	X		

In Attendance:
Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire, Representation & Democracy Manager
D'Arcy Mcguinness, Societies Development Manager
Oliver Peachey, Volunteering Partnerships Manager
Matthew Phuklaewkla, Democracy Assistant (minutes)
Beth Lewis, Societies Programme Manager
Tommy Garwood, Sport Development Coordinator (Equity & Inclusion)
Jayne Flowers, Representation & Democracy Coordinator
Shaban Chaudhary, Education Officer
Meg Haskins, Policy & Research Coordinator

Actions Log 2023/24	Responsibility	Update due:
Contact Policy team about including student networks in Awards	DM	27/02/24

1. Preliminary Matters - Welcome and Introductions

Aria Xingni Shi (AXS), Activities & Engagement Officer and Chair, warmly welcomed attendees to the Zone.

2. Preliminary Matters – Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes were approved.

3. Officer Updates and Questions - Activities and Engagement Officer

AXS recently finished a trip to China to foster cross-cultural connections, visiting the top six universities to establish initiatives in leadership, arts and cultural exchange, as well as forming a twin partnership between Fudan University SU and UCL SU.

4. Officer Updates and Questions - Equity & Inclusion Officer

The Equity & Inclusion Officer Ahmad Ismail (AI) gave the following updates:

- Currently liaising with UCL to streamline the implementation of pronouns across all systems at UCL.
- Moreover, the [Impartial Chairs](#) programme is going well and a set of community guidelines for external speaker events is currently being worked on.
- Currently lobbying UCL to maintain fair rent prices for housing and accommodation.
- Attending the Town Hall this Wednesday with the Vice Provost for Education.

5. Officer Updates and Questions – Postgraduate Officer

The Postgraduate Officer Issy Smith (IS) gave the following updates:

- Currently kicking off postgraduate events in Term 2
- Setting up a Postgrad Working Group
- Setting up a Postgrad Society
- Helping to inform a new Extenuating Circumstances (EC) ‘Free Pass’ system
- Improving research-led policies at UCL
- Successfully applied for the Student Minds Student Advisory Committee, and aiming to use this platform to highlight the experiences of postgrad students including mature, disabled,

neurodivergent, parents & carers and working students to improve their wellbeing and experiences of higher education

6. Matters for Information – Staff Updates

Jayne Flowers (JF) gave updates on their new position as a Coordinator within the Representation & Democracy Team at the SU.

Sport Development Coordinator Tommy Garwood (TG) gave updates on:

- A new and recently recruited Project Active Coordinator
- The [All Jokes Aside](#) campaign is in full swing
- An upcoming [5k Run in Lee Valley Velopark](#)
- TeamUCL campaign for LGBTQ+ History Month coming up

Education Officer Shaban Chaudhary (SC) gave updates on:

- The [Programme Excellence Project](#), where the project lead will be coming to [EZ2303](#) and invited members to come along and discuss.
- Current progress on EC 'Free Passes'
- Working on Academic Rep system and trying to get a Head of Student Engagement for each department.
- Academic Flexibility for Elite Athletes coming to the [Education Committee](#) on Thursday.

7. Matters for Information – Affiliations, disaffiliations, disciplinary actions

Societies Programme Manager Beth Lewis (BL) said no updates yet because no meetings have taken place yet during this term. However, grant information will be circulated alongside these minutes.

8. Matters for Information – Leadership Race nominations

JF brought to members' attention that the Leadership Race nominations opened today, and gave an overview of the leadership race.

9. Matters for Discussion – Approval of Awards

Societies Development Manager D'Arcy Mcguinness (DM) gave an overview of Awards Season 2024 - more information about this can be found attached to these minutes.

LGBQ+ Officer Micah Gerstner (MG) highlighted how student networks could be included more in the awards, and DM said they were happy to have a chat with the Policy team to see if this can be set up. **(Action: DM to contact Policy team about including student networks in Awards)**

10. Matters for Discussion – Initial thoughts and feedback of C&S committee training

BL asked members for feedback on what they would like to see more of in the [2023/24 Clubs & Societies Committee Training](#). Feedback included:

- More specific training for specific roles such as those in arts and sports.
- It would be good to have a grand sheet containing all the emails where societies can go to for room booking and grants, etc.
- More support for societies, such as committees having handovers to successors, and flagging roles that need more support
- Extra training for welfare officers, as different groups have different demands for this. Another member also said welfare officers generally don't get training that you would expect them to get. Staff said that this training is available but could be advertised better
- LGBTQ+ training to committee members.

11. Matters for Discussion – LGBTQ+ History Month

MG gave an overview of the events for LGBTQ+ History Month – more information for this can be found in the slides attached to these minutes.

12. Matters for Discussion – LGBTQ+ and Gender Inclusion Summary

MG is working with TG on improving awareness of Trans and Gender Variant students in sports. This includes implementing a system on the Union website where students can search up what sports they are eligible to play as a Trans or Gender Variant student.

13. Any Other Business


Societies Non-Portfolio Rep Seth Harris (SH) raised a complaint as his policy proposal keeps getting pushed back, and he believes that this is because certain members of staff are against it (but not all staff). He asked for more transparency on this process. Zone members generally concurred and agreed that the Union should provide a justification to him about why it keeps getting pushed back.

Staff responded to this complaint:

- BL said that she doesn't know directly about the specifics of the situation, but delays are normal and added that staff are unable to stop policies from eventually coming to zone.
- Representation & Democracy Manager Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire (JSW) gave a presentation to Zone members about the timeline and procedure from when a policy proposal is first received, to when it is discussed at Zone.

On a separate topic, Sports Rep Jack Sibeon (JS) asked for an update on the Leadership Race candidate voting system, as discussed in the previous Activities Zone (see minutes from previous Zone attached to these minutes). JSW said this is currently undergoing work by Max from Systems.

Finally, BL notified members that the [Friend's Trust](#) is currently open for applications until next Friday 09/02/2024, with accelerated payments so members were urged to apply quickly.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Aria Xingni Shi, Activities and Engagement Officer
Signature:	Aria Xingni Shi 
Date:	Feb.3 2024