

SRA 25.11.25

Attendees: Chiara Campola (Democracy and Campaigns Co-Ordinator), Finlay Reid (DSC), Mark Hilton (Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences and Law - PGR Rep), Abdelrahman Otify (Faculty of Engineering - PGR Rep), Zvikomborero Maziyanhanga (Faculty of Science - PGR Rep) Mia Jacobs (PGR Faculty Rep Arts), Anna Pathmanathan (Faculty of Health Sciences - PGR Rep), Linlu Yu (FTO Equality, Liberation and Access), Mia Stevens (FTO Undergraduate Education), Teo Guez (Faculty of Social Sciences & Law - Undergraduate Rep), Francesca Blackburn (Faculty of Arts - Undergraduate Rep), Lucy Pears (FTO Student Living), Chengshuo Zhao (Faculty of Engineering - PGT Rep), Jessie Yeung (FTO International Students), Katie Poyner (FTO Union Affairs), Sian Clarke (Student Community Organiser - Disabled Students Communities), Charlie Shaw (Student Community Organiser – LGBTQ+ Student Communities), Shreya Viswanathan (Student Community Organiser – Global Majorities Student Communities), Jo-Jo Vyvyan-Jones (Faculty Life Sciences – UG Rep), Maria Jose Munoz Reyes (Faculty of Health Sciences - PGT Rep), Sneha Shaji (Faculty of Life Sciences - PGT Rep), Hanlin Che (Faculty of Arts – PGT Rep), Yogadhveep Arora (Faculty of Science and Engineering – UG Rep), Sushila Murmu (Faculty of Science - PGT Rep), Ahmad Bilal (Faculty of Life Sciences - PGR Rep), Issac Asare (DSC), Sharan Khemlani (FTO Postgraduate Education), Jorden Fung (Faculty of Science - Undergraduate Rep)

Apologies:

Chair: Louis Anscombe

Minuter: Marcelle Fletcher

Agenda:

- Introductions
- Q&A for the Full-Time Officer Team
- SCOs Campaigns
- Break
- Ideas Board
- Academic Satisfaction
- Timetabling
- Honorarium
- Any Other Business

Introductions

Louis welcomed everyone to the meeting and new members introduced themselves

Q&A for the Full-Time Officers

- Up-dates from FTOs were sent out and the meeting was asked if there were any questions?
- Mia mentioned that at the last meeting she had talked about the Government white paper, and in particular the proposal to grade Unis Gold and Silver which allows them to charge higher fees. Mia has created a template to lobby MPs not to vote for this aspect of the paper and the template is on the SU website

SCOs Campaigns

- Sian Clarke and Wendy Sun want to run a Physical Accessibility Campaign
- Sian introduced the campaign aims and objectives to the meeting, which will encourage students to report issue to help them lobby for things to be repaired and improved

- Sian is proposing to put posters around campus and is happy to make compromises to ensure they can be displayed, eg, having a start and end date for their display on campus
- The campaign has 2 stages, and the planning will begin over the Xmas Break and they will then collaborate with building stewards. The campaign will be launched on 19 Jan and end on 27 March. Data will be released on social media and the website 27-29th March
- Stage 2 includes lobbying the Vice Chancellor, the Board of Directors and the Head Steward to highlight this is an important issue for disabled students. Over two months they will push the campaign, via meetings, emails, open letters and Epigram
- The aim of the campaign is to ensure the University and SU make physical accessibility a priority
- In the longer term the data can be used as a comparison point for other accessibility campaigns (subject to adhering to GDPR)
- Anna asked where the posters will be displayed, and Sian said they will prioritise lifts
- Mia Jacobs raised the issue of printing and using the Uni's Printing Services and ensuring all print sizes are included in one job to keep costs down
- Finlay Reid asked about scope for future campaigns
- Moved to voting for £100 funding
- The meeting voted 100% in favour of providing the funding
- Charlie said there had been a night time safety, meeting last week and they are looking to introduce mandatory training and there will be a house meeting in TB2 and they are also working with LGTBQ society and Trans Society

Ideas Board

- Louis introduced the Ideas Board
- Rebecca Asare joined the meeting to talk about transport issues (including bus passes and routes) facing international students when they first arrive at University
- Lucy has been working on this issue and informed the meeting that there will be new bus services for accessibility around the city, but it was noted this comes at a cost and Lucy is happy to take feedback
- There is an issue that students are not sure if they are eligible for bus passes. Lucy said she is lobbying the University and letting students know who have access issues that the Council give out bus passes. Lucy is also working with Bath Uni, Bath Spa, UWE and taking to Mayor of West of England as she has some devolved responsibility for First Bus
- Rebecca said students are paying for the city-wide Bus Pass and it was noted that First Bus have significantly raised the price of the bus pass, which the Uni have been pushing against
- Yogadhveep said students found it hard to find buses with routes to the University, Lucy said she could speak to Resi Life and Student Transition bus routes and what information could be sent to students before they arrive at Uni
- Louis suggested that if Rebecca wants to continue with this issue, then SCOs could possible help lobby the Uni and the SU. Charlie said this issue had been raised in night time safety meetings and would be interested in getting together with others to lobby First Bus. Lucy said they are getting a meeting, and they can involve SCOs
- Rebecca would like to know more about this issue and be involved
- Lucy thanked Rebecca for raising this issue

Academic Satisfaction

- Yogadhveep had attended a meeting earlier today where there had been a discussion about students wanting to change their options, and the current timescale of two weeks to make these changes. Exam timetables were looked at and what the implications might be if released early – it could be a problem for those students changing modules
- Mia Jacobs said Humanities have lots of options, but the Uni need to make the process clearer
- There was a discussion about the differences between faculties and time given to change modules
- Charlie asked exam timetables take so long to be prepared, and Yogadhveep said if two students change modules this affects the timetabling
- Yoghavdeep – talked about marking: they don't start marking until all the extension papers are in so can't they move the deadline? and Abdelrahman offered his perspective on marking as a PGR – there's not much time for marking as it is so moving the deadline would be detrimental
- There was a discussion about the impact of changing exam timetables and the impact on coursework and the meeting acknowledged this is a university wide issue
- Mia Stevens has talked about the restructuring of the academic year and the timetable of coursework after Xmas and exams after Xmas
- Sharan asked question about PG students
- Louis and TB4
- Jo Jo Happy to collaborate
- Maria asked if extensions be more relaxed
- Francesca meeting FSARF next week and can raise it there
- Yogadhveep been raising awareness of the white paper, impacts on students in different ways. Issue of higher quality universities and lower quality universities and Mia said important to raise awareness
- Sharan told the meeting that three officers and reps had attended the recent NUS conference, and the issue of AI and Education had been raised and the NUS is looking to see if there is something that can be done nationally
- Sharan is not sure what will come out of that discussion, but NUS will be looking at AI and Education next year and coming years
- Yogadhveep said AI is already an issue and students are using AI. Sharan to look at other Uni's policies and approach to AI
- Anna said there does not appear to be any consistency with PGRs and UGs on accessing

Timetabling

- Mia Stevens said she is lobbying for timetables to be released earlier and it was noted this is an ongoing issue, Mia has contacted many people to ask how the timetables are constructed and the reason it takes so long and she is also asking for more transparency
- Uni to start a new policy on timetabling and have invited FTOs to look at the criteria for successful timetabling
- Mia Jacobs asked if FTOs had thought of shadowing admin staff?

- There was a discussion about how some weeks there are no lectures and then others include lectures everyday

Honorarium

- Chiara informed the meeting that Faculty Reps and SCOs are being paid an honorarium and said there is clear criteria to be met before the honorarium can be made. It was noted all Reps and SCOs have been approved for payment the SRA is being asked to approve these payments, as a formality, for transparency
- 88% voted in favour of the payments being made

Any Other Business

- Charlie said they had submitted something to the Idea's board but it had not shown up. Charlie is to try again and if the problem continues is to speak to Chiara in case it is a Union Cloud problem
- There was a discussion about anonymous voting, at meetings, the timing of meetings and adding extra time and using a guillotine at the end of meetings. It was acknowledged that agendas need to be considered and where contentious issues are placed in the order of the agenda
- Louis spoke about the role of being a chair and the balance of being democratic and allowing people to have time to speak. It was agreed it needed to be clearer about the length of the meeting and when it is scheduled to end and clear information to be sent out on the day of Student Council
- SU website will have more accessible information about DSC and discussion about running elections in TB2
- Jordan asked a question about splitting the votes in TB1 and TB2, but it was felt this could be a hard workload to manage
- It was felt there needed to be a clear role for DSC To make it clear how student council works

Actions

Mia and Shara to raise timetabling concerns at next week's UEC meeting. They will meet with Yogadhveep, Jojo, Maria, Francesca, Teo to raise at Faculty meetings

Mia to look into shadowing admin staff when timetabling

A working group is to be set up to deal with transport issues. Charlie to check with other SCOs. Chiara to send an email to put in contact Lucy, SCOs, Yogadhveep and Rebecca

Yogadhveep, Anna to set up a working group on AI and Sharan to get more feedback on the use of AI and will send an email to all Faculty Reps to let them know this is happening

DSC to be added to the agenda for the next meeting