



Date: Thursday 3 November
Time: 17:00 – 18:00
Venue: Southwing G14 Committee Room

Union Executive

Minutes

Chair: Deniz Akinci, Union Affairs Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Angel Ma, LGBTQ+ Officer	X		
Angela Escobar Brown, Education Zone Representative	X		
Callie Yoo, BME Students' Officer	X		
Chiamaka Agu and Demtri Alvanis, Activities Zone Rep (Job Share)	X		
Deniz Akinci, Union Affairs Officer, Chair	X		
Hamza Ahmed, Education Officer	X		
Harper Taylor-Hanson, Trans Officer	X		
Manon Simmons and Sasha Green, Women's Officer (Job Share)			X
Mary McHarg, Activities & Engagement Officer	X		
Oluseyi (Seyi) A Osibamowo, Equity & Inclusion Officer	X		
Umair Mehmood, Welfare & Community Officer	X		
Vaania Kapoor Achuthan, Sustainability Officer		X	

Quorum: 7

In Attendance:
Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire, Representation and Democracy Manager
Simon To, Director of Policy Governance and Advocacy
John Dubber, Chief Executive Officer
Student Observers: Xin Huang, Maheem Imran, Dimitris Dimitropoulos, Rachel Lim, Daria Duda, Anoushka Beattie

1. Industrial Action – Referendum to be called by Union Exec

Deniz Akinci (DA) opened the meeting and invited members of Union Executive and the recently elected Student Trustees who were attending in their capacity as Student Observers to introduce themselves.

Mary McHarg (MM) introduced the proposal to Union Exec, highlighting that this Union Executive has been called to call a referendum regarding the student body's view on industrial action.

DA raised concerned that a binary 'Yes' / 'No' vote is exclusionary and does not give students a fair vote to those who wish to remain neutral on the issue. A simple 'Yes' / 'No' vote does also not indicate what supporting industrial action looks like, which is particularly important as UCU have not officially confirmed what industrial action will look like and when it will take place.

DA highlighted that we could use a transferrable voting system (STV), much like the Students' Union use in their elections. DA also indicated that we are at risk of 'democratic fatigue' with a number of potential referendums that called this academic year, regarding our affiliation with the National Union of Students (NUS) and introducing a plant-based café outlet.

Attendees were reminded of how the Union Policy regarding supporting industrial action for the 2021-22 academic year was adopted – [UP2108](#). Union Executive decided on the Union's stance regarding industrial action in the previous academic year before it was superseded by a referendum. 60% of students voted 'Yes' to support industrial action. Attendees generally agreed, that to capture the student voice, it is better for a referendum to be held than relying on members of Union Executive to make a decision.

John Dubber (JD) explained that some Students' Unions have a 'referendum window' whereby students can submit ideas which would warrant further discussion from the wider student body. This could be applicable for future years, however, the timeframes would be too tight for this to be discussed at the next Union Executive on Monday 14 November.

Union Executive agreed in principle to hold a referendum regarding industrial action. However, the principles, exact wording of the question and timelines will be confirmed at the next Union Executive on Monday 14 November.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Deniz Akinci, Union Affairs Officer
Signature:	Deniz Akinci
Date:	10/11/2022