

Student Representative Assembly

Tuesday 26th November 2024, 16:00-19:00

Attendees:

Lucy Pears, Bakhtawar Javed, Katie Poyner, Mia Stevens, Linlu Ye, Yuqi Cao, Sam Appleyard-Sanderson, Yogadhveep Arora, Dan Smith, Jo-Jo Vyvyan-Jones, Jordan Fung, Yi Zong, Bhavni Joshi, Tamie Karunaratne

Apologies:

Ella Lovibond
Gurvin Chopra

Chair: Louis Anscombe

In attendance: Beth Eyre

Minutes: Fatima Islam/Janine Fox

Agenda

Abbreviations		
LP	Lucy Pears	Student Living Officer (SLO)
GC	Gurvin Chopra	Postgraduate Education Officer (PG Ed)
BJ	Bakhtawar Javed	International Students' Officer (ISO)
KP	Katie Poyner	Union Affairs Officer (UA)
MS	Mia Stevens	Undergraduate Education Officer (UG Ed)
LY	Linlu Ye	Equality, Liberation and Access Officer (ELA)
EL	Ella Lovibond	Sport and Student Development Officer (SSD)
Q	Question	
A	Answer	
R	Remarks	

Item	Led by	Minutes
Introductions <i>Please introduce yourself with your name, your role and your pronouns if you feel comfortable to.</i>	Chair of Student Council	- Attendees introduced themselves - Meeting was declared not quorate - meaning that the meeting can continue but bidding decisions cannot be made
Q&A for the Full-Time Officer Team <i>A chance for you to ask any questions to your Full-Time Officers about their work.</i> <i>They will offer 3 key impacts</i>	Chair, Full-Time Officer Team	- Lucy: Housing: approx 700 attendees came to the Housing Fair. Working on the housing rights campaign and hosted Find a Flatmate event which saw about 100 attendees. Students doing semesters abroad have reached out as they need help with finding housing for rest of the academic year

		Held an event to gather feedback on experiences with First Bus Student council motions were assigned to LP and she is now working on those actions Looked into the check in app and still waiting for the university reply Dan asked about medical students being affected with being on placement outside of Bristol for half of a year. Dan also spoke about speaking to someone about check in app and there should be an update which helps with issues Yogadhveep- check in app: wifi issues in their building has been resolved which has resolved issues with the check in app for them Katie: working on improving officer updates and visibility – this is largely through emails and website. Trying to get a booking system for study spaces for students (that staff already have). Managed to negotiate with campus staff about empty classrooms being used by students when not in use for teaching. Seminar rooms are opening from 8am-6pm- when these rooms aren't being used for teaching, they can be used by students. Yogadhveep – asked about room booking. Sometimes staff book rooms but it doesn't show up-how can this be worked around? There is a student section on the library page which lets you know which rooms are free-but it uses a general calendar and not an updated calendar. Theres also another room Calendar which is used by staff which is regularly updated but this can't be viewed by students. KJ explained that with the new Temple Quarter campus opening in 2026-they're doing a new overhaul for booking system for students. In the meantime KJ has secured a system which means that seminar rooms are now able to be used. Students should contact KJ if they are regularly being asked by staff to leave rooms which have appeared to be available Linlu: continuing work on free period products and wellbeing system. No major updates at this time. Disabled Student Leadership event: on the 9th December – students are encouraged to join. Bakh: International Students week was the major campaign that she
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		ran though Student Council-it was a great success. SRA members can read the report here Targets were met for each event with the Global food fair a particular highlight. Proposing some observations to the International Students committee next week to keep things running with Interntional Students campaign. Working on research on Interntional students' experiences with the Russell Group students' unions group (RGSU). Draft now ready and waiting for feedback. This research is sector wide and considers how international students are impacted by current immigration discourse at the national level. The research will be launched on 9th December. Continuing to work on student council motion for international students to be able to access support more easily. Focus group output suggests many international students would rather seek help from friends than university. The report will compile all of this information, and it will be circulated. Will also look at winter graduation and bursaries for international students as well as Town hall and Guarantor scheme. Yogadheep asked about exam timetabling and flights for international students around Christmas time. Exam timetables were released late this year and students are worried about getting flights home. Bakh has said she will look into this. Mia: Mia and Gurvin have released a video about university guidance on AI. Teaching Excellence Framework oversight board- Mia did a presentation here and did some workshops here too. Managed to get some outcomes from it. Mia asked Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education for clearer guidance on marking. Suggestion that the outcomes from the SAY forum Yogadhveep has proposed are passed to Mia for her to rise with university – they are interested to hear about students' experiences of SAY
Campaigns & Democracy Update <i>An update regarding Student Council motions, as well as hear</i>	Chair, Chiara	SRA Members can access full details of active policy here - Motion: NUS Representative Update (Officer Leads: ELA and UA) Following NUS reform unions no longer elect delegates for national conferences. The passed motion means that union officers can decide

from Network Chairs about any collaborative campaign ideas they may have.		who attends – all elected student leaders are eligible and can let officers know if they would like to attend. we are awaiting further information from NUS on conferences - Motion: Representation Review (Officer Leads: ELA and UA) 6 new Community Organiser roles were approved and will be elected in TB2 elections. Liberation groups replacing networks will be able to affiliate ahead of the deadline in January 2025. Work is underway to make sure that the roles are properly defined and that support is going to be in place. - Motion: Easier Access to Support Services for International Students (Officer Leads: ISO and ELA) BJ is waiting for a report to be completed which she can then take to university colleagues for recommended actions - Motion: Adjusting Graduation Dates for International Students (Officer Lead: ISO) International students are unable to attend summer graduations as their visas have expired by then. It was requested that graduations happen in January but the university didn't move them early enough in January (visas expire a week before new graduation date). BJ has raised again with the VC who will give more information on why this happened again and what can be done. BJ is waiting for this information - Motion: Financial Support for Current International Undergraduates (Officer Leads: ISO and UG Ed) BJ will be working with the scholarship department to take this forward - Motion: Free Circuit Laundry (Officer Lead: SLO) Not possible to complete at the moment as the university has signed a contract until 2028 which has seen new machines installed. LP was told they would be cheaper and more ecological but has since spoken to someone in the finance department to explain that as students load pre-payment cards rather than pay per wash the economy isn't being passed on. In January 2025 the Finance team will look at what available funds they have and potentially allocate funds to top-up credits for students in need. When the contract expires in 2028 there
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		is the opportunity for the issue to be raised again. Q: Have all machines been replaced? A: LP will check - Motion: Introduction of an anti-Palestinian racism definition to Bristol (Officer Lead: ELA) LY will meet with the Friends of Palestine Society to take this forward - Motion: Accessibility for students with disabilities at University of Bristol (Officer Leads: ELA and SLO) LY has raised with Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team who are aware of the issues but explained that it will take time to make all the necessary estate adjustments. LY has asked the Assistant Director of Students with Disabilities if there is a forum for students and staff with disabilities to raise concerns and offer feedback but has not heard back yet - Motion: Proposition for the SU to support the Divest Borders Campaign (Officer Leads: SLO and UA) LP is taking this forward this week and plans to meet with the proposer and seconder. and will be speaking to Director of People to see what can be brought into the SU operations within the current SU framework - Motion: End All Forced Swimming Experiments at the University of Bristol (Officer Leads: SLO and UA) LP's meeting with proposer due to happen in December and will be visiting the animal testing facility to take the voted actions forward
Academic Satisfaction <i>This is a chance to hear any updates from Education Officers and Representatives on changes to the academic experience – has something happened in your course, school and faculty that you want to ‘sense check’ with fellow Reps? This is your chance to do so</i>	Full-Time Education Officers	- Q: What support will be given to school reps and will the number of school and faculty reps reduce in the superfaculty structure? A: The Representation Review motion means that we have embedded school reps into our processes more fully meaning we will know who they are and will provide School Rep-specific training and support. Currently during elections we elect course and Faculty reps. School reps should be chosen at the first school Student-Staff liaison committees. At the moment this isn't always happening and where it is the information isn't always passed to the Academic Representation team at the Student Union.

		For number of school and faculty reps under super faculty structure- we are working with the university to understand structures of representation under the new structure but there are not currently plans to reduce the number of Faculty reps: we're still operating on 6 faculty rep system for each level of learning. So 6 UG, 6PGT, 6 PGR. With school reps-we need to speak to university to find out exactly what they need for school level representation. The SU Director of Impact and Influence is in conversation with the new Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellors to ensure that appropriate academic representation is carried forward. - Q: Can good practice be shared across faculties and schools (eg. Number of times you can submit assessments). A: MS explained that her work with BILT enables this – can people let her know of examples so that she can bring them to committees - R: Yuqi suggests that Education Officer let Freps know more about the priority areas so that they can then request feedback from reps via the FSSLC structure - Q: should course and faculty reps be mutually exclusive roles to ensure that there is no overlap in the work when Faculty Reps are paid? - A: this is something we will consider under the TB2 election guidelines - R: if this means that we don't have course reps for smaller cohorts (as students may be more attracted to paid Faculty rep roles) paid Faculty reps should be expected to ensure the students on those courses are still heard
Campaign Funding Bids <i>This is a chance to bid for funding on collaborative, changemaking work. This is for Faculty Representatives and Network Chairs to access. Everyone in the meeting gets to vote for funding. You must submit bids prior.</i>	Chair	At the start of the meeting quoracy was not met, but as people were able to join part way through the meeting became quorate and bids were heard and voted on: Bids can be viewed here: Bids Submitted for 26/11 - First bid presentation from Yogadhveep Arora (Engineering UG)- bid is for £250 for providing pizza as an incentive for reps to attend a forum about changes to the structure of the academic year (SAY). Q: why it wasn't included PGT? A: PGT can be involved as well – it was UG focused as this is the group Yogadhveep works with.

