



Date: Tuesday 27 February 2024
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
Venue: Bentham House – LG17 Lecture Room
 / 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
Hrshita 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:

George Ponodath, Faculty of Medical Sciences UG Rep (Clinical)
Jayne Flowers, Representation and Democracy Coordinator
Maxwell Keeble, Head of Union Systems
D'arcy McGuinness, Societies Development Manager
Henry Warne, Sports Development Manager

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

AXS provided a link to the minutes. Minutes were approved.

3. Officer Updates and Questions - Activities and Engagement Officer

A brief overview of AXS's latest activities were provided.

4. Officer Updates and Questions - Equity & Inclusion Officer

- EC's to Free Passes are still in development but the shared Welfare and Education Zone provided additional student feedback to help steer the course of the project.
- LGBTQ+ History Month is going wonderfully, and so far the cross-group collaboration between Networks, Societies and Clubs shows the strength of community at the Union.
- Nominate yourself to run in the Leadership Race!
- ELEP Project: Two workshops for eugenics and women in science
 - o [Inherited Legacies: The Women Scientists of UCL's Galton Laboratory for National Eugenics](#), In-person event (UCL East), 12:30pm – 1:30pm, Tuesday 12th March.
 - o [Inherited Legacies: The Women Scientists of UCL's Galton Laboratory for National Eugenics](#), In-person event (Bloomsbury), 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Tuesday 19th March.

5. Officer Updates and Questions – Postgraduate Officer

- Postgraduate Students have increased their requests for affiliation for specific societies. PG Soc, Online Soc, NBA and PHD Connect.
- Across-SU postgraduate working group across SU Staff to increase PG engagement in social activities

6. Matters for Information – Staff Updates

D'arcy Mcguinness (DM): Society's Development Manager

- Club and Society Leadership Elections
- Nominations for Awards are opening to this Friday

Henry Warne (HW): Sports Club Development Manager

- Varsity is coming! 24 Constituent Events- Watch our socials for more!
- New Project Active Coordinator, helps/support removing barriers to participation in sport
- Working with Policy and Research team about research into the Experience of Transgender Students in Sport

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

To be affiliated:

- Burmese Society
- Analogue Magazine
- Folklore Society
- Anthropology Society
- Minesweeper Society
- Korean Christian YeDarm Society
- Modern Political History Society
- Aviation Society
- Country and Folk Music Society
- Institute of Education Society
- Habesha Society
- Online Students Society
- Global Tea Cultures and Appreciation Society
- Platypus Affiliated Society
- Uzbek Society
- Piano Society
- Ahmadiyya Muslim Students' Society
- Negotiation Society
- Muslimah Careers Society
- Baseball Club
- Sims Society
- Wheelchair Basketball Club

Potential affiliation pending additional information:

- MBA Society
- Postgraduate Society
- Nigerian Society
- PhDConnect

8. Matters for Information – Clubs and Societies Grant Allocations

Societies Overall Awarded: 55163.08

Clubs Overall Awarded: 121913.04

9. Matters for Discussion – Elections and Voting Testing

Head of Union Systems, Maxwell Keeble (MK) shared the computer based and phone-based experiences of student voting. Max used a “test election” to explain the process, and the links

to use it were shared in the chat! It is screen-reader friendly and checked for accessibility measures.

10. Matters for Approval: Approval for Awards

DM explained a change in the upcoming awards process. There are no volunteering awards this year, they're now Community Awards! They will focus on how people represent and positively impact our diverse community inside and outside UCL.

11. Policy Proposals – Taster Membership Voting Rights

AXS introduced the policy to give some background based on the policy briefing.

Seth Harris (SH) gave a presentation to explain this further, using comparative graphs (and Lightning McQueen).

Question: Was there any survey data collected on this issue?

Answer: Inspired by previous policy brought to zone and investigative journalism by the Cheese Grater, SH felt it was important to highlight the issue. George Shery Ponodath, who proposed the original policy that inspired this one, explained the original policy he submitted that eventually became the policy being discussed currently.

Question: Would cutting the membership at 28 days would make insurance Cheaper?

Answer: Carl Salton-Brooks (CSB): Insurance covers the entire year, so does not have a larger impact the cost due to it being an annual cost.

Question: Policy based, what is the number behind the relationship between taster membership and joining, using participation fund?

Answer: CSB: these numbers aren't available off of the top of my head, but this is a valuable bit of data to collect. I can get that data for you!

Question: does membership from trial membership count for the 28 days to vote if they later buy a full membership?

Answer: MK: On a technical point, currently as set up in the election system I believe yes - it'll count 28 days from the earliest membership they had. This accommodates upgraded memberships as well.

Policy Passed with 15/15 voting 'for'.

12. Any Other Business

1. Nick Miao: SMT Involvement in Policy timeline:

It was explained by CSB and JOMF that the SMT involvement is strictly from a operational perspective/to ensure that all policy can be properly implemented as the Student envisions it. IS also highlighted that no policy is ever prevented from/diverted from a Zone.

2. Micah Gerstner: I've spoken to a few welfare officers who have complained about not getting feedback to the student of concern form (knowing it if it was received or if it is being actioned). one called SSW and wasn't able to verify it either.

Offer was given to follow up where that information is going, is there any barriers, or is it a case of GDPR in terms of sharing information?

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Aria Xingni Shi, Activities and Engagement Officer
Signature:	Aria Xingni Shi
Date:	28/05/24