



Date: Wednesday, 1 June, 2022

Time: 18:00 – 20:00

Venue: Zoom

Education Zone

Minutes

Chair: Ayman Benmati, Education Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Abdur R Azeez, Medical Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep	✓		
Abigail Smith, Disabled Students' Officer (Job share)			✓
Ahsani Pouyan, Institute of Education ITE Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Akosua Osei-Owusu, BME Students' Officer (Job share)	✓		
Andrea Franchini, Engineering Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep	✓		
Andrey T Chau, Brain Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Angel Ma, LGBTQ+ Officer			✓
Angel Zhang, Institute of Education Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Ayman Benmati, Education Officer, Chair	✓		
Brittany Eldridge, Arts & Humanities Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep (Job share)	✓		
Chandan Luo, Institute of Education Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Charlotte K Choy, Laws Undergraduate Faculty Rep			✓
Clara Obeid, Built Environment Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Danilo Paganelli, Disabled Students' Officer (Job share)			✓
Elizabeth Bowker, Institute of Education Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
George S Ponodath, Medical Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)		✓	
Georgia Constantinou, Medical Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep			✓
Graham W Van Goffrier, Mathematical & Physical Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep			✓
Haleema Sarwar, Social & Historical Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep	✓		
Heather Sampson, Brain Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep		✓	
Itiola Akingbola, BME Network			✓
Izabella Wodzka, Arts & Humanities Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep (Job share)	✓		
Jade Ygouf, Women's Officer (Job share)			✓
Jannat Ahmed, Social & Historical Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep	✓		
Junqing Guo, Institute of Education Postgraduate Taught Rep			✓
Kalila Dahm, Institute of Education ITE Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Manjari Sharma, Arts & Humanities Undergraduate Rep			✓
Maria Jose Ascenzo Sanchez, Built Environment Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep	✓		
Marine-Oceane L G Verdez-Scholler, Medical Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)	✓		
Meshi Askar-Harris, Arts & Humanities Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep			✓
Milena Gonakova, Life Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep	✓		
Mutong Li, Population Health Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep			✓
Natalie Magness, Life Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)		✓	
Noora Almarri, Research Students' Officer	✓		
Paul Ho, BME Students' Officer (Job share)	✓		

Priya Jain, Women's Officer (Job share)			✓
Sara Motwani, Built Environment Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Shim Shim, Mathematical & Physical Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep			✓
Shivam Mulchandani, Engineering Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)	✓		
Sienna Liu, Life Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Sofia Abdinor, Population Health Sciences Undergraduate Rep			✓
Stephanie Y Sze, Brain Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Swati Sharma, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep		✓	
Syeda Arham Fatima, Engineering Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Tanhai G Borkar, Engineering Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep		✓	
Tom McKenzie, Institute of Education Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep (Job share)			✓
Veronica A Boron, Life Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep			✓
Viktória Makai, Postgraduate Students' Officer	✓		
Vinojini Vivekanandam, Brain Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep			✓
Yasmin Garcia-Sterling, Built Environment Postgraduate Research Rep			✓
Yetian Feng, Laws Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep	✓		

In Attendance:
Thao Anh Nguyen, Democracy Assistant, minutes
Arifa Aminy, Equity Officer
Simon To, Head of Policy, Governance & Insight
Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire, Representation & Democracy Manager
Student Observers (Callie Yoo)

1. Preliminary matters – Approval of minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting could not be approved due to the lack of quorum.

2. Announcement – Student Life Strategy

The Chair has introduced the Student Life Strategy to the Zone and has updated members on its progress. The SLS is a joint strategy of UCL and the SU, which is shaped by discussion with the Sabbatical Officers, the Provost and senior staff members across both the SU and UCL. It focuses on student experience and student life, sports, arts, societies, volunteering, cultural engagement, diversity, etc. Members were encouraged to share any thoughts or ideas they would like to see included in the strategy.

3. Announcement – Academic Rep of the Year Shortlist

Zone members have been invited to the Education Awards ceremony where the Academic Rep of the Year winners will be announced.

4. Matters for Discussion – UCL Strategy Consultation Update

The Head of Policy, Governance & Insight (ST) has given an update on the UCL Strategy Consultation to the Zone and introduced the 5 themes for phase 3 of the consultation. A discussion was had in breakout groups about areas chosen in the consultation where current systems and processes are unnecessarily complex or inefficient, and about UCL's aims in 'Theme 2: Enabling an excellent education and student experience' and 'Theme 4: Better use of better

space for staff and students'. Feedback and comments on the Strategy Consultation can be found on [this Jamboard](#).

5. Matter for Discussion – Education Principles

The Head of Policy, Governance & Insight (ST) has introduced the five Education Principles to the Zone. Each principle has been discussed in breakout groups. Feedback and comments can be found on [this Jamboard](#).

6. Matter for Discussion – Assessment Experience

Zone members discussed their assessment experience in breakout groups, answering the following questions: What worked well? What could be improved? Feedback and comments can be found on [this Jamboard](#).

7. Policy proposal – Choice of awarding institution

This proposal was discussed during the last Education Zone meeting and the vote was deferred to the next meeting due to lack of quorum.

8. Policy proposal – Hosting Graduation Ceremonies in line with International Student Visa Cycles

The proposer introduced their submission. There was general consensus that the current timeline of graduations for postgraduate international students does not make sense and should be changed so that it falls within their visa cycle and is generally more accessible. ST provided context about a previous proposal from 2018 which wanted to tackle the same issue. A wider discussion was had about general accessibility of graduations and how disabled students could engage virtually in these events. A past incident was brought up where graduation photos distorted people's skin colour. This item was not voted on due to the lack of quorum.

9. Matters for Information – Outcomes from previous / input into upcoming committees

The Chair informed members about the upcoming Student Experience Committee meeting and its agenda, which includes the Education Principles and strategies previously discussed, the Annual Student Priorities for Education report, and the Welfare report. The Postgraduate Officer highlighted the work that the Research Students Officer and the Academic Reps from the Institute of Child Health have done recently in the Research Degrees Committee.

9. Questions to Officers

A question was asked about whether UCL will provide any financial reimbursement for the classes that were cancelled due to the UCU strikes. The Postgraduate Officer answered that they are working on this issue, but there is great pushback from UCL.

The BME Students' Officer asked a question about why the graduation ceremony location has changed. The Chair explained that this decision was made due to financial reasons and because students have expressed a preference for the ceremonies to take place in the proximity of the Bloomsbury campus. Another question was asked about the progress on the BAME awarding gap. The Chair and ST gave an update about UCL's plans, and how the no detriment policy in 2020 has affected the gap. Some resources were also shared with the Zone.

A further question was asked about the Academic Board's membership and how they have dismissed student voices and the EDI committee. A discussion was had about how the student membership of the Academic Board should be increased.

A concern was raised regarding the graduation ceremonies and the ticket price, and how the cohort of Medicine students has been split alphabetically. The Chair updated the Zone on the discussions they were having with the Graduation Ceremonies Team to resolve this issue.

A final question was asked about whether UCL's financial model could be improved through the new strategy to allow for more funding for students for various projects and grants.

10. AOB

There was no other business.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Ayman Benmati, Education Officer
Signature:	Ayman Benmati
Date:	15 June 2022