



Date: Monday 28 March 2022
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
Venue: Zoom

Union Executive

Notes

Chair: Osman Teklies, Union Affairs Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Abi Smith / Danilo Paganelli, Disabled Students' Officer (Job Share)	✓		
Akosua Osei-Owusu / Paul Ho, BME Students' Officer (Job Share)	✓		
Alex Skliros, elected member from Welfare & Community Zone			✓
Angel Ma, LGBTQ+ Officer			✓
Arifa Aminy, Equity Officer			✓
Ayman Benmati, Education Officer		✓	
Graham Van Goffrier, elected member from Education Zone	✓		
Ilyas Benmouna, Activities & Engagement Officer		✓	
James Maidment / Saiff Hamid, elected member from Activities Zone (Job share)	✓		
Johara Meyer, Sustainability Officer			✓
Osman Teklies, Union Affairs Officer, Chair	✓		
Priya Jain / Jade Ygouf, Women's Officer			✓
Viktoria Makai, Postgraduate Officer			✓
Yasmeen Daoud, Welfare & Community Officer			✓

In Attendance:
Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire, Representation and Democracy Manager, minutes
Julia Rooke, Representation and Democracy Coordinator

1. Preliminary Matters – Approval of minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by the chair.

2. Preliminary Matters – Follow up on action points from previous meeting

No further actions from the previous meeting.

3. Announcements – Students' Union Update

[Leadership Race](#) – Nearly 3,000 candidates with over 10,000 individual voters and 21% voter turnout.

[Varsity](#) – UCL lost to Kings 15-13; however there were record turnouts and a live stream which encouraged plenty of viewers.

[Student Choice Awards](#) – 933 nominations received.

[International Festival](#) – A series of events, performances and food during the last week of February.

[28 Days of Sustainability](#) – Four weeks of events, workshops and activities which the Sustainability Officer, Johara Meyer and the Sustainability Ambassadors have been leading some of this work.

[Hanger Marketplace](#) – Students' Union UCL's have launched their Marketplace where students can buy and sell items.

4.

Policy Proposals for Ratification

Quoracy was not met for Union Exec. As a result, the policy proposals (Number of committee positions per person & Relax non-overnight guest policy) have been deferred to the next meeting.

5. Matters for Discussion – UCL Strategy Phase 2 Consultation – Draft Union Response

A new draft Union response has been produced in response to UCL's Strategy Phase 2 Consultation. The chair outlined the response which focused on the Union's perspective on [Paper 5](#). Given the shortened agenda for UE2106, lengthy discussions were held and the following feedback from attendees was received:

Project One – Teaching and assessment framework

Attendees were pleased that the proposed framework had a greater focus on assessments. It was also acknowledged that sporting calendars and Wednesday afternoons need to be protected.

Project Two – Module selection

Making content and assessments accessible as part of the decision-making process was viewed favourably to inform choice. Students could be allowed access to content in the first week to make those informed choices. Greater flexibility to change modules early in the academic year. Flexibility to choose the assessment type to match individual needs and cater towards learning styles would also increase student attainment.

An 'Amazon' style review where previous students are able to provide feedback on modules could also help to inform choice. Being able to ask students in higher years was viewed as a positive thing. Unitu is not the right platform to inform students about module selection.

Project Three – Staff and student development

The general perception was that the motivation to acquire skills was career and employability driven. University could be more like a 'sandbox' where there is a balance between studying, socialising and skills acquisition. Although it was acknowledged that the vast majority of students at UCL are Careers focused.

A new institute could help with some forms of skills development and acquisition but most of the skills you require to get a specific job are gained through the curriculum and experts within departments. If a new institute was to be formed, it would be useful to better understand how funding structures would work.

A new institute could just be a rebranded UCL Careers department which doesn't necessarily allow for growth and development. There needs to be students involved in deciding what skills want to gain. For example, students might be inclined to join clubs and societies to find communities, learn from one another and gain skills.

Project Four - Modernising the structure of the academic teaching year

Our paper could be worded in stronger terms, for example, if we are trying to steer the University in a particular direction we should be precise in our criticism. Eg. In the second paragraph it states ‘some students did highlight that in-term assessments may be difficult to manage alongside other commitments’. Members of Union Exec highlighted that we should have a stance on what we would like to see if there is strong and decisive feedback to indicate preferences. For example, we could clearly state that we would like to see further consultation regarding potential changes to the academic year.

In contrast, other members of Exec highlighted that any of the proposals would be better than the current system. Partnership needs to key in decision-making. Faculties are also concerned about potential changes as it will change their way of working.

6. AOB – Feedback regarding Union Exec

The Chair asked attendees for their feedback regarding how Union Exec has been this academic year. Attendees had the following feedback:

Student input in the meeting is difficult to control, especially via Zoom. Contentious decisions should be made by Exec, but student input can derail discussions. Union Exec shouldn't be the only place for student input, we could have Town Hall discussions which are not directly related to policies and officers can provide updates.

More students should care about Union Exec eg. Society Presidents. Access to democratic processes can be difficult, it does depend on who you know in order to have a vested interest in attending.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Osman Teklies, Union Affairs Officer
Signature:	OT
Date:	30/03/2022