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# **Union Council**

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| **Date:** | 02.11.23 |
| **Time:** | 5.00pm |
| **Location:** | S3.01 and Online |

## **Minutes**

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| 1.0 | 1.1 | **Present:** Brandon Tester, Will Deeley, Lucy Ryan, Sruthi Subhash, Amy Pile, Natasha Neal, Tristan Tipping, Sarah Jackson, Jess Bradbury, Anish Khuttan, Anna Treble, Ayesha Chaudhry, Benedicta Duhoe, Cailtin Hodges, Charlotte Leighton-Woods, Egan Daborn, Emily Crawshaw, Grace Dzumbunu, Joao Pires, John Heatley, Lauren Foley, Liv Ross, Maureen Natumi, Luke Lindsay, Mikhail George, Mohammad Zakria, Niamh Lennox Hutchins, Olivia Stocco, Renato Martins, Sasha Jones, Tim Cunningham, Lucy Thompson  Tyrese Senior, Vivian Owobu, William Johnson, Om Dhadwal, Judit Szenfine Juhasz, Chiamaka Stacey Ufomba, Arjun Anilkumar, Lauren Milne, Syd Shaw, Zach Worship, Madhau Jayalal, Christopher Thornhill, Eliesha Skinner, Felix Swallow, Lilli Aldis, Luca Annibale, Toby Hamlin, Ellie Jessica Lynn, Vytautas Kravcenka, Joy Dellah-Gu, Oliver Hyde, Tom Shirley, Dhanya Mohan, Peter Ashiagbor, Marissa Leyden, Esther Stephenson, Bethany Jackson, Dee Whyte, Grace Paisley, Reece Newey, Maya Jones, Abigail Hix  Mishal Pradipkumar, Jake Ambridge Wood, Olly Ross, Laurelle Henry, Erin Cook, Ethan Hutcheson, Tyler Smith, Seyi Solola, Wren Sell, Tricia Glassborrow, Abi Birch, Jasmine Young, Finn Beaumont, Harry Copeland, Stacey Baxter, Riyad Moussaid |  |
|  | 1.2 | **In attendance:** Sarah Nawaz |  |
|  | 1.3 | **Apologies for Absence (Union Officers Only):** Mohit Nayal (BAME), Jacob Hosanee (Disabilities) |  |
|  | 1.4 | **Absent without apologies:** |  |
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| 2.0 |  | **Opening and Key Dates** |  |
|  |  | * Monthly Meals – 30th November * Diwali - 13th Nov * Smile campaign in HW on 20th Nov and UxB on 27th Nov * Rep Con - 6th December * Hanukkah - 7 -15th December   New Union Council Chair is Ana Silva Timoteo announced, will be coming to meeting once her lecture has finished. | LR |
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| 3.0 |  | **Updates** |  |
|  |  | Sabbatical Officers  BTe:   * Attended Student Experience Committee * Had a 1 to1 with Nick Braisby * Have received an extra £4000 from Bucks County Council toward the monthly meals   JB:   * Continuing to work on Bucks celebrates * Held numerous events for Black history * Spoke of upcoming events * Interviewed Jay Blades * Completed mental health in sport training   SKS:   * Working on wellbeing campaign alongside the university wellbeing team * Attending validation and academic integrity panel. * Has a meeting with the university executive team * Will be attending the 2nd education committee next week   AP:   * Breakfast has been reinstated at Uxbridge and Aylesbury * Wellbeing fair at Uxbridge and Aylesbury to be held * Working on an SU area at Aylesbury |  |
|  |  | Trustees  BTe:   * Moving forward the student trustees will give the update * Held a lay trustee selection committee to fill the 2 trustee role, interviews will be in the coming weeks * Had a finance and staffing meeting – nothing to report |  |
|  |  | Executive Officers  LR:   * All posts are now filled * Students can sign up to email updates from officer, look on website * Survey is out looking at the renaming of the BAME role. QR code given and details also on Website * Liv Ross (Womens): the first executive committee meeting took place, there will a tea and mixer session next week. Has also organised a self defence seminar, check website for details |  |
|  |  | AU and Societies Council Chairs |  |
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| 4.0 |  | **Guest Speaker/Discussion** |  |
|  |  | Samantha Mitchell (Safeguarding Officer) – ‘Support and Report’ |  |
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| 5.0 |  | **Question of the Month** |  |
|  |  | As a paying customer of the university, are you satisfied with the level of service you receive? |  |
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| 6.0 |  | **Sabb Hot Seat** |  |
|  |  | What do you actually do?  JB: Act as the student voice in SU and university committees  BTe: Represent students and act in your interest, try and make student life better, follow social media for biweekly updates from the officers  TT: Difficult to capture all the Sabbs do day to day. Sometimes issues arise or policies are put in place which may not always be in the students interest, so Sabbs will attend these meetings and prioritise the student voice. It may not seem important now but if not challenged could affect their learning during their time at the university  What are your predications for the next varsity?  JB: Based on results so far, go either way  BTe We are going to win  How else can you help people with any financial difficulties?  AP: Currently putting together a paper looking into commuting costs also putting the free breakfasts in place helps.  BTe: The advice centre is available for students to contact and there are tools on finance management on the website. The university also has a cost of living help centre. If anyone has any other ideas, please email them.  Are there going to be any events for Movember or breast cancer awareness this year?  BTe: Yes currently working on Movember – current idea is for a sponsored work. For breast cancer awareness there will be video on how to check your breasts and there will a push to raise money next February/March time.  Is there anything in the works your looking forward to?  SKS: Attending the Senate meeting in December as it will be an opportunity to challenge the university  AP: Placement booklets for nurses and everything else  BTe: Movember, Monthly meals and continuing to make life better for students at Bucks  JB: Nothing specific, doing research into EDI.  What’s your advice to someone that wants to be a Sabb officer?  BTE: Speak to the current officer and rep team for more information  JB: Just go for it  AP: There is so much to do at Uxbridge and Aylesbury as well, it’s good opportunity  SKS: If I can do it anyone can  Is SU adding a MEN exec?  JB: If this is something students want it can be implemented, speak to them or fill in the anonymous feedback forms.  What’s your favourite part of the role?  BTe: Representing the students  SKS: Every day is different, no boredom  AP: Getting thanked by students for something done, makes you feel good  JB: Getting to know students, being involved in events and societies  Do you have any new ideas to help with mental health?  SKS: Working on this, need feedback from students on what would be helpful, wanting to create a safe space  BTe: Looking create a safe place for male students to discuss their issues  AP: Looking at techniques for managing mental health issues like anxiety, any ideas let them know.  Are you working on a kit collection and return system for after the SU closes? Current one works but isn’t great.  JB: Working on this but for now need to carry on with current system  What are your main priorities and goals this year as officer?  BTe: Check on website and on social media for an overview of each officer’s priorities  AP: It is good to be reminded of manifesto priorities by students to make sure they are being done.  What will Rep Con look like?  AP: This year will have a new structure, more information will be coming out soon  Which part of your role do you find challenging?  AP: Not being based at the main university but have received good support so role going well  SKS: Response time from university about changes students want, it can be discouraging  JB: Trying to make sure all students feel they belong here, frustrating if not able to help students in relation to the university  BTe: Response time from university about issues raised, they are processed slowly. Keeping my cool in meetings as can be frustrating.  Is there the chance to have a more frequent shuttle between Aylesbury and Wycombe?  AP: Students need to voice they want this and need to know that a good numbers of students will use it, please speak to her about it.  Who’s taking part in the smile campaign?  BTe: All Sabbs  JB: The campaign is a Fairtrade event, students hand out fruit in exchange for a smile in the local community. Students are welcome to volunteer, details and sign up is on the What’s on page  Following idea of the help yourself shelf, would it possible to provide a platform or sign up sheet where student can ask for essentials?  JB: Students can use the feedback form to request what they would like and items will be bought  BTe: Rusty’s refill station is available and is very cheap.  AP: the help yourself shelf will be implemented in Aylesbury and hopefully Uxbridge.  Is there an update on the homeless in the underpass? Me and a number of my friends have been approached multiple times at night by them and it doesn’t feel safe?  BTe: Spoken about in last meeting, not illegal for them to be there, working with local homeless charity and police about this  JB: If any student feels unsafe, contact the police and mention you’re a university student. This will mean any incidents are recorded.  Halls are a mess. Is there a way you guys can help at all?  JB: Fill in the feedback form and we will pass it onto accommodation team.  BTe: At the next meeting, accommodation manager will be attending.  Is it possible to have more events outside of High Wycombe and include transport?  JB: Depends on location, can’t always do transport due to costs. If a lot of student are wanting to attend an event, it could be look into it.  Is there anything to help commuting student with parking?  BTe: Currently working on this, will give an update when available  AP: Aylesbury council have said they do not offer discount for residents so won’t for students  What have you planned for the mixer?  Liv R (Womens): It will be chance to meet everyone, have tea and biscuits  How’s your week been?  AP: Traffic been awful but generally a good week as I spent time with family  JB: Had a day off, week has been good  SKS: Has been quiet, met with some students  BTe: Been attending meetings  Is there any support available for commuting students using public transport?  AP: Working on this  For student that have to do placement. If they stay in halls, they cant have their car, 1st years have little options outside of living in halls, can exceptions be made?  BTe: Please email him about this.  JB: Sometimes can be outside of university hands, could be down to land ownership, planning permissions etc  How do you receive the monthly meal bags?  BTe: Sign up on what’s on page  AP: Uxbridge and Aylesbury students also can receive them |  |
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|  |  | Union Council Start Time |  |
|  |  | * What start time works best for you? * Question being asked as students finish lectures late * Options are 5pm or 6pm * Students invited to vote and vote will continue on website |  |
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| 7.0 |  | **Any Other Business** |  |
|  |  | JB:   * Please use feedback forms, these are anonymous   BTe:   * Make sure you are registered to vote in next year’s election * Javier from Accommodation will be coming to speak at the next meeting |  |
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| 8.0 |  | **Date and time of subsequent meetings:**  30th November 2023 at 5.00pm, Room S3.01 and Online |  |