



Date: Thursday 3 November 2022
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
Venue: Medawar Building - Go2 Watson Lecture Theatre

Welfare & Community Zone

Minutes

Chair: Umair Mehmood, Welfare & Community Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Amanda Amaeshi, Hall Rep for Astor College	X		
Angel Ma, LGBTQ+ Officer	X		
Ben Bowne, Hall Rep for Campbell House East and West	X		
Callie Yoo, BME Students' Officer	X		
Camella Ramjet, Disabled Students' Officer			X
Carlos Eduardo Rangel Outeda, Hall Rep for Frances Gardner and Langton Close	X		
Dania Hernandez and Peter Kanyike, UCL East Student Officer (Job Share)			X
Divya Basan, Hall Rep for New Hall – Caledonian Road	X		
Fiona Verisqa, Hall Rep for Bernard Johnson House	X		
Golsana Haghdoosti, Hall Rep for Stapleton House	X		
Hamna Malik, Welfare Rep (Societies)	X		
Harper Taylor-Hanson, Trans Officer	X		
Hind Alhaji, Hall Rep for St Pancras Way	X		
Kartik Singh Rathore and Udaya Goel, International Students' Officer (Job Share)	X		
Lorena Lopez, Social Class & Mobility Officer	X		
Louisa Saukila, Officer for Students with Caring Responsibilities			X
Lucas Dastros-Pitei, Hall Rep for Endsleigh Gardens and John Adams Hall	X		
Manon Simmons and Sasha Green, Women's Officer (Job Share)	X		
Manven Gungah, Welfare Rep (Societies)	X		
Nick Miao, Accommodation & Housing Officer	X		
Oluseyi (Seyi) A Osibamowo, Equity & Inclusion Officer	X		
Sailesh Geddam, Hall Rep for 109 Camden Road	X		
TaeKyung Kim, Welfare Rep (Sports)	X		
Tope Oyelade, Mature & Part-time Students' Officer		X	
Umair Mehmood, Welfare & Community Officer (Chair)	X		
Vaania Kapoor Achuthan, Sustainability Officer		X	
William Moore, Hall Rep for Ian Baker House and Ramsay Hall	X		
Yiran Shi, Hall Rep for Prankerd and Schafer House	X		

Quorum: 15

In Attendance:
Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire, Representation and Democracy Manager
Julia Rooke, Representation and Democracy Coordinator
Samira Lily Chowdhury, Democracy Assistant, minutes
Danielle Swanson, Advice and Advocacy Manager
Student Observers (Lily Rimmer, Priya Jain, Jade Ygou, Nadhira Samsudeen, Sam O'Sullivan)

1. Preliminary Matters - Welcome and Introductions

Welfare & Community Officer welcomes members to the zone. Members all go around, introducing themselves, stating their name and position.

2. Preliminary Matters - Brief overview of Welfare & Community Zone

Representation and Democracy Coordinator gives an overview of Activities Zone, Welfare and Community Zone and Education Zone.

3. Announcements - Rep Election Results

Welfare & Community Officer states there was an incredibly positive response in recent rep elections, with zero complaints being made. 108 candidates gave feedback on the election process: only 1 reported a negative experience.

4. Matters for Information - Staff Updates

Advice and Advocacy Manager gives update on work of Advice Service: they have increased funding for hardship funds, created an activities and participation fund that will help students fund recreational activities that they might otherwise have financial barriers to.

Advice has also launched a gender expression fund that will provide financial and non-financial support to trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming students. Advice Service is also planning to run financial literacy workshops. Advice team dealing with a lot of housing issues- students are being priced out of private accommodation in London.

5. Matters for Information - Outcomes from and inputs to UCL committees

Welfare and Community Officer states that he sits on a number of committees, focusing on issues such as health and work.

6. Matters for Information - Advertise Board Committees

Welfare and Community Officer encourages members to put themselves forward to be on UCL's subcommittees and that members have until 7 November to apply.

7. Matters for Discussion- Agree on priorities for the year

Member raises concern that UCL Guarantor scheme does not take into account that London rent prices have increased, meaning that some students cannot use the scheme as their rent prices exceed UCL's threshold.

Member raises issue that there are technical problems with laundry payment system (Circuit) in UCL halls. Member also raises issue with general cleanliness and lack of heating in UCL halls.

Member states their priority is to make BME and LGBT+ students to feel more included. Member also states that postgraduates sometimes feel excluded from UCL events.

Member raises concern that UCL hall security takes too long to respond to issues.

Member states that they want to lobby UCL to re-join Stonewall.

Equity and Inclusion Officer responds to UCL hall queries, stating that UCL students can be compensated for issues, such as a lack of hot water or heating.

Equity and Inclusion Officer also states that inclusivity and accessibility should be at the forefront of all priorities.

8. Matters for Discussion - The Union should promote harm reduction to students who take illegal (and legal) drugs

Student observer Lily Rimmer states her argument for the Union to promote harm reduction to students who take illegal (and legal) drugs. She raises the point that this may be first-year students first exposure to drugs and drinking, and so they may feel peer pressured to be part of the university's drinking culture.

She also states that when Googling 'UCL help for substance abuse', official NHS and drug addiction organisations' websites come up, which she argues could deter students from seeking help. She also spoke to UCL Volunteering, who states that they only endorse a 'Say no to drugs' policy. Lily stresses the importance of this issue, stating that at University of London halls last year, a student overdosed and passed away. She states that this is a national problem in universities across the country, as a student from Newcastle University also passed away due to drugs.

Lily states that the Union could provide guidance on drugs for students to make well-informed decisions, provide drug testing kits and a drug combination chart guide. She argues that the Union should also promote more alcohol-free events across campus.

Welfare and Community Officer responds to Lily's argument that the Union should promote more alcohol-free events, stating that more 90% of the Union's events this year were alcohol-free. He also states that he is working on a harm-reduction approach campaign with Advice and Advocacy Manager. Advice and Advocacy Manager agrees with Lily's point that it can be detrimental to students to discipline drug use, instead of offering support.

Advice and Advocacy Manager states there has already been a meeting with UCL management to have a harm reduction policy in place. They are collecting more data on this.

Member raises query that will a harm-reduction policy be construed as the Union promoting drug use. Lily Rimmer states that drug use is already taking part on campus.

Equity and Inclusion Officer gives her support to Lily's idea of discussion, arguing that the Union should promote harm reduction to students who take illegal (and legal) drugs.

Advice and Advocacy Manager states that some universities' student unions have taken steps to implement a harm reduction policy already. She also clarifies that there is a distinction between changing UCL's Student Union and lobbying UCL to change university policy.

Trans Officer states that trans and LGBT communities often have higher drug use due to systemic injustices, and so supports the idea of the Union disseminating drug testing kits.

9. Matters for Approval - Elect 1 person to Union Executive

Welfare and Community Officer states that one person from the Welfare and Community Zone will be elected to also join the Union Executive.

Equity and Inclusion Officer warmly invites members to put themselves forward for Union Executive position, stating that it is an important position allowing the student to vote on key issues and so make a real difference.

4 members put themselves forward for the position. Winning 48% of the vote, Nick Miao, the Accommodation & Housing Officer, is elected to the position.

10. Policy Proposals - Active Bystander and Consent Training

Student Observers Priya Jain and Jade Ygou wants to make it compulsory for all Committee Members of societies, staff, and Society Presidents to complete and submit an Active Bystander certificate in order to be able to achieve their position.

Priya and Jade state that this training is technically already mandatory for all students, but only 4% of students actually complete the training.

Member raises point that it is already compulsory for society presidents and treasurers to complete this but Jade responds stating that she wants all the training to be compulsory for all committee members.

Equity and Inclusion Officer states that she thinks this is a great policy proposal but raises query about whether Priya and Jade expect all UCL staff to also complete the training. Priya and Jade respond they want to focus more on students completing the training rather than staff, but they state that the more people who complete the training, the better.

Accommodation & Housing Officer argues that completing the training should be a prerequisite in order for students to run as committee members. Priya and Jade state that they originally wished to propose this but faced opposition from staff. Advocacy and Advice Manager raises the logistical issue with this (the training is in 2 parts and the 2nd part is a facilitated session with a staff member), but states she is still open to the idea.

Equity and Inclusion Officer states she has spoken to senior members of staff at UCL about this issue and gives her support for the policy.

Advice and Advocacy Manager gives background on the '1<3' consent module on Moodle that UCL ran. She states that this was successful as they gave away free coffee cups to students that completed the module. She states a problem with the current bystander training program that students are not awarded certificates for completing the training.

Trans Officer gives support to the proposal, stating that the issue of spiking in queer communities also needs to be considered in this training and that society committee members should consider the LGBTQ+ community in this training.

Representation and Democracy Manager states that the Union's communications should emphasise more that being 'a student leader' encompasses completing this training.

Members vote and policy passes with 90% of the vote.

11. Policy Proposals - Tea and Consent Videos in Lecture Halls in complement to our Training about Consent

Priya and Jade would like the 'tea' consent YouTube video played at the start of the first introductory lecture in every lecture hall for the next incoming start of the academic year 2023-24. They state that they have never been given any consent training while at UCL and state that it would have particularly been useful during Freshers Week.

Trans Officer disagrees with this policy proposal, raising the point that students who are assault survivors may be triggered by watching this in lecture halls and leaving the lecture hall would single them out as an assault survivor.

Member raises issue with policy, stating that playing this video in every single introductory lecture would become tedious for students.

Priya and Jade state that they agree with both points raised.

Equity and Inclusion Officer argues with Trans Officer that this video should not be played publicly, but she argues that a discussion concerning consent training should occur in later meetings.

Trans Officer argues that instead transition mentors could run a consent training session and could provide a trigger warning. She states that this could be more personal, sensitive and meaningful, provided that the transition mentors are trained in running these sessions.

Advocacy and Advice Manager raises her concern that a trigger warning was not considered in advance of discussing such a sensitive topic at this meeting.

Priya and Jade raise a rebuttal to Trans Officer's idea of transition mentors providing consent training, arguing that this would be overwhelming and too heavy of a topic for students to handle.

Action Point: Priya and Jade agree to withdraw their policy proposal. Representation and Democracy Manager states this policy proposal could be turned into an item of discussion to be discussed at a future meeting, potentially with the Equity and Inclusion Officer and the Women's Officer.

12. Print the emergency helplines and the Violence Meter onto UCL's food products' packaging

Student Observers Priya and Jade propose that the Union should print the emergency helplines and the Violence Meter onto SU's disposable cups of coffee for the start of next year (January 2023).

Member raises concern with policy, stating it may deter students from buying the Union's coffee.

Trans Officer raises rebuttal to member's concern, stating that a student should have to recognise their privilege if made uncomfortable by seeing the Violence Meter on their food packaging. However, they state that it may be triggering for abuse survivors to see the more severe end of the Violence Meter on their food packaging.

Member argues that, although she loves the policy idea, some students do not buy coffee and so perhaps emergency helplines and the Violence Meter should be printed on magnets or of the inside of UCL's toilets.

Member raises concern that coffee cups are not large enough to print the whole Violence Meter onto.

Advice and Advocacy Manager states that there may be cost issues to print the Violence Meter and emergency helplines onto the Union's coffee cup.

Amendment: Jade and Priya wish to amend their policy proposal, wanting to produce posters detailing emergency helplines and other support services to be put in toilet cubicles.

Members vote on this amendment, and it passes with 86%.

Policy proposal passes with 90% of the vote.

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

Student observer Sam O'Sullivan proposes that the Mature & Part-time Students' Officer should be a member of the Activities Zone, Education Zone and Union Executive.

LGBQ+ officer states that they are surprised the Mature & Part-time Students' Officer is not already a member of the Activities Zone, Education Zone and Union Executive.

Welfare and Community Officer states that time commitments can act as a hinderance for the Mature & Part-time Students' Officer to be a member of the Activities Zone, Education Zone and Union Executive.

Advice and Advocacy Manager raises question about whether every student officer should have every opportunity to convene a network, which would increase capacity for officers to attend meetings.

Equity and Inclusion Officer agrees with Welfare and Community Officer's point that time commitments can act as a hinderance for the Mature & Part-time Students' Officer to join all meetings. She states that a future discussion should occur on this topic.

Policy proposal passes.

14. University College London to end ties with companies/brands complicit in Uyghur forced labour

Student observer, Nadhira Samsudeen, proposes University College London's Finance Committee and Investments Committee should urge UCL to end all current and future relations with companies complicit in the use of Uyghur forced labour (as set out in the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's report).

Member states that she is from China and she does not agree with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's report, stating she believes elements of it to be false and that forced labour is not as prevalent as the report suggests.

Nadhira Samsudeen states that the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's report has been used widely by institutions and is well-respected globally. Member states her rebuttal, arguing that this forced labour is not occurring. Nadhira Samsudeen states that the United Nations has released reports stating that they have evidence for these detainment camps.

Another member states that he agrees with the policy proposal but raises a concern about the logistics of the university cutting ties with these companies. Nadhira Samsudeen raises a rebuttal

to this point, stating that Oxford University has recently cut ties with the company Huawei, due to their links with forced Uyghur labour.

Policy passes with 74% of the vote.

15. Officer Updates and Questions- Equity & Inclusion Officer

Ran out time for officer questions.

16. Officer Updates and Questions- Welfare & Community Officer

Ran out time for officer questions.

17. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Umair Mehmood, Welfare & Community Officer
Signature:	Umair Mehmood
Date:	14/11/2022