
UNION COUNCIL

AGENDA

Union Council
Monday, 25 April · 4:00 – 5:30pm
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/jfe-utjf-bwk>

Administration

Officers in attendance:

Dan Bichener (Union President) (DB)
Frankie McGregor (Community, Diversity & Inclusion) (FM)
Maddy Young (Engagement & Sports Sabbatical Officer) (MY)
Amy Bromley (Postgraduate Research Students' Officer) (AB)
Jasmine Nikhwai (LGBT+ officer) (JN)
Olivera Ignjatovic (LGBT+ women's officer) (OL)
Benjamin D'Montigny (Chair) (BD)
Alice Lundy (Disabled Students' Officer) (AL)
Zane Kennedy (Faculty Representative (Arts, Humanities & Education)) (ZK)
Anastasia Semaan (AS) (CDI)
Hannah Ferguson (Faculty Representative (Medicine, Health & Social Care)) (HF)
Phumuzile Sithole (BAME Students' Officer) (PS)
Megan Ann Foxen-Freeman (Women's Officer) (MF)
James Hughes (Faculty Representative (Science, Engineering & Social Sciences)) (JH)
Teme Binitie (Black Students' Officer) (TB)
Anusree Vijayakumar (Postgraduate Taught Students' Officer) (AV)
Olivera Ignjatovic (LGBT+ women's officer) (OL)
Maximus Clinch (Environmental Officer) (MC)
Yvette Kearns (Part-Time Students Officer) (YK)

Will be attending late:

Others in attendance:

Kriss Bailey (KB) - UC secretary (student voice coordinator)

Apologies for absence and check for quorum (should be 12):

Beth Elwood (Campaigns & Societies) (BE)

Tony Brimmicombe (Mature Students' Officer) (TB)

Esther Subhakar (International Students' Officer (Overseas)) (ES)

Francis Booker (Student Parents' and Carers' Officer) (FB)

Jade Knight (JK) (USEC)

Email votes:

Officers who must attend this meeting or risk losing their role:

Any officer who fails to attend three union council meetings without sending apologies is subject to a vote of no confidence at the discretion of the Council.

James Hughes (Faculty Representative (Science, Engineering & Social Sciences)) (JH)

Notes:

Approval of speaking rights of those in attendance

Chair

Declarations of conflict of interest

Chair

For Discussion and Approval

1

Welcome to Daniel Smith (any pronouns) - As the New Trans/Non-Binary Officer

2

Minutes from the last meeting (for approval)
Actions from previous minutes -
(Number refers to the agenda number on previous minutes (24/03/2022)
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GtbP_kg4HBIpDihzWfqq99G7Y9Djrvu4piHB47ecHPo

2.1	<p>ACTION Dan (continuation from last meeting point 2.2)</p> <p><i>“Dan has a meeting with the new Dean to discuss the previous points, myself and Anna (Medway Student Coordinator SU) are working on a project regarding placements and undergoing research to aid and improve upon the placements system. This will be an in depth and ongoing project so it will take some time. UC to be updated with current progress of project”</i></p>	
2.2	<p>Deferred items:</p> <p>Better student integration - James Hughs</p> <p>Item deferred from previous meeting - point 9 30/11/2021 meeting</p> <p>Item deferred from previous meeting - point 8 24/01/2022 meeting</p> <p>Item deferred from previous meeting - point 2.3 24/03/2022 meeting</p> <p>James has attended 0/3 meetings as to date, subject to Union Council Bye-Laws Section 7.7.3 -</p> <p>“Members of Union Council who do not attend three (3) consecutive ordinary meetings (irrespective of apologies) shall be deemed to have resigned and their post vacated.”</p> <p>(Bye-Laws https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Scs2x-jgZiRAmAk8vOu62sT1oMFbFpPSL-bH5KIC1Sk/edit?usp=sharing)</p> <p>Council can hold a vote or allow this ruling to stand.</p>	

2.3	<p>Action - Dan to report this meeting</p> <p>Point 2.4 from 24/03/2022 meeting: Point 9 - 24/01/2022:</p> <p><i>"Dan to update chair regarding asking for the University and PLU to support students after elective placements where cancelled</i></p> <p><i>Dan does not have an update regarding this</i></p> <p><i>Chair: PLU was invited to head of school meetings and talk to student reps. They have got a new staff team and have promised to improve communication and work on the issues raised regarding placements. The ongoing issues from covid are still ongoing but hopefully next year will see more improvements."</i></p>	
2.4	<p>Action Kriss & Dan (point 7 - 24/03/2022)</p> <p><i>"Hannah has yet to be invited to health and social care meetings"</i></p> <p>Kamilla Razik (Assistant to Dean of MHSC) has been informed and should of sent out invites to faculty and school reps for meetings.</p>	
	<p>New Articles from padlet and email.</p>	
3	<p>Jasmine Nikhwai - Ban on Conversion therapy</p> <p>I wanted to make everyone aware of this news https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60947028</p> <p>which is really awful! Especially after trans-vis day only yday! I've spoken to my lgbt+ committee and would love to try and organise something to support trans and gender diverse individuals! I would love any ideas and support for this!</p> <p>My society are looking to do a charity bake sale for the mermaids charity and would love as much support as possible in any form! Happy to discuss more at our next meeting.</p>	
4	<p>Alice Lundy - Issues affecting Disabled Students and some possible solutions</p>	

	<p>LSPs - Students and Lecturers may be unsure of what their role is in the LSPs. I raised this point which we've spoken about before to the Disability Team - In the meeting I would like to explain what they said.</p> <p>DSA - Many students with Mental Health conditions do not know they are eligible for Disabled Student Allowance - I will be working with the Sabbs to raise some awareness on this issue and would love to invite some of you to support this?</p>	
5	<p>Dan Smith - Wellbeing after Trans CV Government U-Turn</p> <p>After the government U-Turn on Transgender conversion therapy, and speaking to a few of my friends at the university, I think a lot of Trans/NB students are distressed about what's happening in the media right now and I think that the CCSU should make sure that the trans* student body has access to mental health resources. Is there any way MH resources specifically for Trans/NB students can be improved?</p>	
6	<p>Jasmine Nikhwai - Ban on Conversion therapy</p> <p>The new layout of blackboard is a welcome change, it seems far easier to navigate and I hope it proves to have better accessibility. However, I noticed the addition of being able to add pronouns to your 'profile'. Although originally excited about this concept, I was quickly disappointed as the selection of pronouns is dire. Myself and many individuals have suggested this be changed and made more flexible. We should be opening the door to diversity and flexibility when it comes to gender identity and sexuality, not constricting students!</p>	
7	Any other business	Chair