

Union Council Agenda

Tuesday 12 December, 16:30 - 18:30: Af01 (Anselm Boardroom)

Google Meet Link: <https://meet.google.com/gxu-vjkr-wtu>

Administration		
1	Officers in attendance: <u>Sabbatical Officers (SABBS)</u> Alice Lundy - Union President (AL) Max Elvin - Engagement & Sports (ME) Inés Abella Romero - Community, Diversity & Inclusion (IAR) Thomas Abbott - Campaigns & Societies (TA) <u>Part-time Officers</u> Zachary Woodward - Union Chair (ZW/Chair) Diana-Stefania Coman - Women's Officer (DSC) David Oluwole Kofi Phillott-Williams - Black Students' Officer (DOKPW) Muhammad Ishtiyah Ullah - Disabled Students' Officer (MIU) Archie Molt - Environmental Officer (AM) Jillian Le Tellier - International Students' (EU) Officer (JLT) Sakshi Chinchole - International Students' (Overseas) Officer (SC) Avery Taylor - LGBTQIA+ Officer (AT) Octavia Collard - Trans / Non-Binary Officer (OC) Syed Zain Ul Abidin - Cultural and Minority Ethnic Officer (SZUA) Yasar Ozbilci - Mental Health Officer (YO) Francis Booker - Student Parents' and Carers' Officer (FB) Sam Block - Mature Students' Officer (SJB) Sports Representative - Sarah Gourrege (SG) Societies Representative - Laura Spackman (LS) Faculty of Medicine, Health and Social Care Rep - James Thomas (JT) Faculty of Science, Engineering and Social Sciences - Jade Laura Knight (JLK) Others in attendance: <u>Students' Union Staff</u> Holly Bringes - Student Voice Coordinator (HB) Aliosha Seraphim - Student Voice Coordinator (AS)	

	Invited: Kath Abiker - (KA) Cat Moran - (CM) Apologies for absence and check for quorum (should be 50%+1): Email votes: Officers who must attend this meeting or risk losing their role: <i>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.</i> <i>Still to elect...</i>	
2	Welcome and Approval of speaking rights for those in attendance <i>Speaking Rights for KA and CM approved at the last meeting.</i>	Chair
3	Declarations of Conflict of Interest	Chair
4	Matters arising to be discussed under Any Other Business (AOB)	Chair
For Discussion and Approval		
1	Minutes from the last meeting (for Approval) UC Minutes - Nov. 23 Seek updates on Actions (last page of Agenda).	Chair
2	Sabbatical Officer Updates (Verbal) • Union President Updates • Engagement & Sports President Updates • CDI President Updates • Campaigns & Societies President Updates	SABBs
Ideas submitted for discussion and approval - accessible through the Union Council Padlet Ideas should be submitted a week before the meeting, by 17:00.		
3	Student Futures Manifesto - Paper A - Providing updates and current feedback from Course Reps on the Student	KA/CD

	Futures Manifesto work that was first put to the Union Council in the last academic year. See pages 3-5 of Paper B - Union Council Minutes - May 2023 for a recap of last year's discussions.	
4	Establishing a fund to help Trans and Non-Binary students to help with transitioning Due to the continuing issues with the NHS, waiting times to see a gender specialist are upwards of 5+ years. This can be extremely distressing for students who require that help. While it would be unreasonable to ask for funding to help students access private healthcare to transition medically, I do want to establish a fund to help socially transition. We can look to the example in the link (below) I have provided, where UCL is providing help for students to buy cosmetic items such as clothing, binders, packers and beauty products. Also, UCL provides links to services that can help students with their medical transition and changing their name legally. If we were also able to provide this information too, it would help those who might feel overwhelmed and lost. Gender Expression Fund: https://studentsunionucl.org/advice-and-support/support/financial-support/gender-expression-fund	OC
5	Medway Student Gym Support Raised point that CCSU supports a motion to propose that CCCU subsidise Medway student annual membership of Medway Park as there are no facilities offered on or adjacent to the Medway campus. Canterbury students may avail of subsidised membership of the sports centre and students currently paying for University halls accommodation have free access to the same facilities. Medway Park offers the same opportunities but at over twice the price of CCCU Sports Centre. The Medway Park student price is still more expensive and is only available to students under 26 years old.	JT
6	CCCU Facilities Distance Signs Proposes that the Union Council take a look into asking the university to possibly add how far away certain facilities are from campus onto existing signs, e.g. 0.8 Kilometres/0.5 Miles to CCCU Sports Centre (from the CCCU Canterbury campus).	MIU

7	Bookless Library Spaces on Canterbury Campus - <i>Paper C</i> Jodie Calleja, Assistant Director for User Experience, Service Design and Delivery of Library and Learning Resources (LLR), has submitted a proposal for Bookless Library Study Spaces at North Holmes Road (NHR). The proposal recommends co-opting spaces in buildings to create dedicated areas for collaborative and independent study, similar to the zones at Augustine House (AH). Each zone would imitate the library environment with supporting materials, such as infographics on accessing e-resources or service support. The objective is to expand the LLR commitment to creating inclusive study spaces for all students, offering easy-to-access locations in NHR for those who cannot (for any reason) travel to AH before/after lectures or seminars. The proposal relies on requests for appropriate furniture to accommodate student study needs and additional Library and Information Advisors to roam and maintain the spaces, which may be challenging in the current Higher Education financial climate. We would love comments and feedback so that they can be included in the proposal.	AL
8	Your Course / Your Community Meetings Aim to set up the first meeting for each sub-committee of Union Council to empower officers in the changes that they are looking to and are working on through campaigns and council meetings.	AS
9	AOB Statement on Gaza Ceasefire: Students may be in attendance to discuss We have been liaising with the Pal soc to release a statement on the Gaza catastrophe. One thing that they have requested in the statement is that we call for a ceasefire. We feel this needs wider student consideration and we are therefore asking students to consider this more widely.	Chair

Actions from 21/11/2023

Actions Moving Forward	By Who/When For	Vote Required	Action Completed
Updates to Policy Register	HB - no time commitment.	Votes held for individual policies from the previous academic year and raised in meetings.	In progress. - Constantly being updated.
Raise the Profile of the Union Council: Organise online and in-person events throughout the academic year.	Student Voice Team Union Council Officers Comms Team ASAP	Both parts were voted for with approval.	In progress. - Sub-committee meetings to be organised and officers encouraged to attend/support events held by the union e.g. AMM on Tuesday 6th February.
Website error: expenses claim	MIU to first contact the Treasurer of the DSS and eSports Societies, and then inform HB/AS of the outcome. HB/AS to then email Adem Djemil over the matter if it is not an isolated issue as discussed.	Vote held and actions approved.	Awaiting further feedback from the affected student.
Form to be circulated for students to conduct a vote on Question 2 - What should the England officer roles be?	AL/HB to create and circulate a form to the Union Council. Officers cast vote via form by 30th November.	Vote held and actions approved. Follow up vote to be conducted on the form.	Action complete. - Not all officers voted by the deadline, however a decision was reached.
Feedback on NUS Reform and Futures Manifestos	AL to collate feedback and share where relevant.	Votes held for individual proposals and questions.	Action complete.
Raise the profile of the	Student Voice Team	Votes held and actions	In progress.

Academic Admin Team; gain support from other admin members and to organise events e.g. drop-ins.	Comms Team SB and AL	approved.	
Trans positive events	HB to organise a meeting with AT/OC and relevant parties in the next two weeks.	Votes held and actions approved.	Action incomplete. - Meeting will be held in the new year. HB to ask AT and OC for their availability.