



Date: Tuesday 1 November 2022
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
Venue: 26 Bedford Way - Room 305

Education Zone**Minutes****Chair:** Hamza Ahmed, Education Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Abdulaziz E S A Abdulhadi, Faculty of Medical Sciences PGT Rep	X		
Andrea Franchini, Faculty of Engineering PGR Rep	X		
Angel Ma, LGBTQ+ Officer			X
Angela Escobar Brown, Faculty of Laws UG Rep	X		
Aria Yu, Faculty of Engineering PGT Rep	X		
Avanija Menon, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences UG Rep			X
Azure Lo, Faculty of Life Sciences PGT Rep		X	
Callie Yoo, BME Students' Officer	X		
Denis C Yegon, Faculty of the Built Environment PGT Rep	X		
Emma Francis, Research Students' Officer	X		
Gabriel Huang, Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences UG Rep	X		
George S Ponodath, Faculty of Population Health Sciences UG Rep	X		
Georgia M V Constantinou, Faculty of Medical Sciences PGR Rep			X
Graham W Van Goffrier, Mathematical & Physical Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep			X
Greg Koc, Faculty of Life Sciences UG Rep (Job Share)	X		
Hamza Ahmed, Education Officer (Chair)	X		
Harper Taylor Hanson, Trans Officer	X		
Harriet R Israel, Institute of Education PGT Rep	X		
Henry R Wilson, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences PGT Rep	X		
Joy Han, Faculty of Brain Sciences UG Rep	X		
Julia Wojciechowska, Faculty of Arts and Humanities UG Rep	X		
Kairan Mai, Faculty of Arts and Humanities PGT Rep			X
Kenda Tsuda, Faculty of Laws PGR Rep	X		
Kerem Isik, Faculty of Life Sciences UG Rep (Job Share)	X		
Krystel C Fernandes, Faculty of Brain Sciences PGT Rep	X		
Manon Simmons, Women's Officer (Job Share)		X	
Marine-Oceane L G Verdez-Scholler, Medical Sciences Undergraduate Rep	X		
Nandni Nandni, Faculty of Laws PGT Rep	X		
Oluseyi (Seyi) A Osibamowo, Equity & Inclusion Officer		X	
Sara Motwani, Built Environment Undergraduate Faculty Rep		X	
Sasha Green, Women's Officer (Job Share)	X		
Sian Chinwuba, Population Health Sciences PGT Rep	X		
Tianyi Yao, Institute of Education UG Rep	X		
Veronica A Boron, Faculty of Life Sciences PGR Rep			X
Yasmin Garcia-Sterling, Faculty of the Built Environment PGR Rep			X
Yasmine Abdu, Faculty of Engineering UG Rep	X		

Quorum: 17

In Attendance:
Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire, Representation and Democracy Manager
Samira Lily Chowdhury, Democracy Assistant, minutes
Danielle Swanson, Advice and Advocacy Manager
Meg Haskins, Research and Policy Coordinator
Emeric Jammes, Udaya Goel, Jakub Lastowiecki, Deniz Akinci, Student Observers

1. Preliminary matters – Welcome and Introductions

Education Officer warmly welcomes all members to first Education Zone of the year.

2. Preliminary matters - Brief overview of Education Zone

Representation and Democracy Manager gave overview of Education Zone, outlining details of the voting process and the content of meetings.

3. Announcements- Rep Election Results

Education Officer states positives of recent rep elections: number of voters has increased and there were zero complaints this year.

However, Education Officer also states some negatives: for example, unfilled vacancies for PGTR, and 4 unfulfilled vacancies for NUS conference.

4. Matters for Information - Staff Updates

Representation and Democracy Manager gives staff updates: for instance, there will be upcoming faculty rep training events, masterclasses and workshops.

Advice and Advocacy Manager gives update on work of Advice Service: they have increased funding for hardship funds, created an activities and participation fund that will help students fund recreational activities that they might otherwise have financial barriers to.

Advice has also launched a gender expression fund that will provide financial and non-financial support to trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming students. Advice Service is also planning to run financial literacy workshops.

5. Matters for Information – Advertise Board Committees

Education Officer states that applications are open for members to join Board of Trustees Subcommittees (the Finance Committee, Risk and Audit Committee and Governance Committee).

6. Matters for Information - Outcomes from and inputs to UCL committees

Education Officer states how there has been positive changes in UCL's committees, with a committee being created that is jointly chaired by the Education Officer and a senior staff member. Education Officer emphasises that Education Zone's members' feedback is very valuable to UCL's committees. Education Officer gives update on TEF steering group, stating that UCL Senior Management wants to improve TEF metric on assessment, feedback and student voice, so that UCL could potentially be awarded gold.

7. Matters for Discussion - Agree priorities for the year

Members discussed in groups what priorities they think they should focus on for the year.

For example, members stated that there should be a stronger link between faculty and department reps.

Member raised issue that she has been told by research students that they have had to wait more than 3 months to be paid for marking assessments.

Member stated that there should be more of a balance of passive and active learning, as she has not found watching pre-recorded lectures to be engaging.

Member stated that the distinction between Course rep, Lead Department Rep and Faculty rep needs to be a lot clearer.

Trans Officer and BME Officer state that there needs to be information training for staff about how to be more inclusive.

Member recommends that UCL examinations should not all be during summer period: instead, exams for first term modules should be after Christmas break.

Member also argues that communications for each department needs to be improved, as student services differ massively across different departments and faculties.

Education Officer raises issue of UCL increasing their student population, but not increasing the number of study spaces available.

Member states that having 1 lecture in a day causes low attendance as students do not want to travel to UCL just for 1 lecture: he recommends that these be moved to online.

Action: Education Officer states members' concern over assessments will be discussed in upcoming Education Zone meetings.

8. Matters for Discussion - Feedback about teaching

Member raises issue that should be a minimum standard set on recording lectures and

providing LectureCast recordings in the UCL Academic Manual. Another member also states that there should be standardisation across the quality of lectures, as some lecturers are just reading off the slides. Member states that engaging students in lectures should be a priority.

Education Officer states how his priority is fixing the inconsistencies in teaching quality across UCL departments.

Member raises issue that some students are having classes Wednesday afternoon, even though this is typically reserved for UG students to engage in extracurricular activities. Representation and Democracy Manager states that students can request to join an alternative class if they want to do extracurriculars Wednesday afternoon.

Member states that lecture halls should have plug points for students to charge their laptops.

Trans Officer states that students with protected characteristics should have the ability to request a transition mentor with the same protected characteristics.

Member states that reading lists should be clearer about which topics students need to know about in more detail.

Member states that lecture's teaching objectives are not clear: students are often confused about what exactly they need to take away from their teaching sessions.

9. Matters for Discussion - UCL Engineering Careers Team Oil Company deal

Student Observer, Emeric Jammes, presents on his item of discussion over UCL Engineering Careers Team inviting oil companies to speak at their career events. He argues this is unethical as these companies have contributed to the climate crisis.

Education Officer summarises UCL Careers Response to having oil companies at career events: that their decision is approved by UCL's Senior Management policy, who believe that career services should be impartial.

Union Affairs Officer clarifies that the zone can only lobby UCL to change its policy- they cannot directly change UCL policy, only the Student Union's.

Engineering Society's President argues that many engineering students want to work for oil companies and that they should not be denied this chance for networking. He argues that banning oil companies from engineering career events would be extreme and unfairly disadvantage students.

Advice and Advocacy Manager contributes to this discussion by stating that Student Union can be the forerunner in progressive policy: for example, the Union have recently changed their bank to one that is more ethical.

10. Matters for Approval - Elect One person to Union Executive

Union Affairs Officer explains the purpose of Union Executive: that they act as the executive branch of the Union's policymaking and ratify policy.

6 members put themselves forward to be elected as the Education Zone's Union Executive representative. Angela Escobar Brown, Faculty of Laws UG Rep, wins the vote.

11. Policy Proposals - For PGRs to be considered employees at UCL

Research Students' Officer clarifies that PGRs are not considered UCL employees and so get a stipend instead of a salary. She states that their stipend has not increased in line with inflation, unlike UCL salaries. She states how this has led to PGRs taking out loans and has even led to them becoming homeless. UCL has a policy that their employees' salaries increase to match the living wage, which PGRs do not benefit from.

Research Students' Officer argues that not classifying PGRs as employees is unfair as it means they are not entitled to some employment rights, such as protection against unfair dismissal. She also states that as a PGR, she has no pension as she is not being classified as a worker by UCL.

Union Affairs Officer states his personal opinion that it may be more beneficial and realistic in the short-term to lobby UCL for higher stipends, rather than granting PGRs employee status.

Member argues that EZ2201 is not the correct forum to vote on this issue as most of members present are undergraduate students, rather than postgraduate students. Union Affairs Officer clarifies that a motion to postpone this proposal can be passed.

12. Officer Updates and Questions - Education Officer

No questions were raised.

13. Officer Updates and Questions - Equity & Inclusion Officer

Equity & Inclusion Officer was not present

14. Any Other Business

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Hamza Ahmed, Education Officer
Signature:	Hamza Ahmed
Date:	03 November 2022