

Student Council Minutes

5pm Thursday 24th January 2019 | AG04, College Building

Executive Officers	Initials	Meeting 08.11.18	Meeting 2 25.1.19	Meeting 3 12.04.18
Kristina Perelygina (President)	KP	✓	✓	
Tuna Kunt (VP Education)	TK	✓	✓	
Nazia Bharde (VP Activities & Development)	NB	✓	✓	
Abdul Khokhar (SMCSE SRO)	AK	✓	X	
Surra Mehdi (BME Officer)	SM	X	X	
Nicole Hernandez-Vazquez (Disabled Students' Officer)	NH-V	X	X	
Danil Kocherga (International Students' Officer)	DK	✓	X	
Egor Chetverikov (Cass SRO)	EC	X	X	
Ruqaiyah Javaid (Health SRO)	RJ	✓	✓	
Ricky Emery (Law SRO)	RE	A	✓	
Edward Armitage (Sports' Officer)	EA	✓	✓	
Fatema Dhanani (RAG Officer)	FD	✓	A	
Annette Yunus Pendrey (Ethics & Environment Officer)	AYP	✓	A	
Paty Nascimento	PN	A	X	
Tara	TO	X	A	

Student Councillors	Initials	Meeting 27.11.17	Meeting 2 6.2.18	Meeting 3 12.04.18
Albena Haytova (Student Council Chair)	AH	✓	✓	
Wenyu (Katrina) Tian (Cass Student Councillor)	WT	✓	P	
Daria Sharapova (Cass Student Councillor)	DS	✓	✓	
Usama Zaid (Cass Student Councillor)	UZ	✓	A	
Rahul Jugnarain (SASS Student Councillor)	RJ	✓	✓	
Anne Onwusiri (SHS Student Councillor)	AO	✓	✓	
Muhudin Mohamed (SMCSE Councillor)	MM	✓	X	
David Wahba (SMCSE Student Councillor)	DW	X	✓	
Alberto Cespedes Gongora (Law Student Councillor)	ACG	X	X	
Giulia Tonetti (Law Student Councillor)	GT	✓	A	
Jorja Pitt (Law councillor)	JP	-	✓	
Saqlain Riaz (SASS councillor)	SR	-	X	
Abdurrahman Tamimi (SMCSE Councillor)	AT	-	X	
Siddeeqah Ahmed (SHS Councillor)	SA	-	✓	
Sadia Siddequi (SHS Councillor)	SS	-	✓	
Dren Matoshi (SASS Councillor)	DM	-	X	

Key: "✓" = Present, "A" = Apologies given, "N/M" = Non-member, "P" = Partial attendance, 'X' = Non-attendance

In Attendance	Initials	Reason and Meeting Section
Angelo Weekes	AW	Representation Manager (Advisor)
Skye Golding	SG	Wellbeing and Insight Coordinator (Secretary)
Josh Hooker	JH	Conservative Society President (Observer)

Part One

1) Welcome and apologies

AH opened the meeting and informed those present that the order of items for decision was to be changed.

2) Minutes

The minutes from the previous Student Council were approved.

3) Declarations of Interest

No new declarations.

4) Confirmation of matters for any other business

RE wishes to discuss a byelaw amendment for societies.

5) Items specially brought forward by the Chair

N/A

Executive Officer Reports

6) Full Time Officer Reports

(paper: SC-001)

a) President – Kristina Perelygina

KP updated council on her actions.

- Please see appendix A.

Question: JH – Is the pay gap for women and men at the same position only 0.8%?

Answer: KP – It's around 20% overall. The campaign will be useful to empower women on campus and get them taking action on the issues that affect them.

RE – There are two different statistics, one for the pay gap across an organisation and one for the gap between employees at the same position.

b) VP Education – Tuna Kunt

TK updated Council on her actions;

- Please see appendix A.

Question: DM: When will policy on lecture capture come into force?

Answer: TK – Not this year. There will be a long period of consultation to allay lecturer concerns that the recordings will be used in the event of industrial action. Early next year at soonest.

Question: JH – Printer credits could cost uni hundreds of thousands of pounds. Should we instead be using the money for something with more educational value than printing? I've only spent about £60 on printing in three years.

Answer: TK – It isn't a massive amount but why should students have to pay extra £60 when they already pay such high fees? I am under the impression that the University have the money currently, although this is obviously not a one-off cost and would have to be factored into future budgets. Other Universities do it. I am currently in conversation with University to work it out.

Question: JH – At Middlesex this policy led to students wasting paper by over using printer, which is bad for the environment.

Answer: TK – That's why I will be campaigning for a limited number of free credits, rather than unlimited free printing.

c) VP Activities and Development – Nazia Bharde

NB updated Council on her actions;

- Please see appendix A.

7) Part Time Officer Reports

(paper: SC-002)

- Please see appendix B.

Items for Decision

Motions**8) Remove Evening Exams**

(paper: SC-014)

Speech For: AO presented the motion and explained that during the January exam period 25% of exams were held after 6pm. This is a barrier to students with childcare or religious commitments, as well as those who commute long distances and rely on public transport.

Question: AH – would banning evening exams result in a longer exam period?

Answer: AO – It could do, but it could also mean hiring external venues so there are more places to hold exams.

KP – It would probably mean an extension of the exam period to four weeks. Do you have proof that students would prefer that?

Answer: AO – I don't have evidence that they want a longer exam period but I do know that students would rather not have evening exams, and the University should be looking for solutions.

Chair moved to a vote;

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

Decision

Student Council **approved** the Motion. It now becomes policy of the Students' Union.

9) Provision of Halal food options at all City, University of London outlets and City Students' Union events

(paper: SC-015)

Speech For: MM presented the motion and explained that it was a renewal of a policy that lapsed in November 2018. Having suitable halal food on campus saves students time and prevents them from having to leave campus to buy unhealthy junk food.

Question: RE asked if there were any differences from the last policy.

Answer: MM – no, just renewing it.

Question: KP – What will the Union have to do if the policy is passed?

Answer: MM – Exactly what it does now.

Question: JH – Is there any point renewing it if we already do it? The University is unlikely to withdraw the current offering.

Answer: KP – The University's catering contract is about to be renewed so provision might change. Worth having policy on this.

Chair moved to a vote.

Decision

11 for approval, **0** against approval and **0** abstentions.

Student Council **approved** the Motion.

It now becomes policy of the Students' Union.

10) The right to education without religious discrimination

SA presented the motion and explained it was a renewal of an expired policy. Spoke to personal experience as Optometry student. Has followed department policy for seeking exemption from being fifteen minutes early to classes but has on occasion been denied. Clinics change time every couple of weeks. If students turn up late more than three times they fail the module. Unfair as students cannot fulfil religious obligation to pray. Friday prayer is compulsory for Muslim and Jewish students. The policy is requesting support from SU and the drafting of a simplified, uniform permission slip.

Question: SS – is there any legal footing for this?

Answer: SA – yes, employers are legally obligated to allow employees to fulfil religious obligations.

Question: RE – That law is for employers though. Will you make up class time at other times.

Answer: SA – Praying can take as little as five minutes.

Question: RE – Seems ridiculous to have to fail modules over five minutes. Supportive of motion. Asked if University resolved anything after the last policy was passed?

Answer: SA – last time just covered Friday prayers and was not uniformly applied.

NB – University has given us a slot in the Great Hall for Friday prayers but timetables do not always honour it.

Question: JP- Can't you just be given set times to pray and not have lectures scheduled then?

Answer: MM – Prayer is done by the lunar calendar so changes by two minutes every day. Offered to share prayer timetables if it would help council make a decision.

AH – Thanked him but said that was not necessary. Summarised motion.

Decision

11 for approval, **0** against approval and **0** abstentions.
Student Council **approved** the motion. It is now Union policy.

11) Reduce External Speaker wait time. (paper: SC-017)

Speech For: RJ introduced the motion and explained that this policy was passed before in 2017, but no work was done on it. The policy was presented again in 2018 but the website was not updated to reflect that. City is the slowest Union in London when it comes to external speaker policies, with the closest being Westminster at 10 days.

Speech Against: RE – can't compare to KCL etc as they have more funding and more staff than we do. The University should absolutely be quicker on their end but the Union is doing its best with a lack of resource. The University should pay the Union more money to pay more staff.

Question: KP – what is average for the sector?

Answer: RJ – I've been given a spread of 4-10 days.

Question: JH – What is the process for someone high-risk? How long does it really take?

Answer: KP – Two weeks from SU, then two weeks for the University.

NB – has to go through three panels for high risk so that takes time. But lower/medium risk speakers can be quicker.

Speech For: RJ – We had high risk speaker that ended up taking two months, causing a lot of stress for society leaders.

Speech Against: KP – My concern is surrounding trouble with staff capacity at the Union, but I agree we should be lobbying the University to speed up their end.

Speech For: NB – I received no communication from the University regarding my speakers for Islamophobia Awareness Month so understand the stress students are experiencing.

Speech For: AT – I appreciate the work you guys do but we don't get paid and put in months of work to try and hold these events.

JH – Let's disaffiliate from NUS and use the money to employ more staff.

Chair moves to a vote.

Decision

11 for approval, **0** against approval and **0** abstentions.
Student Council **approved** the motion. It is now Union policy.

12) Amendments to Bye-Law 5: Sabbatical Officers and Bye-Law 6: Part-Time Officers (paper: SC-009, SC-010, SC-011)

Speech For: NB introduced the amendment and explained the it would change the role of VP Activities and Development to VP Community and Wellbeing and add two new PTOs, a Media Officer and a Societies Officer. This would result in some restructuring of the workload among the Sabbs, allow for a greater focus on initiatives relating to mental health and other topics, and provide more representation for student groups.

Question: DM – When would this proposal come into effect?

Answer: NB – with current intake.

Decision

12 for approval, 0 against approval and 0 abstentions.
Student Council **approved** the byelaw amendment.

13) Bye-Law Amendment to make the President an ex-officio delegate to NUS National Conference (paper: SC-008)

Speech For: KP introduced the bye-law amendment proposal, explaining that currently, the President must campaign for NUS delegate position alongside working full-time. She argued that the President has been elected to represent the interests of all students at City, University of London and the Union itself and therefore should be an ex-officio delegate to NUS National Conference. The role of President also gives them an in-depth understanding of NUS policy. Many other universities already have this policy, such as Manchester, Durham, Nottingham, Kings College London, etc. This would mean one out of six positions was reserved for the President. The other five would be open to all students. This amendment would not affect this year's conference as elections have already taken place, and would come into force next year.

Question: MM – What benefit will this bring to students?

Answer: KP – It gives the President the chance the advance the manifesto that students have already voted for. The President has spent the whole year meeting with students from all groups and has an understanding of their issues.

Question: DM – can sabbs run in the election like other students?

Answer: KP- Not in working hours.

Speech Against: DM – But it is possible as they've been selected before.

Speech Against: What makes the president deserving of being automatically a delegate over the other sabbs? Should be able to secure votes anyway as they are already popular.

Speech For: KP – it is in the job description of the President to represent students on a national level, it's in their remit. Many students don't know the NUS elections are happening and turnout is very low. The chance to win is small if you don't actively campaign.

JH: I don't know why people are questioning whether this is undemocratic when the NUS is very undemocratic. It has gender quotas for delegates so women get in whether they are the most qualified or not.

Speech Against: RJ – It is exactly a democracy issue. The President should be on a level playing field with other students. I don't understand why the under-promotion of elections make is specifically hard for the President.

Speech For: KP- it's democratic because the President's manifesto has already been voted for. It's a great chance for this cohort to have their views heard and voted on on a national level. Regarding lack of promotion – disadvantages all students even if you're popular.

Speech Against: DM – Presidents don't need to do as much campaigning as students already know who they are.

Speech For: KP – President needs to take time off and sacrifice work to campaign, which is detrimental to students. They won't vote if you can't tell them it is happening.

Chair moves to a vote.

Decision

4 for approval, 7 against approval and 1 abstentions.
Student Council **rejected** the byelaw amendment.

Any Other Business

14) AGM

MM – When is AGM? Why no advertising?

AW – Date on website and notices will be up around campus on Tuesday.

15) Byelaws for Society Elections

RE wants to get feedback on suggested amendment. Currently committee members can endorse candidates. Wants them to have to remain impartial and not endorse students to take their place. Wants it to be fair and equal.

EA – How many societies are there?

TK – Over 100. Not allowed to endorse if you're running in the election for another position as no slates are allowed. This policy would just be an extension of that.

RJ- Playing devil's advocate here, but what would you say to the argument that current exec know their role and who would be good?

RE – They only know their friends and not the capabilities of their whole membership. There should be open debate between candidates to find out who has the best skills.

JH- Alright for bigger societies but for smaller societies sometimes the best method is for the current president to say who they think would be best to replace them.

12) Date of the next meeting: Tuesday, 26th March 2019, 5.00pm
Board Secretary: Skye Golding

APPENDIX A

Student Council

Paper Title	Full-Time Officer Reports
Paper Number	SC-001
Summary	<u>Full-Time Officer Reports</u> President – Kristina Perelygina Vice-President Education – Tuna Kunt Vice-President Activities & Development – Nazia Bharde
Action for Council	To note the reports submitted by the Full-Time Officers

President – Kristina Perelygina

Action Plan

Action plan can be found here: https://www.citystudents.co.uk/pageassets/student-voice/studentofficers/SU_President_Action_Plan_Sept18.docx

<p>Improve Representation of: Liberation groups International Students Postgraduate students</p>	<p>Achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disabled student officer and Postgraduate Taught officer are successfully elected during October - 2 Events are organised during November in order to support BME community and International Students community on campus to improve the career perspective of this groups and also create a platform for communication - Two events of the campaign “Union on Tour” were launched in order to collect the feedback from different students’ cohorts. - In collaboration with Postgraduate Taught Officer PostGradUp project is launched in order to build the relationship with Postgraduate community - The regular meetings with Liberation officers - In collaboration with Women’s Officer “Gender Pay Gap” campaign has been launched in order to increase the awareness of the gender pay gap. <p>To be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To organise the chain of events for the rest of liberation groups campus to improve the career perspective of this groups and also create a platform for communication - To attract more students for the community events
<p>Charger stations</p>	<p>Achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successfully implemented 2 charger stations (One next to SU reception in the Tait building, another one in Bunhill Row.) - Successfully lobbied university to get one charger station for the library
<p>Transparency and Awareness of Student Union</p>	<p>Achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two events of the campaign “Union on Tour” were launched successfully in order to collect the feedback from different students’ cohorts. - Three more events of the campaign “Union on Tour” are scheduled and planned - The social media accounts are having increased number of engagements. <p>To be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 300+ conversations with the students during the year.
<p>Improve efficiency of sabbatical officer role in the SU</p>	<p>To be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student Union conduct a research to estimate the efficiency of current Sabbatical Officers positions. - Student Union and University approves new SU governance system
<p>Implement Pre – Exam sessions for first year and postgraduate students</p>	<p>Achieved: The feedback gatherdd from students during the exams period regarding their opinion and concerns of the examination process</p> <p>To be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University make a pre-exam sessions mandatory as a part of revision
<p>Lobby university to introduce anonymous coursework marking</p>	<p>To be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I make a research on the benefits of anonymous marking - University uses anonymous marking system for all assignments

Vice-President Education – Tuna Kunt

Action Plan

Action plan can be found here: https://www.citystudents.co.uk/pageassets/student-voice/studentofficers/VP_Education_Action_Plan_Sept18.docx

Lecture Capture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey online (https://www.citystudents.co.uk/tellus/) • Will generate a report from the survey and take it to Education Quality Committee • Working with LEaD (Learning Enhancement and Development) for a guide to help students with tips on how to revise from lecture
VP Education Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing back the essay competition that started in 2016 Prize + SU hoodie + certificate awarded to the winners at the Academic Impact Awards (April 16th) • Several different topics
Water Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting for an update from PAF on key problem areas (College, Centenary, Tait, University buildings)
Programme Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey online for non-rep students (www.citystudents.co.uk/tellus/) • Survey available for reps in the newsletter • First newsletter sent and rep handbook finalised • Working on Rep Reception (January 31st)
Sexual Health Awareness & Guidance Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned for February 11th – February 15th • Event details will be available soon
Extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking part in the consultations for City's extensions policy
Printing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting on updates from university finance • Printt – unavailable due to exclusivity clause in our current printing contract
Student enquiries	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following up with several different student enquires regarding feedback, exam times, assessments, appeals
Education & Student Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Included academic societies

Vice-President Activities & Development – Nazia Bharde Action Plan

Action plan can be found here: https://www.citystudents.co.uk/pageassets/student-voice/studentofficers/VicePresidentActivities_Action_Plan_Sept18.docx

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