



Date: Monday 26 February 2024
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
Venue: Taviton Street 14-16 Room 347 / Microsoft Teams

Welfare & Community Zone

Minutes

Chair: Ahmad Ismail, Equity & Inclusion Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Abraham Selby, Hall Community Officer for Stapleton House			X
Ahmad Ismail, Equity & Inclusion Officer	X		
Amr Maher, Hall Community Officer for James Lighthill House			X
Anji Suri, Trans Officer		X	
Awa Bobb , Welfare Reps - Societies 1			X
Christopher Johnson, Mature & Part-time Students' Officer	X		
Coco Lai, Hall Community Officer for One Pool Street	X		
Donna Amewu, Hall Community Officer for Endsleigh Gardens and John Adams Hall	X		
Elisa de Aragao Bibay, Women's Officer	X		
Grace Yang, Sustainability Officer	X		
Issy Smith, Postgraduate Officer		X	
James Zhou, Hall Community Officer for Frances Gardner House and Langton Close			X
Jamila Kabir and Hanna Morris, UCL East Student Officer			X
Josh Mills, Hall Community Officer for Prankerd and Schafer House			X
Juan Grano De Oro Fernandez, Postgraduate Hall Community Officer for 109 Camden Road (Ann Stephenson, Ifor Evans, Max Rayne and Neil Sharp House)	X		
Karam Johal, Undergraduate Hall Community Officer for 109 Camden Road (Ann Stephenson, Ifor Evans, Max Rayne and Neil Sharp House)			X
Langat Naomi, Social Class & Mobility Officer		X	
Louise Steele Saukila, Officer for Students with Caring Responsibilities	X		
Lucas A H Dastros-Pitej, Accommodation & Housing Officer	X		
Manaal Tariq, International Students' Officer	X		
Maria Rosa Albina Stebbings , Welfare Reps - Societies 2	X		
Maria Toigonbaeva, Hall Community Officer for John Dodgson House	X		
Marian Jago, Welfare Reps - Societies 3	X		
Marwa Zakir, Welfare Reps - Societies 4			X
Max James, Hall Community Officer for St Pancras Way			X
Micah Gerstner, LGBTQ+ Officer		X	
Mustafa Ahmed, Hall Community Officer for New Hall - Caledonian Road			X
Mustafa Ali, Hall Community Officer for Goldsmid House			X
Philip Greger and Suzanna Chen, Disabled Students' Officer			X
Rawleka Wilson and Rachel Lim, People of Colour Students' Officer	X		
Roger Holwerda, Hall Community Officer for Arthur Tattersall and John Tovell House			X
Saloni Mookerjee, Hall Community Officer for Ian Baker House and Ramsay Hall			X
William Warwick, Hall Community Officer for Campbell House East and West			X

Quorum: 17

In Attendance:
Rhiannon Ellis, Representation & Democracy Coordinator, minutes
Jayne Flowers, Representation & Democracy Coordinator
Shaban Chaudhary, Education Officer
Imogen Carell, Student Observer
Altay Shaw, Student Observer
Tom Glynn, EDI Manager UCL
Meg Haskins, Policy and Research Manager
Max Keeble, Head of IT and Digital

Actions Log 2023/24	Responsibility	Update due:

1. Preliminary Matters - Welcome and Introductions

Ahmad Ismail (AI), Equity & Inclusion Officer and Chair warmly welcomed everyone to the Zone.

2. Preliminary Matters – Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes were approved.

3. Officer Updates and Questions – Equity & Inclusion Officer

AI gave updates on the following meetings they attended:

- Freedom of speech consultation – AI spoke about the impartial chairs programme which is run by the Students’ Union.
- EDI Committee meeting – AI advised members that they had received information about data relating to reasonable adjustments.
- Reasonable adjustments working group – looking at how to make SORAs easier and make the process easier. Trying to move to a centralised SORA.
- LGBTQ+ History Month – Summarised everything that has taken place from the Students’ Union, and they are currently writing a blog post about the successes.
- Accommodation – Spoke about the future of halls and working with the University on an accommodation master plan and strategy for the upcoming year.

4. Officer Updates and Questions – Postgraduate Officer

The Postgraduate Officer was not present.

5. Matters for Information – APP Student Submission

Meg Haskins (MH) attended and spoke about the Action and Participation Plan (APP plan) which they are currently working on in collaboration with the University.

As part of the plan there is a student submission element and MH asked zone members whether anyone would be interested in getting involved and attending an online focus group.

MH advised that if anyone is interested in getting involved with any of the Students' Unions research in the future then to send an email – m.haskins@ucl.ac.uk. *The focus groups have taken place before the minutes have been published.*

MH also advised that they are running a research project looking at the gender expression fund that is run by the Students' Union, as well as the experiences of Trans, non-binary gender fluid students at UCL. They are going to be running some focus groups. They are open to all students in order to gain a diverse perspective. If you would like to be involved, please email m.haskins@ucl.ac.uk

6. Matters for Discussion – Outcomes from and inputs to UCL committees

AI updated on committees as part of their Officer updates section.

7. Matters for Discussion – Elections and voting testing

Max Keeble (MK) spoke to zone members about the user experience of the Students' Union voting platform. MK asked for feedback around what it is like to vote and whether they have any suggestions on what can be improved.

MK explained that the following amendments have been made this year for the upcoming Leadership Race:

- Language has changed on ballot – it now states “please rank at least one of the candidates according to your preference. You do not need to rank all candidates”. This is because previously students thought that they had to rank all candidates in preferential order rather than just voting for who they would like.
- Icon next to candidate name – previously students did not realise they could click on the candidate's name to see more information.

- Once clicking on the candidate name it will provide a pop up rather than students having to scroll down through all the candidates.

MK asked members to test the voting system (which can be done [here](#)) and if anyone has any feedback to email su.systems@ucl.ac.uk

8. Matters for Discussion – LGBTQ+ Action Plan

Tom Glynn (TG) is one of the EDI Managers in the central EDI team at UCL who came to speak about the LGBTQ+ Action Plan. TG explained that the action plan was created in response to UCL's disaffiliation of Stonewall in December 2021.

Slides have been uploaded to the papers section for reference.

Elisa de Aragao Bibay (EAB) – Asked that women's network and LGBTQ+ Network have been working on project period and looking at how to expand it. TG said that they were happy to have additional conversations.

AI also shared that they sit on EMAG as the student representative. AI asked if there are any other ways of monitoring the progress of the LGBTQ+ inclusion. TG said that there are charters programmes, and they also meet with a group of other Universities known as LUKI (LSE, UCL, KCL and Imperial), where they scope out and benchmark action plans and progress.

Due to WCZ2304 not being quorate the following four policies were unable to be voted on. The first three policies were not discussed again in this Zone as they were previously discussed in WCZ2303.

9. Policy Proposals – Pronoun Integration

10. Policy Proposals – Information Posters Next to Calorie Displays

11. Policy Proposals – Enhancing Lighting Infrastructure on Campus

12. Policy Proposals – Men's Welfare Officer

Demetri Alvanis (DA) was in attendance to present their proposal regarding the introduction of a Men's Welfare Student Officer.

DA gave a presentation outlining the 'All Jokes Aside' Campaign and the reasoning behind the policy proposal. DA explained that from seeing the impact of the campaign there are gaps in provision surrounding men's mental health which is why they felt that introducing a Men's Welfare Officer role would help to fill that gap. DA also shared that as the 'All Jokes Aside' campaign is aimed at sports; it is not wide enough to engage with more students. DA also highlighted that they are not labelling the

role as a liberation role, however, to have an impact it should have voting rights in all three Zones, Union Executive and the EDI committee.

Feedback from Zone members included:

- Concern that the position is too narrow, and it is similar to a liberation officer
- Concern that this role is very similar to the Welfare & Community Sabbatical Officer position
- Concern around the role having the same voting rights as a Liberation Officer. Suggestion that the role has limited voting rights, for example in one Zone.
- Suggestion that the All Jokes Aside campaign should remain under the remit of the Sports Officer role.
- Suggestion to create a society or a wider range of events for men's mental health rather than the introduction of a Student Officer position.

DA responded and said this role would not be a liberation role, but it requires the same level of attention and voting rights within the Zones. DA also expressed that the argument surrounding the Men's Welfare role and the Welfare & Community Sabbatical Officer role clashing didn't make sense, as all the other Student Officer roles catering towards wellbeing would clash. DA also highlighted that this year the Welfare & Community role has been vacant and therefore it is important that there is a role in place that can cover if this Sabbatical role is vacant in the future. DA also shared that there is a gap in the democratic structure for men's mental health and therefore this position will help to fill that gap and highlight how important this issue is.

13. Any Other Business

Shaban Chaudhary (SC) was in attendance and provided an update on what they have been working on, which included:

- Working with sports consultant on increasing the sports provisions at UCL
- Student staff partnership committees – Faculty Representatives have been having a pre-meeting with SC where agendas are decided ahead of the individual meetings.
- Finance committee – The Union changed banking from Barclays to Metro, however due to Metro recently crashing they are going to be looking towards changing banks again.
- UCL Council – had a recent meeting which focused on student engagement and student experience.

SC also provided an updated on the Student Support Framework: Extenuating Circumstances Review.

SC asked for feedback from the zone members via email – e.officer@ucl.ac.uk

Louise Steele Saukila (LSS) shared that there is a concern that the Students with Caring Responsibilities Officer has been combined into a new Mature, Part-time & Carers Student Officer position as there is now no representation for parents. LSS wanted to propose that there is a Parent Network representative introduced, or a Parent Students' Officer. LSS also expressed that the Parent Society is now no longer able to continue due to the new Mature, Part-time & Carers Network.

Rhiannon Ellis (RE) said that as the Student Officer Review has taken place, they would speak to them outside of the meeting and see whether a Parent Network Representative could be included within the new Mature, Part-time and Carers Network.

Zone finished at 20:00.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Ahmad Ismail
Signature:	Ahmad Ismail
Date:	12 April 2024