



Welfare and Community Zone  
Minutes

Date: Thursday 5 November 2020  
Time: 14:00-16:00  
Venue: Zoom

Chair: Yasmeen Daoud, Welfare and International Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Aarushi Menon, Women's Officer	✓		
Ahsana Parammal Vatteri, Officer for Students with Caring Responsibilities	✓		
Alex Skliros, Halls Representative – Langton Close/Frances Gardner House	✓		
Carol Paige, Democracy, Operations and Community Officer	✓		
Daria Chistova, Halls Representative – Ian Baker House			✓
Eliza Lawless, Sustainability Officer	✓		
Emz Smith, Halls Representative – Campbell House East and West	✓		
Helen Fellerman, Mature and Part-time Students' Officer			
Ifrah Farooq, Community Relations Officer (Job share)	✓		
Ina Natseva, Halls Representative – James Lighthill House		✓	
Izabella Wodzka, External Accommodation Officer	✓		
Jade Ygouf, Halls Representative – Endsleigh Gardens and John Adams Hall	✓		
Jim Onyemenam, Postgraduate Students' Officer	✓		
Josh Shah, Halls Representative – Astor College	✓		
Juanita Wickham, Halls Representative – St Pancras Way and Beaumont Court	✓		
Madina Khusnullina, International Students' Officer (Job share)			✓
Miles Schoedler, Halls Representative – Goldsmid House			
Naomi Hamptom, Halls Representative – Arthur Tattersall and John Tovell House	✓		
Nellia Konilova, International Students' Officer (Job share)			✓
Oliver Matheret, Halls Representative – John Dodgson House			✓
Shirom Selvaraj, Halls Representative – Prankerd House and Schafer House			✓
Sumayya Patel, Community Relations Officer (Job share)		✓	
Yasmeen Daoud, Welfare and International Officer, Chair	✓		
Ying Li, Halls Representative – New Hall (Caledonian Road)		✓	

In Attendance:
Danielle Swanson, Advice and Advocacy Manager
Aimee Connolly, Representation and Democracy Coordinator, Minutes
Simon To, Leadership, Development and Change Manager
Diana Hawk, Leadership Development Manager
Ferdouse Akhter, Digital Marketing Coordinator

### 1. **Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and each member introduced themselves.

### 2. **Zone introduction**

The Leadership Development Manager reminded members to complete the online training that was circulated prior to the meeting. They also gave a brief introduction to what the Welfare & Community Policy Zone is and an overview of the logistics of the committee.

### 3. **UCL Committees and Board vacancies**

The Chair noted that there are additional committee opportunities available in UCL and the SU. A document was circulated for members to express an interest in becoming a member.

**Action:** Members to consider joining UCL and SU committees and add their name by Friday

#### **4. *Elect one person to Union Executive***

The Chair explained what Union Executive is and that there is one position available for an elected member of the Welfare & Community Zone. The Mature and Part-time Students Officer and the Halls Representative for Langton Close/Frances Gardner House put themselves forward and each gave a short speech explaining what they would bring to the role.

An election was carried out via Zoom with voting members. The Halls Rep for Langton Close/Frances Gardner House was elected.

**Decision:** The Halls Rep for Langton Close/Frances Gardner House was elected to Union Executive.

#### **5. *Matter for information: Introducing sports hijabs***

The Chair noted that a discussion was held at Activities Zone about introducing modest alternatives for UCL sports uniforms. The discussion had also expanded to considering other barriers to sport such as a focus on alcohol at social events.

It was agreed by members that policy ideas should be considered to encourage a broader range of events in clubs and societies.

#### **6. *Outcomes from/input into committees***

The Chair gave members an update on work being done on extenuating circumstances and Lecturecast policies.

#### **7. *Officer priorities***

The Sabbatical officers discussed their priorities for the year, with a focus on issues that are specifically relevant to the Welfare & Community Zone.

#### **8. *Matter for discussion: Student experience – current issues and concerns & priorities for the year***

The members split into four groups and discussed their experience so far, as well as their priorities for the year. They then fed back to the main group, with the main issues being as follows:

Student experience thus far:

- Students been helping students with building online communities
- Some students enjoying online learning, some want more face to face teaching
- Loneliness/anxiety due to learning away from campus
- Issues with communication from departments

- No social aspect to their learning
- No access to printing facilities

Priorities for the year:

- Extenuating circumstances
- Transition to studying post COVID-19
- Mental health
- Working with UCL as partners
- Making Halls more affordable
- Clear escalation procedures for issues in Halls

#### **9. *Matter for discussion: Halls issues***

A number of issues were raised by Halls Reps, including

- Issues of crime being reported on campus
- Issues with communicating with security
- Inappropriate behaviour from security
- Rat infestations in apartments
- Issues being reported and not dealt with
- Kitchen capacity not large enough

#### **10. *Policy proposal: Mature student support***

The Mature and Part-time Students' Officer introduced the policy and noted that those over 60 are not offered loans by the Student Loans Company. The Postgraduate Students' Officer agreed with the policy and noted that international students also face discrimination in the same manner. Some issues were raised by the Advice and Advocacy Manager as it can be difficult for institutions to enforce repayment.

It was agreed by members that a number of clarifications should be made and that the policy should come back to be voted on at the next meeting of the Zone.

**Action:** The Postgraduate Students' Officer, Leadership Development & Change Manager and the Mature and Part-time Students' Officer are going to meet to discuss the policy and it will be brought to the next meeting.

#### **11. *Questions to Officers***

There were no questions for the Officers.

#### **12. *Any Other Business***

There was no AOB.

**Minutes approved as a true and accurate record**

Chair:	<b>Yasmeen Daoud, Welfare and International Officer</b>
Signature:	YD
Date:	9/11/2020