

# Student Members' Meeting

## Agenda

5pm Thursday 15 February 2018 | A130, College Building, Northampton Square

	Item	Paper Ref:	Lead:
1	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	N/A	Chair
2	<b>Minutes</b> To agree the accuracy and approve the minutes from the last meeting.	N/A	Chair
3	<b>Confirmation of Items for Any Other Business</b>	N/A	Chair
4	<b>Items specially brought forward by the Chair</b> To <b>note</b> any items brought forward by the Chair	N/A	Chair
<b>Items for Information</b>			
5	<b>Trustee Report on Union Activities</b>	Verbal	OM
6	<b>Management Accounts</b>	Verbal	OM
<b>Items for Decision</b>			
7	<b>Affiliations</b>	SSM-001	OM
8	<b>Free Events on Campus</b>	SSM-002	OM
9	<b>Friday Happy Hour</b>	SSM-003	BM
10	<b>Make Programme Representatives More Representative!</b>	SSM-004	AO
11	<b>Shorten the time taken for approving external speaker to 14 days</b>	SSM-005	TFH
12	<b>Extension and Late Submission Policy</b>	SSM-006	MA
13	<b>Society Led Friday prayer through Students Union</b>	SSM-007	MK
14	<b>A Sugar Smart policy for City, University of London</b>	SSM-008	GF
15	<b>BDS</b>	SSM-009	SD
16	<b>UCU USS Pension Strike 2018</b>	SSM-010	OM
<b>Any Other Business</b>			
17	<b>Any Other Business</b> To <b>consider</b> any other business notified earlier	N/A	N/A

Secretary – Laura Dickens, Academic Representation & Democracy Coordinator

Chair's Support – James Lindsay, Membership Development Manager

# Student Members' Meeting

<b>Paper Title</b>	External Affiliations
<b>Paper Number</b>	SSM-001
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The Students' Union affiliates with external partners to help benefit our members and advance our strategical aims. Our Student Groups also affiliate with national and international organisations to help support and promote their activity, be recognised as an official group of the organisation or to benefit from access to support and training.</p> <p>Below is a list of the applications for affiliations 2017/18</p> <p>National Union of Students</p> <p>AIESEC City Society - AIESEC UK          Amnesty City Society - Amnesty UK          Christian Union - UCCF          Enactus Society - Enactus UK          Erasmus Student Network – Erasmus Student Network UK          Future Frontiers Society - Future Frontiers UK          Girl Up Society - Girl Up          Lawyers Without Borders Society - Lawyers Without Border</p>
<b>Action for Meeting</b>	To <b>approve</b> the affiliations listed above.

## Free Events on Campus

SSM-002

**Proposer:** Olesea Matcovschi, President

**Seconded:** Zulkaif Riaz, VP Activities & Development

### **This Union notes:**

1. In the first term of the 2017/18 academic year, Students' Union held a number of events at CityBar where students were charged at the entrance.
2. Students' Union does not own or manage CityBar.
3. Not all students consume alcohol or go to CityBar.
4. Cost of living is consistently rising.

### **This Union believes:**

1. All students should be able to afford to attend an event on campus.
2. Student experience consists of variety of factors such as academic experience and a broader student life.
3. Social events are a good platform for students to meet with each other and make friends, hence it is one of the ways to enhance sense of community at City.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. All events that are run on campus by the Students' Union should be either with free admission or a very small, reasonable price should be charged.
2. The Union should seek further sponsorship or funds in order to be able to run good quality events on campus that are inclusive to all students and not limited to only CityBar as a location with free admission or a very small, reasonable admission fee.
3. The Union should have a separate budget to run events in CityBar, elsewhere on campus and outside campus throughout the year.

## Friday Happy Hour

SSM-003

**Proposer:** Bashir Mohamed

**Seconder:** Yahya Adam AakilAakil

### **This Union notes:**

1. Student's timetable clashes with their prayer time on a Friday.
2. That they have been unable to accommodate for students who wish to attend Friday prayer, as there is a scheduled contact time slotted in the students timetable

### **This Union believes:**

1. Religion is a key part of student's everyday experience. They have a right to preform there religious obligations.
2. That it has a diverse student base and that it aims to accommodate for all students.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. The union will work with the university to ensure that ALL students timetable will not clash with Friday prayers.
2. The union will work with the university to ensure that happy hour will take place on a Friday for ALL students ALL year round.
3. The union will lobby the university to ensure that no January exams or summer exams will take place between happy hour on Friday.

## **Make Programme Representatives More Representative!**

**SSM-004**

**Proposer:** Anna-Noemie Ouattara Boni

**Seconder:** Malek Arab

### **This Union notes:**

1. Programme Representatives are a way for the University to get feedback from its students.
2. Programme Reps are elected annually in partnership with the University.
3. Students come from over 160 different countries to study at City (*International students, 2018*).
4. The University currently does not collect data on the level of diversity in the Programme Representative system including racial, ethnic and gender background.

### **This Union believes:**

1. If representation matches the level of diversity, it is likely that students will be more inclined to give feedback.
2. Traditionally under-represented student groups should be represented at all levels in the Union and University.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. To measure the diversity of the Programme Representatives and eventually help in the provision of qualitative and quantitative feedback in order to enhance the student experience at City, University of London.
2. To run a campaign to empower all the students included the less represented sections at University in order for them to be adequately represented in the Union.

## **Shorten the time taken for approving external speaker to 14 days**

**SSM-005**

**Proposer:** Tania Fahmeda Huda

**Seconder:** Siddeeqah Ahmed

### **This Union notes:**

1. The external speaker request process is essential to ensure speakers follow Union and university guidelines.
2. Due to lack of resources, the external speaker request process has taken over the 4-week period requested by the Union.
3. This has disrupted the development and engagement of societies as they were nor able to carry out planned events

### **This Union believes:**

1. That the process of approving external speaker needs to be more transparent to student societies
2. That the development and growth is an important aspect and at the core of the Union priorities.
3. That transparency is a value, which it holds high. Students have a right to know and meet with relevant peoples in the Union for clarification regarding their external speakers.
4. That ALL student societies are equal and will be treated fairly with no bias.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. That the Union will work with the university to be more transparent in how external speakers are approved, by explaining how the process of approving a speaker is conducted to societies.
2. The student union will work with the University to shorten the time taken for external speaker to be approved from 30 days to 14 days
3. The student union will work with the university to explain and justify to students on what basis they have rejected a speaker with evidence supporting their claim.

## Extension and Late Submission Policy

SSM-006

**Proposer:** Malek Arab

**Seconder:** Zulkaif Riaz

### **This Union notes:**

1. There is no current consistent policy at City, University of London regarding extension and late submission policy.
2. The late submission policy shall have an impact on the progression and retention rate of students at City.

### **This Union believes:**

1. There should be a common approach regarding extensions and late submissions policy at City, University of London and the five schools.
2. Currently, UCL and LSE have very good systems in place for late submissions, with a 10% deduction for work submitted up to 2 days late but not lower than the pass mark for undergraduates, while work submitted 2-5 working days late, the mark would be capped at the pass mark. LSE use a system whereby students lose five marks per 24 hours late on late submission.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. To lobby the University to apply a fair extension and late submission policy system that does not unfairly sanction students.
2. City should adopt a hybrid system of the UCL and LSE late submission policy which would entails five marks lost per 24 hours late submission but also within five days being capped at the pass mark if the student showed the relevant learning objectives.

## **Society Led Friday prayer through Student's Union**

**SSM-007**

**Proposer:** Mohammed Khalef

**Secunder:** Samatar Xasan

### **This Union notes:**

1. There is a significantly high proportion of Muslim students who attend City, University of London and who participate in the Friday prayers.
2. Religion is one of a range of protected characteristics in the Equalities Act and is an important part of many students' lives
3. Great Hall is currently being used for Friday prayers outside of exam period

### **This Union believes:**

1. Friday Prayer should be Society led through the Students' Union rather than University Led.
2. University led Friday prayer fails to take into consideration the Muslim Students religious views.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. The Students' Union will lobby at City University London to facilitate Friday prayer on campus during term and exam period, accommodating both males and females.
2. The Student Union will work with City University of London to transfer the responsibilities of Friday Prayer from the University to the Student Union.



**Proposer:** Giovanni Fusco

**Seconder:** Sarah Haile

**This Union notes:**

1. That City, University of London lacks an information campaign about reducing sugar consumption.
2. Sustained, uncontrolled or immoderate sugar consumption can lead to weight gain, obesity, and non-communicable diseases such as type 2 diabetes;
3. That a volunteering organisation called “Sugar Smart” is a registered organisation within the University.

**This Union believes:**

1. That, statistically<sup>1</sup>, 20% of the nearly 19,000 students of City may be at risk of becoming overweight or obese;
2. That an increased awareness of sugar consumption and its potential impacts is vital to preventing excess weight gain, obesity and type 2 diabetes;
3. It has a responsibility and a duty to develop and promote such an awareness policy among its membership.

**This Union Resolves:**

1. To launch a campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the issue;
2. To work to make the entire City community aware of the campaign;
3. To involve City’s food service providers, canteen and café staff in the campaign;
4. To take measures to alert City’s community to the sugar content of the foods they purchase around campus;
5. To support City’s Sugar Smart Steering Committee in its efforts to launch, develop, promote and co-ordinate such a campaign.

---

<sup>1</sup> Parliament. House of Commons (2017) *Obesity Statistics*. (3336). London. The Stationery Office.

**Proposer:** Shaima Dallali  
**Seconded:** Abdurrahman Tamimi

**This Union notes:**

1. Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) is a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality. BDS upholds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity.
2. BDS movement has explicitly drawn inspiration from the South African anti-apartheid movement.
3. BDS is now a vibrant global movement made up of unions, academic associations, churches and grassroots movements across the world.
4. The BDS movement is global, implemented by UK Student unions such as Sheffield University, academics and religious institutions.

**This Union believes:**

1. That the establishment of settlements in occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity, constituting a flagrant violation under international law (According to the UN Council)
2. That there should be an open dialogue amongst students and staff in a manner where students and staff feel safe to express their views without being targeted or labelled.
3. As mentioned in the SU website, it is committed to the principles of social justice. BDS is a campaign, which promotes this principle.
4. One of its values is to always be open to change and challenging our way of thinking.
5. BDS is a creative campaign, endorsed by City student groups, as a result of this Union's fundamental way of operating; creativity.

**This Union Resolves:**

1. Work with the University to divest itself and terminate any contracts with companies that are complicit with illegal settlements.
2. To join the global efforts of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) until Israel complies with international law.
3. That it recognises the differences between its members, therefore upholding the principle of equity.

**Proposer:** Olesea Matcovschi (President)

**Seconders:** Malek Arab (Vice President Education), Zulkaif Riaz (VP Activities & Development)

**This Union notes:**

1. The University and College Union have voted to strike over the Universities UK proposals to reform the USS Pension Scheme which will result in substantial cuts in USS members' pensions.
2. The strike is scheduled to take place over the following 14 days: 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
3. The City branch of UCU have voted to strike in line with the national action.
4. City UCU represents University lecturers, researchers and professional staff in administrative, library and computing services as well as some postgraduate research students who undertake teaching activities at City.
5. Negotiations have been ongoing to resolve this situation, however they have not succeeded at finding a compromise or solution.

**This Union believes:**

1. Fairly rewarded staff are the cornerstone of the university experience and all staff at City should have access to a range of benefits including a good pension scheme.
2. City SU and UCU are both committed to promoting the interests of our members, to defending education and challenging the marketisation of education.
3. The imposition of the proposed pension cuts in the face of sector wide opposition might lead to a demotivated and unhappy workforce and consequent recruitment and retention problems.

**This Union Resolves:**

1. To encourage the University and UCU to continue discussions to prevent further actions being taken and for a reasonable solution to be found as soon as possible to minimise the negative impact on student experience.