



Date: Thursday 1 December 2022
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
Venue: Medawar Building Go1 Lankester Lecture Theatre
Chair: Hamza Ahmed, Education Officer

Education Zone**Minutes**

| 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 | |
| Sianne 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 |
| Rhiannon Ellis, Representation and Democracy Coordinator |
| Danielle Swanson, Advice and Advocacy Manager |
| Carol Paige, Research and Policy Coordinator |
| Deniz Akinci, Yixin Gu, Student Observers |

1. Preliminary matters - Welcome and Introductions

Hamza Ahmed (HA) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Announcements - UCU Referendum Result

HA announced the results of the recent UCU referendum which can be found here -

<https://studentsunionucl.org/referendum-ucu-industrial-action>.

3. Matters for Information - Staff Updates

Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire (JSW) introduced Rhiannon Ellis the new Representation and Democracy Coordinator and highlighted that the team have been working on inducting Academic Reps and preparing for the Leadership Race.

Danielle Swanson (DS) explained that a significant amount of work has been undertaken to distribute grant funding and there have been additional investments regarding the Union's cost of living offer, particularly the Union's commercial offering.

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

HA has been attending meetings to discuss a new Union building and the allocating of funding across the whole institution as well as the incoming Student Life Strategy which will be taken to UCL Council for approval in December.

HA has also contributed towards UCL's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) submission.

5. Matters for Information - Follow up on action points from previous meeting

N/A

6. Matters for Discussion - Teaching Excellence Framework

Carol Paige (CP) introduced the TEF and highlighted that the Union will be producing a student submission to supplement the University's submission.

UCL was ranked silver in 2017 and the institution aims to retain this award with ambitions to achieve gold in the future.

CP highlighted that UCL struggles with Assessment and Feedback which is evidenced in existing data but excels with learning resources.

CP then encouraged attendees to undertake group work regarding their perceptions of UCL data.

7. Matters for Discussion - Improvement to UCL's career services

Yixin Gu (YG) was in attendance to present their matter for discussion. YG has conducted a survey which found that there were too few slots for Faculty of Arts and Humanities to book workshops and one-to-one tutorials.

Attendees discussed their perceptions of the Careers Service. MAPS was another faculty where booking tutorials was difficult.

Attendees were generally positive about the experience they received from the Careers Service. However, inconsistent communication from Careers Advisors and a lack of coherent information regarding summer placements were seen as issues. Attendees were also unsure as to how careers related questions at enrolment and re-enrolment were used.

Attendees also highlighted that there is plenty of information regarding Careers but it can be difficult to access. A default monthly newsletter highlighting opportunities would be a useful solution to this.

Action: Hamza to discuss the feedback received with the Head of Careers.

8. Matters for Approval - Approval of minutes from the last meeting

Attendees asked about the status of the policy proposal submitted by Research Officer Emma Francis at the previous meeting. JSW responded to say that Emma is currently undertaking additional research and meeting with Postgraduate Research students with plans to re-submit a proposal later in the academic year.

9. Officer Updates and Questions - Education Officer

HA highlighted that with the declining power of the National Union of Students (NUS); the Union are working closely with Russell Group Unions, particularly those in London, to tackle

the cost of living crisis. HA indicated that reducing transport costs for students by lobbying Transport for London and the Mayor of London are key priorities.

HA explained that lobbying to reduce tuition fees will be difficult as Undergraduate Fees are largely fixed with shortfalls in income due to inflation being made through the recruitment of Postgraduate and International Students.

Study Space

HA asked attendees regarding their perception of student spaces and space generally across campus.

Attendees highlighted that there are a lack of power outlets as well as numerous faulty outlets which makes it difficult for students to spend all day on campus. There is also a lack of Postgraduate only study spaces on campus.

The UCL Go App was cited as a potential improvement to help students navigate and find space across campus.

The previous Welfare and Community Officer had lobbied for further work to be undertaken to ensure that study spaces were clearly accessible to students, however, this work has not been followed up.

Toilets

Harper Taylor Hanson (HTH) explained that toilets across the campus are not trans inclusive and whilst this is being discussed in meetings, progress to address this has been slow. Toilets in the Science Library were also overused and poorly maintained.

Mentorship

Veronica Boron (VB) explained that a significant proportion of STEM Undergraduate students chose to study at UCL to undertake research work in labs, however, this has not been prioritised and has put them at a disadvantage.

Microwaves

Attendees highlighted that there are a lack of microwaves on campus. DS explained that the Union have produced a map which includes all microwaves -

<https://studentsunionucl.org/sustainability-hub/microwaves-map>.

24hr Libraries – should they be cut?

HA explained that is a steering group being created to explore whether 24hr library opening hours should be reduced due to an increase in UCL’s energy bill. Attendees suggested that specific floors in energy efficient buildings could be a potential solution as late night studying is sporadic but 24hr opening is still important for a number of students.

HA highlighted that UCL’s energy bill has increased by around £40mil this academic year, so this reflects a cost saving exercise. This needs to be balanced with new smarter energy policies and sustainable usages.

Attendees highlighted that the Main Library will be difficult to power due to its unique shape, so if a 24hr policy is retained, a more energy efficient building should be used.

Question for Hamza: As an Education Officer, what are you going to do to mitigate strike action particularly with regards to marking boycotts?

HA responded to say that the delays should not be too significant and they should be considered on a case-by-case basis. It is particularly difficult to understand the impact given that staff on strike do not have to declare that they are undertaking Action Short of Striking (ASOS) which includes marking boycotts. Attendees also suggested that if one to three days of striking affects the timeliness of feedback, these are systemic issues that go beyond industrial action.

10. Any Other Business

N/A

| Minutes approved as a true and accurate record | |
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| Chair: | Hamza Ahmed, Education Officer |
| Signature: | Hamza Ahmed |
| Date: | 05/12/2022 |