**Minutes**

**Tuesday 16th February 2021**

**Zoom**

**Members**

Upwards of 158 members present, including:

144 Student Reps (91% of voting participants)

Alexandra Cazacu (AC)- Chair

Naomie Lebe (NL) - SU President

Chiko Bwalya (CB) - VP Education

Ugo Andy-Eke (UAE) - VP Student Opportunities

Toluwa Atilade (TA) - VP Welfare and Community

Ellie Crane (EC)- Student Rep

Dylan Lintern-Mole (DLM) - student

**In attendance**

Charlotte Morris-Davis (Secretary/Democracy and Campaigns Manager)

Emily Cox (Liberation and Campaigns Coordinator)

Mata Durkin (Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator)

Kerry Dean (Head of Student Participation)

Roshana Wickremasinghe (Policy Advisor)

Jane de Vekey (Head of Student Voice and Policy)

George Baldwin (Student Voice Manager)

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# Welcome and Introduction

## The Chair welcomed the SUBU Summit participants and deemed the meeting quorate

## The Chair introduced the agenda and set out the operational points and the procedures to be followed during the meeting. This included that the results of all votes would be announced via email following the meeting to ensure that only votes cast by voting members were counted and not during the meeting itself.

## Minutes of Previous SUBU Summit

## The Chair invited members to read over the minutes which had previously been circulated and a vote was taken

# Approve: 95

# Reject: 5

# Abstain: 37

## **Minutes Approved**

# Trustee Board Update

# Presented by NL

# Key points noted:

# Closure of commercial outlets from third lockdown put more financial strain on the union

# Small group of trustees are meeting regularly to monitor the situation

# Full-Time Officer Reports

# Presidents Report

# NL presented

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Lobbying BU to subsidise graduation fees based on household income

## Been in conversation with BU on changing the approach

## Looking into one company in particular to make funding easier to coordinate

## Will continue to raise this at the Virtual Graduation Steering Group.

## Manifesto: Improving communication channels between the Students’ Union and all BU students

## Joint emails will be going ahead, and BU remain supportive

## Have increased the number of meetings the FTO team have with the Vice-Chancellor

## Manifesto: Developments on a mentorship scheme

## No further updates to give due to COVID

## Manifesto: Futureproofing the SU

## Still in final stages of redundancy process, and monitoring how the new structure will work

## Manifesto: Working with the University and Union to improve the international students Hub

## FTO team have been working very closely on this, and have been looking into what is being done in other student unions for international students

## Policy: Should SUBU support Executive Planning

## Still working closely with FTOs to support students.

## Still attending several key meetings and working together to provide essential support

## Policy: Should SUBU prioritise information and action around the UN Sustainable Development Goals up to 2030?

## In discussion to collaborate with BU on upcoming activities around their Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan, which will involve a panel with the FTOs

# Vice President Education Report

# CB presented

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Improving the accessibility of SimOn and make sure Student Reps are equipped to fulfil their duties

## Still having meetings with Deputy Vice-Chancellor

## SV&P will meet with SimOn curators to discuss changes and adjustments

## Working with SV&P to ensure Student Reps can provide their feedback as best as possible,

## Encouraged students to reach out if experiencing issues with feedback.

## Manifesto: Making the ALS screening progress more accessible and affordable-

## Delayed due to COVID

## Manifesto: Introducing a safety pledge mandating staff to correctly acknowledge students preferred names and pronouns

## Working with AUB and AECC to roll out safety pledge to their staff members as well

## Set up meeting with Liberation Officers

## Draft of the pledge has been written

## Manifesto: Redeveloping an Education Council to represent marginalised students-

## Developing a support group for student carers, working with

## Working with the Associate Dean of Student Experience in HSS to ensure that students have a forum to have their voice heard.

## So far there has been one for student parents on Zoom and hopes to roll this out further soon

## Running a student forum for international students in Feb

## Manifesto: Working with BU to tackle seasonal depression-

## Working with SUBU Comms to create a infographic for students to support them

## Policy: Early reading list access

## Could be tricky due to academics’ own schedule and timetables but is still possible

## May only be available a couple of weeks before term starts

## Hope to make this available for the next incoming students in September

# Vice-President Student Opportunities Report

# UAE presented

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Implementing a hardship scheme to eliminate financial barriers to accessing clubs and societies

## Been able to secure £1,500 grant, and site is live now for students to apply

## Funds are available to allow students to get involved with clubs and societies

## Manifesto: Providing support to international students to help support post-study employability

## Working with the SO team and CareersBU to help international student employment

# Policy: Additional support for students in light of Brexit:

# Working with SO team to organize online Refreshers event

# Looking at outside sponsors to come in for events

# Vice-President Welfare and Community Report

# TA presented

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Continuing and improving the period poverty campaign

## Still working with Sustainability team and Liberation Officers to ensure we have products available when we open

## Manifesto: Reworking the Liberation Campaigns to make them more visible and effective-

## Due to lockdown, work has been limited, but looking to bring this back soon

## Manifesto: Working with Reslife to tackle mental health crises within student accommodations-

## Lockdown has created some barriers but been working with Advice Team to find ways to support students during this time

## Manifesto: Working with VP Student Opportunities to provide more wellbeing support for clubs and societies-

## Provided opportunity for club members to undergo subsidised mental health training

## Manifesto: To reimagine what welfare means for students-

## Meeting with BU Wellbeing and NHS to work how to better their student services

## Manifesto: Creating a review platform where students can rate agents and landlords-

## Priorities shifted due to the pandemic

## Will focus on supporting students

## Finalising contracts with the company to deliver this manifesto point which should be going live soon.

## Additional updates: working to deliver Sex Workers and FGM policies passed at the previous SUBU Summit

* Policy: Should SUBU implement a plastic policy?
  + Paused due to lockdown
* Policy: Should SUBU support student sex workers?
  + Paused due to lockdown
  + Will meet with Liberation Officers once lockdown ends
* Policy: Should SUBU implement a FGM policy?
  + Paused due to lockdown
  + Will be supporting Women’s Officer on this
* Remit: Allyship Hub
  + Meeting with SUBU Comms to create and design the site
  + In contact with Liberation Officers to create videos for the site

## The Chair invited the participants to speak further with the Full-Time Officer in different discussion groups.

# Lapsing Policies

* 1. The Chair introduced UAE to present the first lapsing policy for review.

- Should SUBU give more money to societies?

- Executive Recommendation: To Lapse

- The Chair called a vote as to whether the SUBU Summit participants wished to retain or lapse this policy

- Retain: 51

**Lapse: 57**

Abstain: 14

**Policy lapsed**

* 1. The Chair introduced TA to present the second lapsing policy for review.
* Should SUBU implement a plastic policy?
  + Executive Recommendation: To Retain
* The Chair called a vote as to whether the SUBU Summit participants wished to retain or lapse this policy
  + **Retain: 112**   
    Lapse: 8  
    Abstain: 5
  + **Policy retained**
  1. The Chair introduced NL to present the third lapsing policy for review.
* Should SUBU support executive planning?
  + Executive Recommendation: To Retain
* The Chair called a vote as to whether the SUBU Summit participants wished to retain or lapse this policy
  + **Retain: 96**  
    Lapse: 12  
    Abstain: 15
  + **Policy retained**

# Student Ideas

# The Chair introduced the ideas up for discussion and invited the SUBU Summit participants to self-select discussion groups.

# The groups were invited to amend some, none or all of each proposal.

# The Chair advised participants they could swap discussion groups half-way through.

# Policy Discussions:

# Students should not be liable to pay for halls that they are unable to live in due to COVID

# Lobby the government to secure tuition fee rebates

# Adding exam papers to Brightspace under relevant units

# Discussion Group Amendments:

## *Students should not be liable to pay for halls that they are unable to live in due to COVID*

# 1h added – ‘Where students have been present in halls they have experienced reduced services despite paying full rent.’

# 1i added – ‘Where students have made complaints regarding financial support to their accommodation providers there have been several instances of providers not responding in an appropriate manner’

# 2b added – ‘ For halls providers to provide financial support to students who have experienced reduced services due to the closure of facilities’

# 3c added – ‘ For SUBU to lobby BU to end formal partnerships with halls providers that do not offer any financial compensation for students whose accommodation has otherwise been affected by the implications of COVID’

# 3f added – ‘For Student Reps to be provided with information about financial support packages to inform their cohorts’

# 3g added – ‘For SUBU to further promote financial support packages and encourage BU to do the same’

# 3h added – ‘For SUBU to lobby halls providers to provide discounted rent where services have been limited’

# *Lobby the government to secure tuition fee rebates*

# 2a to include ‘due to not having access to in person teaching or access to resources. Students on courses with a large proportion of practical teaching, or those with cancelled components, should be prioritised’

# 2c to include ‘for example through an extension of booking times for on campus facilities’

# 3a to include ‘or a loan amnesty or a freeze on interest rates’

# *Adding exam papers to Brightspace under relevant units*

# Title to include ‘past’

# ‘Access to past papers is a useful resource for students’ deleted

# 1c added – ‘There are no solutions to the questions on the past exam papers’

# 2b – ‘a substantial number’ replaced with ‘3 years’

# 2c added – ‘Prove exemplar answers to the past papers’

# 3b to include ‘or provide reasonable explanation as to why it may not be accessible’

# 3d added – ‘For all programmes to engage with this via Reps and Programme leaders’

# Speeches and Vote:

# Students should not be liable to pay for halls that they are unable to live in due to COVID

# Speech for: EC

# Extension on the financial compensation for those living in BU halls

# Students renting privately have not been given any financial compensation for the accommodation they are unable to live in

# Speech Against: None

# Call to vote

# For: 106

# Against: 1

# Abstain: 6

# **Passes**

## Lobby the government to secure tuition fee rebates

# Speech for: NL

# Large portion of teaching has been moved online due to COVID

# Some students are missing out on essential resources such as practical skills

# Speech against: None

# Call to vote

# For: 106

# Against: 1

# Abstain: 6

# **Passes**

## Adding exam papers to Brightspace under relevant units

# Speech for: DLM

# Student may not be aware of where past papers are, so making them easier to access

# Speech Against: None

# Call to vote

# For: 82

# Against: 7

# Abstain: 18

# **Passes**

# Any Other Business:

# The Chair asked if there was any other business

# CMD informed everyone about the upcoming elections for the Full-Time Officers

# The Chair thanked everyone for attending and stated that the results of the vote would be emailed to all participants within the next 24 hours once all votes had been validated.

# The Chair reminded the participants that the next Meeting would be held on the 24th of March 6:00-8:30pm on Zoom.