



Date: Tuesday 28 May 2024
Time: 18:00 – 19:00
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
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:

Jayne Flowers, Representation and Democracy Coordinator
Beth Lewis, Societies Programme Manager
Rupinder Sandal, Head of Societies & Projects
Henry Warne, Sports Development Manager
Matthew Phuklaewkla, Democracy Assistant (minutes)
Altay Shaw, Student Observer
Anastajia Boikova, Student Observer
Imogen Canell, Student Observer
Darcy Lan, Incoming Postgraduate Officer

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 gave a brief summary of her updates for this Zone:

- The first Mandarin Show is coming to the theatre soon
- Award panels and ceremonies celebrations are this week, and everyone is encouraged to join
- Recently had a trip to China with several other Union members for the purpose of arts and culture exchange. Also, several offer holder events were held in Shanghai, Beijing and Wuhan where information was shared about UCL SU and prospective students were encouraged to engage.

A question was asked by a member, regarding if any statistics are being recorded to measure increasing Chinese student participation over time.

Sports Development Manager, Henry Warne (HW) said that meaningfully tracking engagement is difficult, because it is a question of defining what 'engagement' is. An example case would be if a student joins a society activity at the beginning of the year, but does not participate in any more activities past that. HW said the markers to track would be 'increased participation' and 'maintained participation'. Some work is currently being done on this, and HW said that the data would hopefully be ready within this year.

4. Officer Updates and Questions - Equity & Inclusion Officer

The Equity & Inclusion Officer was unable to attend this Zone, so no officer updates were held in this section.

5. Officer Updates and Questions – Postgraduate Officer

The Postgraduate Officer Issy Smith (IS) gave updates on:

- Her Honorary Life Membership
- Student Choice Awards
- Task Accreditation
- Recent progress on the Postgraduate Initiative
- 10K Campus Run
- Writing a Postgraduate Engagement Framework, in line with the [Student Life Strategy](#)
- Went to China with AXS to foster arts and culture exchange
- Handovers for the Postgraduate Officer role

6. Matters for Information – Staff Updates

Henry Warne (HW), Sports Development Manager, gave updates that UCL has recently been accredited as a Task Delivery Site, which better facilitates elite athletes to receive academic support. Also, new positions within the Union are being recruited.

Beth Lewis (BL), Societies Programme Manager, gave updates on the [Leadership Race results](#) and [Term 3 Byelections results](#). Also, the team is expanding by hiring Departmental Societies Coordinators. Awards are happening this week.

A question was asked to BL about progress on improving the voting user interface. Representation and Democracy Coordinator Jayne Flowers (JF) said a ‘dummy system’ test was recently done, and short + long term goals have now been mapped out. Accessibility benchmarks have also been set.

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

No matters to discuss.

8. Matters for Information – Gather feedback from members and attendees

AXS invited members to share their feedback about the Activities Zones throughout this year. She also advocated leaders of clubs and societies to look at their participation demographics, review if any minor groups are unrepresented, and consider if any conversations need to be held to remedy this.

9. Matters for Information – Withdrawing inactive committee members

BL proposed a solution, regarding withdrawing committee members who are not actively participating. More information regarding this can be found attached to these minutes.

This would allow to committee members to be removed from post, if they are not active by not responding to communications for a certain period of time. A new committee member would then be elected via byelection. As a concession, if committee members are unable to attend for a period of time due to extenuating circumstances, there is the option of appointing a temporary interim committee member.

10. Matters for Information – Welcoming incoming zone members

The following members introduced themselves and gave a short speech:

- Darcy Lan (DL), incoming Postgraduate Officer
- Jack Sibeon (JS), returning Sports Officer
- Anastasija Boikova (AB), incoming Activities & Engagement Officer

11. Any Other Business

A member asked AXS asked what barriers are still present to underrepresented groups who would like to participate in university life more. AXS said there were still some barriers, including language, and especially reaching out to students from Mainland China, who may not have access to certain social media platforms.

Finally, AXS thanked members for coming and concluded the last Activities Zone of the year.

The meeting finished at 19:15.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Aria Xingni Shi, Activities and Engagement Officer
Signature:	Aria Xingni Shi
Date:	13/06/2024