



Date: Monday 06 March 2023
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
Venue: Drayton House, B20 Jevons LT

**Union Executive
Minutes**

Chair: Deniz Akinci, Union Affairs Officer

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

In Attendance:
Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire, Representation and Democracy Manager
Samira Lily Chowdhury, Democracy Assistant, minutes
Simon To, Director of Policy, Governance and Advocacy

1. Preliminary Matters - Welcome and Introductions

Welfare & Community Officer welcomes attendees to zone in place of DA (Union Affairs Office), who is running late.

2. Announcements - Leadership Race nomination update

JSW (Representation and Democracy Manager) states that we have received 2930 nominations, including 42 for Sabbatical Officers, 40 for Student Officers, 4 for student trustees and 15 for networks. He states the total number of nominations is less than last year. No postgraduate students have volunteered for Student Trustee, which is an issue as it is required that at least 1 student trustee be a postgraduate.

3. Matters for Approval - Approval of minutes from the previous meetings

Minutes are approved.

4. Matters for Approval - Referendum on NUS affiliation schedule

JSW asks members whether they approve of the proposed NUS Referendum schedule, which involves announcing the referendum on 22 March and a voting period from 02 May to 05 May. The Union will also organise an Open Meeting on 27 April, where students can debate the issue at hand.

VKA (Sustainability Officer) is concerned about the referendum being held in Term 3 when UCL assessments take place. She is also concerned that certain UCL groups may disrupt the factual provision of information, as the referendum is on a politically charged topic.

MM (Activities & Engagement Officer) responds to VKA's concern, stating that our Union has a good relationship with these groups and can facilitate clear dialogue. She also states that the Union will always prioritise safe campaigning for all students.

CA (Elected Officer From AZ) proposes announcing the referendum later to minimise the time for potential disruption.

MM responds to CA's proposal, arguing that delaying the referendum could anger some students, who have been promised that the Union would have this referendum.

JSW responds to MM's concerns, stating that UCL groups with the potential for disruption have not replied to Union's emails about the referendum; hence it is unlikely the Union will incur reputational risk if they delay.

ST reminds the zone that they must prioritise the democratic process; thus, he recommends that all students are given equal notice of the referendum, so they have equal time to prepare their campaigns.

UM proposes an amendment: to add a 'soft launch' announcement before the main announcement.

Members vote to approve UM's proposed amendment with 100% of the vote.

5. Matters for Approval - Articles of Association Review

ST asks members to vote on the proposed amendments to the SU's Articles of Association: the SU's governing document. The proposed changes include altering the nomenclature, simplifying our Union's governance structure and changing the quota required for a student to call a referendum or to submit a vote of no confidence in an Officer Trustee.

Attendees were also made aware of the Special Resolution relating to the Articles of Association:

'It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the draft Articles of Association (of UCLU) linked below be and are hereby approved and adopted as the Articles of Association of UCLU in substitution for and to the exclusion of UCLU's existing Articles of Association, provided that if any of the proposed amendments legally require the prior written consent of the Charity Commission and such consent has not been granted prior to the company general meeting on 7 February 2023, none of the amendments to the Articles of Association purported to be made by this resolution shall take effect until the date on which all necessary consents have been obtained from the Charity Commission.

Please note that the special resolution is condition. The changes will not come in to effect if Charity Commission consent is not obtained.'

VKA raises concern with increasing the threshold for a student to call a referendum, stating it would increase the democratic burden on students. She states that students are busy with other time commitments and do not have access to the resources that would allow them to reach a higher proportion of the student body.

UM disagrees with VKA, stating that a lower threshold may cause referendums without significant student interest to be held. He argues that a 1% threshold would not be difficult for students to reach.

DA states that to combat this problem, the SU could advertise petitions for referendums to help students reach 1%.

ST states that this is not the only route for students to call a referendum: they can also petition Union Executive.

DA reminds members that, even if it is a lengthy and costly process to amend the Articles of Association, they should not feel any pressure to vote a certain way.

OAO asks what the process would be to amend the Articles of Association in the future if the current proposed amendments are approved. ST states that Union Executive could propose changes to the SU's board.

MM supports the amendments, stating that it is important for the democratic process to facilitate students more easily holding their Sabbatical Officers to account.

Members resolved to adopt the Special Resolution in relation to the revisions to the Articles of Association:

'It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the draft Articles of Association (of UCLU) linked below be and are hereby approved and adopted as the Articles of Association of UCLU in substitution for and to the exclusion of UCLU's existing Articles of Association, provided that if any of the proposed amendments legally require the prior written consent of the Charity Commission and such consent has not been granted prior to the company general meeting on 7 February 2023, none of the amendments to the Articles of Association purported to be made by this resolution shall take effect until the date on which all necessary consents have been obtained from the Charity Commission.

Please note that the special resolution is condition. The changes will not come in to effect if Charity Commission consent is not obtained.'

6. Policy Proposals for Ratification - Including the Latino community as part of Enrolment data

DA gives overview of policy: the proposer wants the Latino community to be an option for ethnicity in UCL's enrolment forms.

OAO proposes to change Latino to Latinx, which is the gender-neutral version of Latino. CA asks whether adding this category would prevent them from matching their data with other universities. ST clarifies that this policy would involve the SU lobbying the Higher Education Statistics Agency, so that all universities would be required to add this category. MM supports the policy, stating that they have a growing Latinx community at UCL that deserves to be represented.

Policy passes with majority of the vote.

7. Policy Proposals for Ratification - Insourcing Staff

NM (Elected Officer From WCZ) presents his updated policy proposal, arguing that the Union should directly employ and insource staff members, whenever possible. His policy had

previously passed at WCZ2202 but was sent back to the zone by Union Executive as it was deemed infeasible to implement.

ST states that sometimes staff may prefer to be from an external company, especially for more specialised professions like lawyers and security, as the Union could be more limited in the training they could provide.

Policy passes with majority of the vote.

8. Matters for Information – HLM Panel

JSW informs the zone that the HLM Panel will meet in May, with MM chairing.

9. Matters for Information – Minutes from AZ2203

Members approve minutes.

10. Matters for Information - Minutes from EZ2203

Members approve minutes.

11. Matters for Information - Minutes from WCZ2203

Members approve minutes.

12. Officer Updates and Questions - Sabbatical Officers

MG (in place of in HTH, Trans Officer) states that the SU pages on liberation networks have not been updated on the SU website. They propose creating specific webpages for each liberation network to make information more accessible.

OAO agrees that liberation networks should have their own landing pages. Student officers have told her there is not enough reach and advertising for their networks.

MG also asks for progress on UCL including the option to incorporate pronouns on Portico.

ST states that this is on UCL's radar.

13. Officer Updates and Questions - Student Officers

There are no questions.

14. AOB

There is no other business.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Deniz Akinci, Union Affairs Officer

Signature:	
Date:	

These minutes have been approved by the 2023/24 Union Affairs Officer – Mary McHarg.

Signature:	Mary McHarg
Date:	9 October 2023