Student Council Minutes

5pm Monday 27 November 2017 | B103, University Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Officers</th>
<th>Initials</th>
<th>Meeting 27/11/17</th>
<th>Meeting 2 6/2/18</th>
<th>Meeting 3 12/4/18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olesa Matcovschi  (President)</td>
<td>OM</td>
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<td>Malek Arab  (VP Education)</td>
<td>MA</td>
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<td>Zulkaif Riaz  (VP Activities &amp; Development)</td>
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<td>Fariza Latifova  (SMCSE SRO)</td>
<td>FL</td>
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<td>Anna-Noemie Ouattara Boni  (BME Officer)</td>
<td>AO</td>
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<td>Maxime Comminge  (LGBT Officer)</td>
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<td>Katherine Tobar-Manosalvas  (Women’s Officer)</td>
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<td>Mujtaba Shaikhan  (Disabled Students' Officer)</td>
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<td>Selim Affi  (International Students’ Officer)</td>
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<td>Jan Jenicek  (Cass SRO)</td>
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<td>Siim Ojavere  (SASS SRO)</td>
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<td>Birsem Tilki  (Health SRO)</td>
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<td>Minni Agyeben  (Law SRO)</td>
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<td>Aurora Herrera  (Graduate School Officer)</td>
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<td>Jan Niyazi  (Sports’ Officer)</td>
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<td>Fatema Dhanani  (RAG Officer)</td>
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<td>Chelsey (Yige) Liu  (Ethics &amp; Environment Officer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ali Yasen  (Student Council Chair)</td>
<td>AY</td>
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<td>Egor Chevertkov  (Cass Student Councillor)</td>
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<td>Faria Sultan  (Cass Student Councillor)</td>
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<td>Katrina Tian  (Cass Student Councillor)</td>
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<td>Aziza Abdennadher  (SASS Student Councillor)</td>
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<td>Tom Guy  (SASS Student Councillor)</td>
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<td>Usama Maqsood  (SASS Student Councillor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryam Chaudhry  (SHS Student Councillor)</td>
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<td>Abdul Khokhar  (SMCSE Student Councillor)</td>
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<td>Andrei Gavrilova  (SMCSE Student Councillor)</td>
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<td>Shaiyra Shaikh  (SMCSE Student Councillor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaidy Matsina  (Law Student Councillor)</td>
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<td>Najma Sharif  (Law Student Councillor)</td>
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<td>Waqar Ahmad  (Law Student Councillor)</td>
<td>WA</td>
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Key: “✓” = Present, “A” = Apologies given, “N/M” = Non-member, “P” = Partial attendance, ‘X’ = Non-attendance

In Attendance | Initials | Reason and Meeting Section
---|----------|----------------------------------
James Lindsay | JL | Membership Development Manager (Advisor)
Laura Dickens | LD | Academic Representation & Democracy Coordinator (Secretary)

Part One

1) **Welcome and apologies**
   AY opened the meeting and welcomed the new Student Council.

2) **Minutes**
   As this was the first meeting of Student Council, there were no minutes to approve.
3) **Declarations of Interest**
OM and MA declared they are Trustees
OM declared she was a Member of University Council

4) **Confirmation of matters for any other business**
OM – USS Pensions Strike (AOB1)
OM – Transgender, Intersex and Gender Non-Conforming Facilities (AOB2)

5) **Items specially brought forward by the Chair**
No items were brought forward.

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### Executive Officer Reports

6) **Full Time Officer Reports**

#### a) President - Olesea Matcovschi
OM updated Council on her actions;
- Working on the case for power-nap pods and had managed to secure the reinstating of cocktails at CityBar following a student petition.
- Working on a City communities project, to try to understand what communities exist at City, what the issues are and how this can be improved.
- Working with AH on Graduate Teaching Assistants to get the University to implement fairer conditions.

**Question:** AK - How many pods there would be?
**Answer:** OM - Aiming for a trial of 2 with the University – to be placed at the Northampton Square campus initially and would like to see more in the long term.

**Question:** Ted Jeffrey (TJ) - How are Graduate Teaching Assistants not being treated fairly?
**Answer:** OM - students who are on a studentship are not recognised as employees, even though they work and teach, as their teaching is expected from their studentship. OM clarified that they would like to see clarity on their working status, and the studentship should be split properly into payment and fees. OM explained that tier 4 students are on different contracts, listed with Unitemps, meaning they are classed as workers and therefore do not receive the same rights such as maternity leave or pensions. OM updated that HR are currently drafting contracts and updating their systems, due to be in place for next academic year. OM and AH are pushing for this to be implemented this year.

#### b) VP Education - Malek Arab
MA updated Council on his actions;
- MA congratulated the Student Councillors on their positions.
- Working on supporting City’s demographics – running Islamophobia Awareness Month, with a series of events including one on Islamophobia towards Muslim women along with working with AO on a panel event on the BME Attainment Gap and how we can address social inequalities.
- Working on Prevent – trying to make sure the University was following the minimum engagement, as with Students’ Union policy.
- Working on the business case to bring Printt to campus, allowing students to print for free (with paper featuring advertisements along the bottom).
- Worked with MI to get the exam timetables released on time.
- Run a series of Welcome Receptions to introduce Programme Reps to their roles and staff within their Schools.
**Question:** AO - commended MI and MA on their successful release of the exam timetables, and asked if they would be released earlier in summer?  
**Answer:** MA - he is working hard with the exams office to try make this possible. Process is slow due to compromises and scheduling – and in order to see the timetable released sooner, it may mean 6pm and weekend exams, which he was against.

**Question:** WA – is there a possibility of giving free textbooks to 3rd year Law students, as 1st and 2nd year students receive?  
**Answer:** MA – will look into this with MI.

**Question:** FL – will free printing contravene the University’s environmental policies?  
**Answer:** MA - free unlimited printing would not be sustainable financially and is intended for lecture notes and smaller printouts. By having a budget for each student this would mitigate some environmental impact.

**Question:** FL – will MA be running any events targeting Asian students, as there had been quite a focus on black students during the campaigns?  
**Answer:** MA - events would be run to incorporate these students, and there had been a lot of focus due to Black History Month.

**Question:** AA – what is the timeline for the introduction of Printt?  
**Answer:** MA - will be drawing up a report and that there would be no adverse costs to the University. He noted the University would require a business case.

**Question:** WA - how much will the budget for free printing be?  
**Answer:** MA - that would depend on if School wide or University wide and depends on demand. He noted he would be looking at the budget later on, and intends Printt to be for and by everyone.

AY noted that if any Student Councillors had any queries for ZR, or any of the Full Time Officers, that they could email them directly.

### 7) Part Time Officer Reports  
(paper: SC-002)

**a) Law School Representative Officer - Minni Agyeben**  
MI updated Council on her actions;  
- Working on the points on her manifesto, around free printing  
- Working on more practice assessments and feedback for law students  
- Working on increasing the number of resources  
- Noted she’d been attending lots of Staff-Student Liaison Committees (SSLCs) and the Student Experience Committee (SEC).

**b) School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering Representative Officer - Fariza Latifova**  
FL updated Council on her actions;  
- Organising events and social interactions with students in her School  
- Noted that a lot of lectures are not recorded and is planning to work with the Full Time Officers to get lecture capture more widely introduced.

**c) Black & Minority Ethnic Officer - Anna-Noemie Ouattara Boni**  
AO updated Council on her actions;  
- Putting BME concerns at the heart of the Students’ Union.  
- Successful Black History Month events that she put together in October, including an event run on raising awareness of the black attainment gap.
• Working on eliminating forms of discrimination, particularly with International Week.
• Planning an online campaign around slavery in Libya and an event on the 1st December with some of the cultural societies, to include BME students and all minorities students.
• Plans to put a policy into the AGM around course reps, and ensuring that they are representative of the diversity of the student body at City.

d) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Officer - Maxime Comminge
MC updated Council on his actions;
• Planning a Meet and Greet of the LGBT Community at CityBar
• Planning to organise a panel from industries with the Careers service – to talk about their experiences of being LGBT in big companies.
• Planning to get a stand for City at the London Gay Pride event.

e) Graduate School Officer - Aurora Herrera
AH updated Council on her actions;
• Working with OM on the Graduate Teaching Assistants issues.
• Working on issues with supervision and that she had met with the Learning Enhancement and Development department to try and introduce standard training.
• Spoke at a recent staff training about students’ experiences.
• Working on improving the teaching module for PhD students who teach, as students have said it does not prepare them enough.
• Wants to address a lack of community in the Graduate School, especially since there is no physical space.

f) RAG Officer - Fatema Dhanani
FD updated Council on her actions;
• Finished RAG week, raising over £600 last week for the Penny Appeal.
• Noted that RAG had worked with societies to run events and stalls for the wider City community.
• Next term, she is planning a Charity Sports Olympics with JN and a Women’s Bingo Night.

Question: MA - will funding would be doubled?
Answer: FD - Santander will be matching funding.

g) Disabled Students’ Officer - Mujtaba Shaikhani
MS updated Council on his actions;
• Working with JL in the Students’ Union to put on a careers event for Disabled Students, to help them to apply to big companies. He anticipated that this would be in February.

Items for Decision

Motions

8) Creating the Bye-Laws of City, University of London Students’ Union.
   (paper: SC-003)

Speech For: OM introduced the motion and explained that over the summer, City Students’ Union had incorporated as a charity, and become a separate legal entity to the University.
By doing so, the Students’ Union had updated its Articles of Association and Bye-Laws. The Bye-Laws had been passed by the Board of Trustees and were needing Student Council's stamp of approval.

Speech Against: n/a

Chair moved to a vote;

For: 8
Against: 0
Abstention: 1

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

9) Creating a Physical Space for the Graduate School. (paper: SC-004)

AH introduced the motion, detailing that there is currently no central physical space for Graduate students or information system.

AK asked if the proposal would take space away from Undergraduate students.

AH responded that 50% of students at City are postgraduates and the plan would be to look at places around campus that are available. AH noted that in SASS, there are 60 people in The Pool area, but that there is no communal space.

AK asked if there was a budget for this.

AH responded that she would be seeking this from the Dean of the Graduate School, Ken Grattan.

Decision
9 for approval, 0 against approval and 0 abstentions.
Student Council approved the Motion.
It now becomes policy of the Students’ Union.

10) Postgraduate Taught Officer. (paper: SC-005)

OM introduced the bye-law amendment proposal, explaining that currently, the Students’ Union only has 1 Graduate School Officer, and outlined the differences between Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research students – including, length of course and types of engagement had with the Students’ Union.

OM explained that by splitting the Graduate School role into a Postgraduate Research Officer and Postgraduate Taught Officer, this would mean that the Students’ Union could offer more representation to postgraduates and more effectively suit their needs.

Decision
9 for approval, 0 against approval and 0 abstentions.
Student Council approved the Bye-Law amendment. It now passes to Board of Trustees for approval.

Any Other Business
11a) USS Pensions Strike

OM updated Student Council that there may be potential strike action by the UCU over the USS Pension Scheme. She noted that there are 400 staff on the scheme and the issue is it is in deficit – meaning money is being lost. She confirmed that UCU nationally are proposing a strike, and that City’s UCU branch is currently balloting its members on whether to strike or not. 50% of members need to vote to strike.

OM updated that if the strikes go ahead, there are implications for students as it could take place during the exams period or take time away from teaching. OM noted that a lot of UCU members are academics and some professional staff.

OM asked Student Council for their thoughts on what the Students’ Union’s perspective on this case should be.

**Question:** FD – how does it work? Students pay for education and would not be getting a service.

**Answer:** OM - it the Government who make the amendments to the scheme and not the institutions, so this is a national issue.

TG responded that the Students’ Union should take note of their sympathy towards staff in appreciating their position, but that students should come first as they are fee-paying. He noted that students should always be represented first by the Students’ Union and this action could be detrimental to student learning.

FD remarked that they are staff who are there to support the staff in their positions, and that the Students’ Union is better in supporting students.

OM thanked Student Council for their contributions and said she would take this back to the University’s Senate.

11b) Transgender, Intersex and Gender Non-Conforming Facilities

OM outlined the motion, and the background for its introduction, following the University freezing funding for facilities for transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming people at CitySport.

AY asked Student Council if they would like to vote on the motion now, or defer this to the next meeting where it could be properly discussed.

**Decision**
2 for voting now, 7 for postponing and 0 abstentions.

Student Council voted to defer the motion at February’s meeting.

12) Date of the next meeting: Tuesday, 6th February 2018, 6.00pm

Board Secretary: Laura Dickens