



**Date:** Monday 12 December 2022  
**Time:** 18:00 – 20:00  
**Venue:** Bentham House LG10 Lecture Room, Bentham House

**Union Executive Minutes**

**Chair:** Deniz Akinci, Union Affairs Officer

<b>Members:</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>AP</b>	<b>AB</b>
Angel Ma, LGBTQ+ Officer			X
Angela Escobar Brown, Elected Officer From EZ			X
Callie Yoo, BME Students' Officer	X		
Demetri Alvanis, Elected Officer From AZ	X		
Deniz Akinci, Union Affairs Officer, Chair	X		
Hamza Ahmed, Education Officer		X	
Harper Taylor-Hanson, Trans Officer	X		
Manon Simmons & Sasha Green, Women's Officer (Job Share)	X		
Mary McHarg, Activities & Engagement Officer		X	
Nick Miao, Elected Officer From WCZ	X		
Oluseyi (Seyi) A Osibamowo, Equity & Inclusion Officer	X		
Umair Mehmood, Welfare & Community Officer	X		
Vaania Kapoor Achuthan, Sustainability Officer	X		

<b>In Attendance:</b>
Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire, Representation and Democracy Manager
Samira Lily Chowdhury, Democracy Assistant, minutes
Simon To, Director of Policy, Governance and Advocacy
Carol Paige, Policy and Research Coordinator
Jayne Flowers, Equity and Inclusion Unit Coordinator
Meg Haskins, Policy and Research Coordinator

**1. Preliminary Matters - Welcome and Introductions**

DA (Chair) warmly welcomes attendees to the zone. DA states that he will try and invite someone from UCL to explain their current financial circumstance to the zones by UE2204. He stresses that members of each respective zone need to prioritise which policy proposals they want to lobby UCL with. He also explains how some policy proposals will not be ratified at this meeting and will be deferred.

Action Point: DA will ask a representative from UCL to attend the zones to explain their current financial circumstance to members.

**2. Matters for Approval - Approval of minutes from the last meeting**

Minutes from the last meeting are approved.

**3. Matters for Approval - Follow up on action points from previous meeting**

There are no action points.

**4. Matters for Approval - NUS National Conference Delegate – Vacant Positions**

JSW (Representation and Democracy Manager) states that there are still 4 vacancies for NUS national conference after the recent Rep elections. JSW asks whether members are willing to approve the candidates who have put themselves forward to represent UCL at NUS National Conference. Yalin Chen and Nick Miao are chosen to be UCL's NUS National Conference Delegates. 2 vacancies remain.

Passes with 100% of the vote.

**5. Matters for Discussion - Updates from and into the Board of Trustees**

DA states that a Board of Trustees meeting took place last week.

**6. Matters for Discussion - Teaching Excellence Framework**

CP (Policy and Research Coordinator) explains what the Teaching Excellence Framework to attendees: a measure used to assess teaching quality in universities. CP explains that she has been tasked to draw up a report for TEF, that will be released in February 2023. She states she will ask for the members' help with her project in January 2023.

**7. Amendment to Governing Documents - BME Network name change**

CY (BME Students' Officer) states that students on her network have made it clear that they do not believe the term BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) accurately represents them. With the help of JF (Equity and Inclusion Unit Coordinator) from the Union, she carried out an Instagram poll and focus groups to test whether students want to change the name of the network. CY states that 55% of voters chose to change the name of the network from BME Network to People of Colour (POC) Network.

SAO (Equity and Inclusion Officer) states that there is clearly a demand for a name change and that other universities have already changed the name to People of Colour. She believes a name change is very important, in order to alleviate confusion: students do not understand what BME means and who it includes, so they are unaware that the network is there to support and represent them.

JSW clarifies that changing the name of the network requires 75% of members to vote in favour of the change, as it is an amendment to the Union's bylaws.

VKA (Sustainability Officer) states how her department (Politics and International Relations) have called their network The Ethnic and Racial Diversity Network, which she believes is a more representative name than People of Colour Network. She raises her concern that the name People of Colour Network could exclude some marginalised groups, such as those of Romanian heritage. SAO responds to her concern, stating that the network is currently for students of African, Asian, Caribbean or indigenous heritage.

Member raises concern that People of Colour is outdated. JF and MH (Policy and Research Coordinator) respond to this concern by stating that there is no perfect term. Member states how there are concerns that BME is too technical and statistical sounding. DA (Elected Officer From AZ) states that he does not believe that the Union polled enough people when gathering the data. And asks whether they could collect data again. JF responds by stating that she does not believe there would be a substantial increase in polling numbers if they did the poll again. CY agrees with JF, highlighting that the Union were even giving out £15 vouchers to incentive students to take part, but this still did not lead uptake in the poll.

VKA agrees that People of Colour is more identifiable than BME.

SAO acknowledges member's concerns that the name POC is not representative but stresses that changing the name from BME to People of Colour is a good alternative in the interim: especially as the clarity the name POC brings is important for the leadership race coming up. ST (Director of Policy Governance and Advocacy) agrees with SAO, stating that a small change may be more palatable more students. He also states that Union Executive is a representative model, meaning that data should inform decisions rather than deciding them. Trans Officer (HTH) agrees with SAO, stating that it is important in the interim that the name be representative of students now.

Passes with 100% of the vote.

## **8. Policy Proposals for Ratification - Active Bystander and Consent Training**

UM (Welfare & Community Officer) explains how policy proposer wants every committee member to complete active bystander training after they have been elected to office.

SAO gives her support for the policy idea and states that the policy was very well received. She believes that this type of training should be made mandatory for any student holding a leadership position. ST wants to integrate UCL's bystander training and the Union's training together.

Policy passes with 100% of votes.

**9. Policy Proposals for Ratification - Produce posters detailing emergency helplines and other support services to be put in toilet cubicles**

UM explains the policy proposal to attendees. DA asks whether this policy includes having posters in all UCL toilet cubicles. UM clarifies by stating that this policy in its current form only includes the Union's toilets.

Policy passes with 100% of the vote.

**10. Policy Proposals for Ratification - Commitment to Harm Reduction**

UM explains the policy proposal to attendees. SAO gives her support for this policy. JSW states how the Advocacy and Advice Manager has already been working with UM to produce a strategy to get rid of UCL's Zero-tolerance drug policy.

Member states that she thinks it's crucial for this commitment to harm reduction to be sustained throughout the year.

NM (Elected Officer From WCZ) raises his concern that Sports societies are still carrying out harmful 'initiations', which coerce students to partake in risky behaviour.

Policy passes with 100% of the vote.

**11. Policy Proposals for Ratification - Bring back security to all student halls on a permanent basis and install CCTV**

UM explains the policy proposal to attendees. Member asks why SRAs, instead of security, can't let students that have been locked out back into their rooms. UM responds, stating that SRAs are not equipped with security access to let students back into their rooms.

ST reminds members that the role of Union Executive is not to rehash the debate that has already occurred at the zones. He also states that security is most expensive option, if the goal is simply to let locked out students back into their rooms.

UM states that the policy proposer's only concern was not students being locked out of their rooms, but also serious breaches of security and crime.

SAO states proposal should be amended to not necessitate security being present at reception, but a trained person. JSW clarifies that Union Executive cannot make amendments to policies: rather policy proposals would have to be sent back to its respective zone.

Action Point: JSW states him and JR will contact the Accommodations and Estate team to find out whether they already have plans to address students' security and safety concerns.

DA recommends that as many Union Executive members as possible attend the next Welfare and Community zone to explain their concerns with the policy.

UM refers the policy back to Welfare & Community Zone.

**12. Policy Proposals for Deferral - The Union should bring all outsourced staff at UCL in-house**

Policy was deferred.

**13. Policy Proposals for Deferral - Mature & Part-time Students' Officer should be a member of the Activities Zone, Education Zone and Union Executive**

Policy was deferred.

**14. Matters for Information - Member of Governance Committee**

JSW gives update, stating that UCL East Officer Peter Kanyike has been appointed to Governance Committee.

**15. Matters for Information - Minutes from AZ2202**

Members approve minutes.

**16. Matters for Information - Minutes from EZ2202**

Members approve minutes.

**17. Matters for Information - Minutes from WCZ2202**

Members approve minutes.

**18. Officer Updates and Questions - Sabbatical Officers**

There are no questions.

**19. Officer Updates and Questions - Student Officers**

There are no questions.

**20. AOB**

There is no other business.

<b>Minutes approved as a true and accurate record</b>	
Chair:	Deniz Akinci, Union Affairs Officer
Signature:	Deniz Akinci
Date:	04/01/2023