|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

# **Union Council**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date:**  | 10.04.25 |
| **Time:** | 5.00pm |
| **Location:** | S3.01 and Online |

## **Minutes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.0 | 1.1 | **Present:** Lucy Ryan, Will Deeley, Natasha Neal, Matthew Kitching, Harry Tomlinson, Bethany Jackson, Julia Ellis, Sarah Jackson, Tristan Tipping, Wren Sell, Jenaya Nicole-Hackshaw, Erin Cook, Emily Crawshaw, Asad Anfishi, Tara-Lee Hollander, Vivian Owobu, Matthew Osborne, Harry Knowles, Charlotte Fowkes, Hana Tauseeque, Michael Wilcox, Donna-Marie Langston, Duarte Basto De Lima, Debbie Cunningham, Aliyah Rashid, Laura Eustration, Emily Cox, Adaeze Ubah, Mirjam Moscovici, Souda Chowdhury, Lilli Aldis, Malavika Sreekumar, Vytautas Kracenka, Joseph Burrell, Tejal-Paige Eccleston- Palmer, Jilna Maria James, Sachin Davis, Ritamary Benny, Soufriere Etherington, Peter Ashiagbor, Kristen Clarke, Patricia Etirnam Adafienu, Ezera Ikechukwu Mba, Nana Kweku Duah Awere, Emmanuel Bamfo, Aaron Trinder, Noah Smith, Koby Foster, Thomas Broadbent, Sam Fernandez, James Goodacre, Anish Khuttan, Jean Marc Amagoua, Lauren Milne, Samantha Bwire, Pheobe Leonardi, Lap Chi Lee, Emily Perry, Om Dhadwal, Dee Whyte, Jack Vince |  |
|  | 1.2 | **In attendance:** Sarah Nawaz, Dionne Spencer (Dean of Students) |  |
|  | 1.3 | **Apologies for Absence (Union Officers only):** Amy Pile |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 3.0 |  | **Key Dates** |  |
|  |  | * Monthly Monday Meals
* Student Staff Recruitment – 16th May
* Drag Festival – 12th May
* ACT Self Defence: Violence against women and girls seminar – 16th April in N3.10
* AU Dinner – 16th April
* Fight Night – 19th April
* Fisheye Film Festival – 24th April to 4th May
* Union Awards – 8th May
* Bucks Weekender – 10th & 11th May
 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 4.0 |  | **Elected Officer Updates** |  |
|  |  | Harry Tomlinson (VPEW HW)* Harold’s Hydration – continuing to get water machines fixed across campus, there is now a water fountain on the first floor in Uxbridge
* Care Leavers – over spring holidays held easter themed events, created a survey with student hub for feedback from care leaver students
* Essay Mills – looking to raise awareness
* Miscellaneous – took part in podcast for war child with podcast society, hosted Mario kart tournament

Wren Sell (VPAB)* Varsity Win! Bucks 7.5 – Roey 6.5 – well done to students and thank you to staff and anyone else who took part
* Alcohol Awareness campaign - currently taking place, aim to raise awareness of safe drinking practices
* 0% Taster Night – 22nd April – will be in the Lounge, come and test the non-alcoholic options available, there will also be a mocktail masterclass
* From Kelly Wiles (Volunteering Coordinator) - voting for RAG charities nominations close tomorrow with voting in a couple of weeks
* AU end of year feedback is out now, please fill in as well as varsity feedback

Bethany Jackson (VPEW UXB/AYLS)* Chairs – now have chairs in Uxbridge! Thank you to all students for their feedback
* Placement Survey – sent out to students to share feedback so can feedback to the university on the issues affecting students
* Wellbeing Awareness activities and events – activities have been taking place, been promoting self care and the services offered by university and union

Amy Pile (President)* Campus Safety Article on the website
* Sexual Education and Health Week – 28th April to 2nd May
* Meet Vice Chancellor Damien Page – April 22nd
 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5.0 |  | **Guest Speaker: Dr Dionne Spencer (Dean of Students Office of the Dean of Students)** |  |
|  |  | * Here to discuss policy and procedure changes to address harassment and sexual misconduct
* This is in response to the new condition (E6) of registration for higher education providers released by the Office of Students (OfS)
* It will be required of institutions to protect students from harassment and sexual misconduct
* Changes at BNU following new OfS E6 condition:
* New Student Prevention of Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy will replace existing Student Bullying and Harassment Policy.
* Relevant staff must not exploit positions of power in relation to students and incidents of harassment and/or sexual misconduct​
* Interim measures panel consider the support needs of students involved in incidents of harassment and/or sexual misconduct ​
* Staff are appropriately trained and have the required knowledge and skills to undertake investigations or make decisions ​
* Interventions and early resolution ​
* Definitions explain the terminology and types of behaviours used at BNU as well as definitions of Harassment [Section 26, Equality Act 2010](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/26) and [Section 1, Protection From Harassment Act 1997](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/40) and ​Sexual Misconduct as referred to by the expected by the OfS under E6
* Procedure:
* Revised Student Conduct Procedure will replace the current Student Code of Conduct​
* Includes Early Resolution Interventions and two formal stages: ​
* Stage 1 Formal Investigation ​
* Stage 1 Conduct Panel convened for complex cases and cases of harassment and sexual misconduct ​
* Stage 2 Appeal​
* Each stage of the procedure will have clear timeframes ​
* Consideration is being given to how cases are investigated at BNU
* Expected Behaviour of Students (TBC) to replace Student Code of Conduct:
* The current Student Code of Conduct sets out the expectations of students​
* This was first published in 2020 and updated in 2024​
* [Learning Partnership Agreement](https://www.bucks.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/BF2069%20Learning%20Partnership%20Agreement%2023.pdf) jointly created ​
* We want to work in partnership with students on the new Expected Behaviour of Students (title TBC)​
* Opportunity to refresh and revisit to ensure it is fit for purpose, reflects the voices of students and the behaviours that we expect to see
* Attendees given opportunity to ask any questions or express their thoughts
 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 6.0 |  | **Elections Update** | TT |
|  |  | * Update from Tristan Tipping (SU CEO)
* Following the recent elections an irregularity was found in the one of the campaigns
* This was sent to the NUS (National Union of Students), who are an independent body and oversee elections, to review
* The decision was taken that the rule breaches were significant and the candidate should be removed
* The candidate was allowed to appeal but the decision was upheld and the candidate was removed
* The election in question was for the Vice President Achievement and Belonging (VPAB) Officer role
* A recount for the other candidates took place with the following results:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **VPAB** | **One** | **Two** | **Three** |
| Abi Hix |  | **214** | **Eliminated** |   |  |  |
| Joseph Burrell |  | **307** |  | **370** | **Elected**  |  |
| Madhav Jayalal |  | **299** |  | **363** |  |  |
|   |   |  |   |  |   |  |
| R.O.N. |   | **16** | **Eliminated**  |  |   |  |
| **Total Valid Vote** |   | **836** |  | **733** |  |  |
| Spoilt Papers |   | 167 |   | **270** |   |   |
| **Total Papers** |  | **1003** |  | **1003** |  |  |
| Quota |   | 419.0 |   | 367.5 |   |  |

* Therefore, Joseph Burrell was voted as VPAB for 25/26
* This was a difficult situation, so please show your support and understanding for candidates and all those involved in the elections
* A formal announcement will be on the website later
 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 7.0 |  | **Officer Hot Seat** |  |
|  |  | *Bethany how excited are you about your chairs at Uxbridge?** BJ: Very excited, looks snazzy and it’s a big win for the students

*What are you most looking forward to in term 3?** WS: AU dinner and union awards, will be good fun and get to celebrate the year
* HT: looking forward to the awards, also Bucks big weekender. Exciting time as we are more confident in role and get to prove ourselves
* BJ: awards and working with university teams on wellbeing

*I want to enrol in leadership academy, what is it about?** BJ: It is a one-to-one coaching programme, designed by the student for the student. Students can apply at end of the month to enrol for next year You can develop skills outside of your course and is a good opportunity to develop yourself as a person. It is a tiered programme and you can get out of it what you want.

*How do you feel that work you have done so far this year reflects the manifesto points you set out to do?** HT: I was clear that I wanted to focus on student welfare and get people to talk about their welfare. I have helped with wellbeing activities such as care leavers campaign. Also the hydration campaign – proud of it as it is a physical health campaign and gets peoples to look after themselves, got people thinking about drinking more water
* WS: haven’t looked at manifesto in a while but feel have hit some of my points. Wished could have hit more – hoping to set these up in the last few months in the role. Ran a campaign which crossed off wanting to raise awareness in men’s mental health. Still want to focus on making sport more inclusive – will continue to do this
* BJ: we all set out aims coming into roles but things change and you have to adapt to current climate. Whilst I think I hit most of my points, think there is more that can be done. Pushed for more opportunities for those campuses and raising awareness that they can use opportunities even if based in Wycombe

*What challenges do you think you may face this term?** WS: as an officer one of the challenges is that elections have now happened and preparation is starting for next year. It can therefore be difficult to maintain focus in the role and you start thinking that someone else will be coming into the role. Trying to remain focussed on the now while thinking about what’s coming
* HT: same feeling, for outgoing officers there is a big expectation to give one last big push but we should be proud of ourselves for helping to improve the student experience. Also you start thinking about what happens after the role but will continue to do the work until June
* BJ: air of uncertainty around changes in the university structure, making sure work done by the union doesn’t drop and is still consistent

*Any updates about societies and sports over summer?** WS: nothing to say as been working on AU dinner, will give an update after next week
* BJ: can offer table tennis across campuses, if want to put on a session speak to staff
* TT: looking expand on the care leavers campaign and do more over breaks. There are activities that can be done for those in the Wycombe area if interested in getting involved let the union know
* WS: cricket team starting their training now so anyone can join

*What is Bucks weekender?** HT: End of year party for all students, similar to festiball. Will be over a 2-day period, will get big artists in and there will be food, drink deals. Details will be on the website and socials

*What advice do you give to incoming officers?** BJ: make it what you will, easy to want to fit into someone else’s shoes but make it you own
* HT: be kind to yourself, don’t be afraid to ask for help, if you benefit the student experience you have done your job. Try not to chase perfection, can only do so much in the time
* WS: you will come in with new ideas. Remember there will be things that will crop up throughout the year, including unexpected things. Time management is key, many things will come up. Remember to talk with the other officers and plan for the big events

*Can students run awareness/stalls/campaigns etc?** WS: Yes on the website is a section on the campaigns page, where you can find a campaign form to fill out. Can come in and speak to staff as well
* BJ: can speak to rep team as well

*What part of the union is most underrated that would be good for all students to get involved with?** WS: feel not many students get involved with the training and development team, there are lots of free courses and training available but is not taken up
* HT: recreational activities – singing, skills, its all for free but more people should look into it
* BJ: agree with others. Look on the website to see if you missed anything. Volunteering is also good to get involved with – can do your own volunteering as well

*What is something you feel the union could achieve for international students in terms of financial struggles before you finish?** BJ: we would need more context as to what area they need help with – rent, food? What could be on offer would vary on the need. The union has been working on helping with travel costs – now have free parking for students, have put in additional times for the campus link, if in London can have a student oyster card

*What will the Brunel Shed be/have?** TT: It is currently an empty room, bigger than events hall. The university have said that it can be used for any student activity we want – rehearsals, performances, meetings, fairs. If any students got any ideas what would like to use it for come and speak to union staff. Will get the keys in a couple of weeks and will have an open day for students to come and have a look
 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 8.0 |  | **Prize Draw and Any Other Business** |  |
|  |  | * Fish Eye Festival: takes place next week and is a collaboration between the university and local community. It will feature local and international film makers and this year is celebrating 10 years. There will also be a virtual festival for those who cannot attend in person
* Prize draw winners: For online: Adaeze Ubah and in person: Noah Smith
* Management Fest: will be happening again in May. Tickets will be available from Monday on the my BNU app. Details will also be put on the what’s on page
* Rugby: will be playing their 2nd annual charity game against Marlow on 14th May. Transport and food will be provided.
 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 9.0 |  | **Date and time of subsequent meetings:**  |  |
|  |  | Thursday 15th May 2025 at 5.00pm, Room S3.01 and Online |  |