

# London South Bank University Students' Union Union Council Meeting



UC23012023

23rd January 2023 Minutes

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Date: 23/01/23

Time: 17:00-19:00

Location: K2-V404

## Agenda

- 1.0 Welcome and apologies
- 2.0 Chair's introduction
- 3.0 Agree the accuracy and approve the minutes of the last meeting
- 4.0 Note any matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda
- 5.0 Officer Reports
- 6.0 Officer group discussion
- 7.0 Items/papers/policies to receive, consider, discuss and approve
- 8.0 Note items for information
- 9.0 Any other business and date of the next meeting

## Minutes

*For approval*

Minutes of the Union Council meeting (28 November 2022)

### **1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations**

#### 1.1. Voting members in attendance:

- Devonte James (SU President)
- Abdirahim Ibrahim (Chair of Union Council)
- Mirella El-Jebaili (Students' Union Deputy President and Vice President of Education)
- Fatema Toz Zohora (Students' Union Vice President Welfare and Equalities)
- Anas Khan (Students' Union Vice President Activities and Employability)
- Abdirahim Ibrahim (Chair of Union Council)
- Charlotte Adams (Disabled Students' Part-Time Officer)
- Abdur Rahman Tanim (International Students' Part-Time Officer)
- Jamie Jenner (LGBTQ+ Students' Officer)

#### 1.2. In attendance:

- Matt Myles-Brown (Students' Union Deputy CEO)
- Yvonne Quartey-Papafio (Students' Union Community Development Coordinator)

#### 1.3. Apologies:

- Ashik Showrav (Postgraduate Students' Part-Time Officer)
- Aaron Miles Mulley (Mature & Part-Time Students' Part-Time Officer)

1.4. The Chair brought the meeting to order. All attendees introduced themselves and their role.

1.5. No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.6. Matters arising were introduced by the Chair.

### **2. Chair's introduction**

- 2.1. The chair opened the meeting.
- 2.2. Part-Time officers introduced themselves.
- 2.3. Full-Time officers introduced themselves.
- 2.4. Chair introduced himself and his role in the union council.

### **3. Agree the accuracy and approve the minutes of the last meeting**

- 3.1. Mirella asked for Deborah Johnson to be changed from Mead.

### **4. Note any matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda**

- 4.1. Anas asked for a discussion on how part-time officers can engage with the SU and how they are supported.
- 4.2. Devonte asked for feedback on the union council structure to be given in the meeting.
- 4.3. Actions to be included in minutes.

### **5. Officer Reports**

- 5.1. The full-time officers were invited by the Chair to give updates to Council as to their work on behalf of the union since the beginning of term.
- 5.2. Devonte- International buddy scheme is still in progress. Working with Mike from student life centre to shortlist and work on budgeting. New students will be allocated to buddys soon. Coloured lanyards are going well- Met with James Lee who will be meeting with his board to discuss the matter further and approve the budgets for that. Cost of living campaign was a success and the team were able to gather loads of insight. Will be having a meeting this week to discuss. Had a meeting with the career hub and is working on a campaign with them to increase graduate outcomes. TEFF- submitted teff report last week. Employment opportunities- wants to work on promoting opportunities. Had a meeting with the head of student services and careers hub to get a list of opportunities available on the campus.
- 5.3. Fatema- Cost of living- has collected nearly 700 student's insight. Working on finalising paper. Decolonising- attend workshop called challenging whiteness, organised by decolonising LSBU team who will be doing a workshop in Feb. Spoken with EDI team who have confirmed that staff and students can have pronouns on ID cards. Met with Illian about issues with international students around financial issues raised in the last meeting. The university is going to change wording in their emails and will be more transparent about this. Charlotte asked about sanitary products in the toilets as students have requested this. Fatema explained that when she was women's officer she wanted to work on this. This is something that she would like to do a campaign on this. Jamie asked about pronouns issue and asked how someone can get their pronouns put onto their badge. Fatema said that her current understanding is that this would need to be arranged with the security team. Charlotte asked if this is something that can be changed on the university system as well. Jamie asked if pronouns on name badges will become a default or if students will have to keep asking for to be put on. Fatema asked for a meeting with Charlotte and Jamie to discuss further.
- 5.4. Mirella- Stated last time that there would be workshops to emphasise what careers hub can offer. Has had conversations with them about this and is currently waiting on time tabling. In the next meeting, Mirella will be able to give a proper update on this. Last time Mirella explained that she was giving insight and contribution to campus end project (app where everything is in one place). Is currently on LSBU's case to find out what is wrong with it as there have been some issues. Needs students' insight to make improvements. Enhancing academic support- is having regular meetings with Deborah Johnson about this, lecturers will hopefully begin to start reviewing each other's courses and give feedback. Students are wanting lectures recorded- Mirella is now part of a small team to get some insight from students about how this will benefit them so that a report can be created.

5.4 Anas- Friday prayer space- has been working with Matt to get the prayer spaced booked for this semester. Working with devonte on separate prayer spaces in the LSBU Hub. Cultural events- Baul Night will be happening this month. Dholki Night happening in Feb. Has worked with the team on cost of living which Anas has been enjoying. The experience has impacted the cost of the meal deal offered in the campus canteen. Had a meeting with the careers hub to talk about graduate outcomes. Working on promotion of the work he is doing- has made a video about the prayer space. Charlotte and Jamie added that the cost of living campaign has had a great impact on cost of food on campus and a lot of students have noticed.

5.5. The part-time officers were invited by the Chair to give updates to Council as to their work on behalf of the union since the beginning of term.

5.6. Charlotte- Has a lot of updates from community- exams is currently an issue as there is confusion around DDS extensions and EC extensions. Charlotte is thinking about creating a campaign around this to make information more accessible. A further exam problem is around looking into how invigilators are assigned- one student was denied their extended time as invigilators were careless about adjustments. Charlotte had personal experiences where her reading software was not on her laptop in an exam. Estates- lights not working in exam rooms. Continuous problems around support, arrangements and adjustments. Mental health support- not discreet as students have to go to the front desk to have their wellbeing sessions in person. It is also not made clear to students what room they need to go to. Charlotte has some captain ideas for this semester- let's talk mental health, bake sale to raise for charity, sign language course, talks from people who have disabilities who can talk about their experiences, umbrella project. Mirella asked MMB where she can raise these issues to- MMB explained that the student tracker would be the best place. Mirella asked Fatema to work with her to raise awareness on the DDS extension issue.

5.7. Abdur- Doesn't have much of an update as he has not had training yet. Has not been able to have a networking event due to exams.

5.8. Jamie- Also waiting on training. Has been working with Yvonne on LGBT History month which will be happening in Feb. Had a board game social before Christmas which went well. Head of EDI has reached out for a meeting. Main event of the month will be a drag night on the 17th, in the student bar, paid entry event and a DJ will be coming. MMB asked who the EDI lead is- Jamie said it was Chloe and has been speaking to her about the pronoun badges which is in progress.

## **6. Officer Group Discussion**

6.1 Devonte, Anas & Abdur- discussed the international buddy scheme and decided it would be a good idea for Abdur to be on the panel. Anas- spoke about graduation dates as international students do not get enough time on their visa so that they can attend their graduation. Would like socials for PTO's and FTO's. Would like to introduce an award for PTO's or certificate.

6.2 Charlotte, Jamie, Fatema & Mirella- Decided that they will be creating a campaign for the EC extension issue. Spoke about doing a collaboration on events. Spoke about gender neutral toilets on campus as this is not widespread enough in the university. Jamie would like to put a guide together for LGBTQIA+ students to help them find gender neutral toilets ect. Spoke about doing an LGBTQ+ awareness campaign which Charlotte would like to support with.

## **7. Items/papers/policies to receive, consider, discuss and approve**

Matt explained what this is.

## **8. Note items for information**

Actions:

- Mirella to send all PTO's information on the issue tracker and how it is structured
- Fatema to arrange meeting with Jamie and Charlotte to discuss pronouns on badges issues further.
- Mirella to get update on careers hub workshop.
- Mirella and Fatema to discuss how they can raise awareness about DDS extension issue.

## **9. Any other business and date of the next meeting**

Devonte- Has created a real on instagram for the hardship fund.

Matt- Elections are coming up for FTO and PTO roles for next year.

Matt- explained that last semester, there was an attempt to do an AMM. There will be another one which will be attached to the next union council meeting. May have also recruited a new external trustee and explained that Union council will need to agree on who is recruited.