

Student Council

Agenda

5pm Wednesday 29th January 2020 | ELG02, Tait Building, Northampton Square

	Item	Time:	Paper Ref:	Lead:
1	A talk with the university Sustainability team Explore the Global Goals with the Sustainability team and find out about the upcoming challenges facing City and beyond	25mins	N/A	ST
2	Welcome and Apologies	5 mins	N/A	Chair
3	Minutes To agree the accuracy and approve the minutes from the last meeting.		N/A	Chair
4	Declarations of Interest To consider interests already declared and any further declarations of interest		N/A	Chair
5	Confirmation of Items for Any Other Business		N/A	Chair
6	Items specially brought forward by the Chair To note any items brought forward by the Chair		N/A	Chair
Executive Officer Reports				
9	Full-Time Officers To note the reports submitted by the Full-Time Officers and view Officer videos	15mins	SC-001	FT Officers
10	Part-Time Officers No reports were received. PT officers may provide verbal updates	10mins	SC-002	PT Officers
Items for Decision				
11	British Sign Language to be offered by the language centre	10mins	SC-003	EF
12	To Improve the Assessment and Feedback Processes within CASS in Regards to Reports and Essays	10mins	SC-004	DA
13	Additional retake period	10mins	SC-005	OD
14	Students should be afforded better access to their lectures through the availability of lecture capture for all modules	10mins	SC-006	RG
15	Free key text books for elective modules	10mins	SC-007	OD
16	Plug sockets in all lecture theatres	10mins	SC-008	AC
17	Running Study well events all year round	10mins	SC-009	AC
18	Change the title of LGBT Officer to LGBTQA+ Officer	10mins	SC-010	CJ

19	Change the LGBT officer title to LGBTQ+ officer	10mins	SC-011	AE
Any Other Business				
12	Any Other Business To consider any other business notified earlier	5mins	N/A	N/A

Secretary – Raquel Marques, Representation and Democracy Coordinator
Chair’s Support – Angelo Weekes, Representation Manager

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 24TH of March 2020 5pm C309

Tuna Kunt - President – Student council report

What have I been doing?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led on the Referendum to decide on the Union’s stance on the UCU industrial action. Almost doubled to required quorum for the voter turnout and successfully communicated the student mandate in support of the trade union action. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured a new student space in Tait Building, which will be a social space during the day and bookable space for student groups in the evenings. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched the period poverty campaign to collect products to donate to charities, to sell cost-price products in the SU Shop and to raise awareness on sustainable alternatives. 	
What will I be working on?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working to deliver on the Sexual Health Awareness & Guidance Week. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working to deliver LGBT+ History Month and supporting officer and university initiatives in this project. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the leadership elections. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working to renovate the new common room to launch the space before term 2 ends. 	

Saqlain Riaz - Vice President Education – Student council report

<i>Liberate our education</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. I’ll be delivering a Learning & teaching forum for staff on the 6th February to raise discussions around the university experience of BAME students at City. II. I raised the idea of a line of work around ‘Decolonising the curriculum’ at the Education and student committee in order to bring it to the forefront of the university’s strategic priorities. We are now looking to invite academics interested in joining the group to a forum to see what an exercise such as this will look like for our students and we’ll also be looking to put a business plan together in the future.
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	<p>III. I am gearing up to launch my campaign around 'liberate our education' the campaigns main purpose is to lobby the university to recognise and provide an education and environment which is more diverse, inclusive, and representative.</p>
<i>Programme representatives</i>	<p>I. I've been acting on feedback sent to the union from our programme representatives, organising meetings with senior members of the university and individual schools to see how we can embed the student voice into changes being made at city.</p> <p>II. I've been working on the letter of recognition for our reps, finalising the details. We'll be looking to recognise as many reps as possible for their contributions to their cohorts.</p>
<i>General developments</i>	<p>I. I've been looking at the academic regulations within schools, specifically at anonymous marking, extenuating circumstances, and the requirements for postgraduate students to attain an upper-second class at CASS business school. Once again, much of this has been prompted by valuable feedback from our student body, and these are conversations I am looking to solidify into action through effective lobbying amongst the student body and in university committees.</p>

If you have any questions about any of the above, or any questions in general, please drop me a line on vpeducation@city.ac.uk, I'd love to get as many people as possible involved in the above! Also, if you know anybody who would be interested then do pass them my details.

Dean Rowe – Student Representative Officer for SASS

Whilst my work at the university has taken priority, I have managed to attend the meetings with the student's union, taking part in debates on the Sodexo issue and teacher strikes. During this time, I have also worked with Joshua Boddy among others on a mental health programme which will hopefully (when implemented) target students at risk of developing issues and help them to avoid this. I've spent additional time researching issues such as what SASS would like to see and the recent issues pertaining to the student council chair election.

Danya Aamir - Student Representative Officer for CASS

There are two main issues I have been trying to tackle since last term; one is the issue of Assessment and Feedback within CASS (especially for reports and essays) and the role of programme representatives to be more integrated with that of the SRO. With both of these cases I have been gaining students' feedback and have been thinking about how to take it a step further.

- For the Assessment and Feedback, I was thinking of submitting a motion to improve the process that is currently in use as in the students' perspectives it is neither helpful or accurate. For instance, the grade disparity is unclear due to the fact that a lot of coursework is marked by a variety of different tutors that do not have a set criteria/standard that they must all follow. In this case, I was hoping CASS can introduce a process that is similar to the Law School's RACER format as that effectively sets a criteria to mark against whilst also providing a good feedback process for development.

- For the programme representatives, as there isn't much opportunity to meet with them, there is no formal rapport system to build a proper relationship to gain their opinions and feedback. I have personally met with ones on my own course as well as those in the year below, and thanks to the CASS Rep Forum, I was also able to get more feedback from reps from different courses. However, I would like to use this term in order to find ways to get more involved with the programme reps and widen the possible scope of their roles so they feel more integrated with the Student's Union.

Maleeha Koreshi - Student Representative Officer for SHS

I have been working on one of the key points in my manifesto, which is to provide more support for students on placement (such as nurses, midwives etc). I have joined the practice education committee, which also deals with issues regarding student placement, and I act as the student voice in this regard. I have hosted the past Student Experience Committee, which allowed me to hear more about the issues the students have had recently, and about the issues that commuter students face, which is something I plan to work on supporting in the new year.

Motion Title: British Sign Language to be offered by the language centre

Proposer: Ellie Foulger

Secunder: Anne Onwusiri

This Union notes:

1. City currently offers 5 languages for free to all students and staff: French, German, Spanish, Arabic and Mandarin. Russian is also offered on specified courses.
2. There is no current offering of British sign language by the University to students or staff to my knowledge.

This Union believes:

1. A language course should be added to the language centre offering British sign language to all staff and students for free
2. This is an essential step needed to make the University more accessible to students with hearing impairments and will encourage positive discussion around the topic. It is extremely isolating for an individual to attend a university if they cannot communicate with their lecturer, canteen staff, student support staff or peers
3. Many colleges offer courses in BSL to their students as a basic extracurricular so its unsure why the University does not also offer this, especially since they are already offering free language classes in other languages.

This Union Resolves:

1. This course should be available for free to all staff and students like the aforementioned language courses currently are.
2. The university encourages all its staff to partake as well as students in the hopes of normalising the use of sign language in all classrooms, regardless of whether they're aware of a student with a disability or not.

SC-004

Motion Title: To Improve the Assessment and Feedback Processes within CASS in Regards to Reports and Essays

Proposer: Danya Aamir

Secunder: Simran Kaur

This Union notes:

1. There is a lack of depth and helpful advice in the feedback that is provided for coursework that is completed
2. For written exams, there is no feedback given upon receiving grades, nor are students allowed to review their marked work (until third year)
3. There is no clear structure or criteria for marking Reports and Essays leaving students unclear as to what the expectations are to achieve better grades
4. There is a grade disparity due to some coursework being marked by a number of individual tutors

This Union believes:

1. It would be beneficial for students' progression and improvement if they received proper constructive criticism for their work
2. It can ensure that students feel that their work has been fairly assessed
3. It will help students when studying and practicing exams as they know the criteria, they are being marked against

This Union Resolves:

1. To provide a clear, structured marking criterion that allows students to be marked on a fair basis
2. To ensure that students receive constructive feedback that will allow them to see where they have achieved well and where they can improve
3. That work reviewed by individual tutors should also be checked and approved by another party in order to be fairly assessed

Motion Title: An Additional Retake Period

Proposer: Olivia Duffin

Seconder: Thomas Fawns

This Union notes:

1. Those affected by extenuating circumstances, so that they miss January exams, may not retake those exams until August that year.
2. This can have a serious impact on the affected student's future (especially for final year students): delayed final transcript, no contact from the lecturer marking the paper for as many as 9 months before taking the exam (for 1-term electives), not getting the opportunity to graduate with your peers, missing the opportunity to gain work experience during the month of August.
3. The University is not supposed to discriminate those affected by serious illnesses.

This Union believes:

1. Students affected by ECs have a difficult enough time dealing with those ECs. The University should make it as simple as possible for you to retake when ECs apply.
2. Having an option to retake in April or June, instead of August, will allow for students affected by ECs to enjoy graduation along with the rest of their cohort, a smoother transition into further education (where transcripts are concerned), the opportunity to gain work experience during August (when most people take the option to carry out internships and enhance their CV, making them more employable).

This Union Resolves:

1. If the extenuating circumstances board met another time before April (perhaps March) as well as after the May exams, then students affected by ECs could retake their papers in April or in June. If the option of April (or June) or August should be offered to students, then the lecturers would need to compose a further retake paper.
2. This extra work is insignificant in comparison to the negative impact that having to retake a January exam in August has on students, who are already suffering due to ECs.

Motion Title: Students should be afforded better access to their lectures through the availability of lecture capture for all modules

Proposer: Raha Ghadaksaz 170022162

Secunder: Sania Chowdhury 170021654

This Union notes:

1. Lecture capture is not automatically put in place for all lectures, often students have to ask their lecturers to put it in place, meaning the lectures held prior to the request are not recorded, and therefore not reviewable.
2. The use of Lecture capture is left to the discretion of each lecturer, so some modules are left without lecture capture where it would greatly assist students in grasping the subject.
3. Lecture capture aids more effective learning, note taking and revision.

This Union believes:

1. Lecture capture should be available for all modules where reasonable.
2. Lecture capture allows students to learn at different speeds, addressing individual learning needs and learning style.
3. Lecture capture works with the individual's schedule, improving access.
4. Lecture capture aids effective studying as repetition is a key part of revision and understanding.

This Union Resolves:

1. To continue to advocate on behalf of students for the implementation of lecture capture for all modules.
2. To lobby the university to make it policy that all lecturers, where held reasonable at the discretion of the university, should use lecture capture.
3. To encourage the university to prioritise further investment in technology used for lecture capture.

SC – 007

Motion Title: Free key text books for elective modules

Proposer: Olivia Duffin

Seconder: Thomas Fawns

This Union notes:

1. Many students have elective modules, where required text books can cost £30+. Electives must be completed in order to graduate.
2. This is discriminatory to students who are economically disadvantaged.
3. There are not enough copies of key text books for electives, per student who studies those electives, in the library.

This Union believes:

1. Key text books for all modules should be included in the course fees.
2. Economically disadvantaged students should have the same opportunities and resources to do well as those who are not.
3. Access to these resources will improve student satisfaction, and grades, hence granting this motion is in the best interests of the University.

This Union Resolves:

1. The University should provide free key text books for all taught modules on offer.

SC – 008

Motion Title: Plug sockets in all lecture theatres

Proposer: Aaron Carey

Seconder: Panagiota Spyrou

This Union notes:

1. Key lecture theatres, mainly OTLT and the great hall are missing power sockets for charging or powering portable devices required by students.
2. There are few places dedicated for charging devices and no places for charging large devices such as laptops in particular

This Union believes:

1. The university should prioritise modernising and making the lecture theatres more accessible for all students by adding adequate power supplies to every theatre.
2. Lacking these facilities in key locations reduces student satisfaction

This Union Resolves:

1. The SU should lobby the university to add these facilities to the lecture theatres.
2. The SU should pressurise the university to modernise all facilities up to the standards of other universities across the country.

SC – 009

Motion Title: Running Study well events all year round

Proposer: Aaron Carey

Secunder: Medhir Dillum

This Union notes:

1. Most study well events and activities are held close to exam times.
2. Study well is limited in notifying all students of such events.

This Union believes:

1. Study well events and activities should be held all year around or have a consistent flow throughout the year to avoid cramming near exams.
2. Study well could benefit from a more active and direct way of notifying students of events.

This Union Resolves:

1. The SU should run Study well events and activities on a more regular and consistent basis throughout the year.
2. The SU should notify students with text messages or other more direct means to display upcoming and ongoing events around campus.

SC – 010

Motion Title: Change the title of LGBT Officer to LGBTQA+ Officer

Proposer: Callan Jenkins

Seconder: Tuna Kunt

This Union notes:

1. That while having the standard acronym is fine, it may not reflect entirely the range of identities in the LGBTQA+ community.
2. The increased visibility of non-binary and asexual identities has made the LGBTQA+ community expand, and it would be good for city's student union to reflect this change in official literature

This Union believes:

1. That amending the title from LGBT officer to LGBTQA+ officer would be a small but significant step in representing the LGBTQA+ community at city while also helping to foster a greater, more inclusive sense of community.

This Union Resolves:

1. To change the title of LGBT officer to LGBTQA+ Officer
2. Ensure that this is reflected in official correspondence/notices/etc.

SC – 011

Motion Title: Change the LGBT officer title to LGBTQ+ officer

Proposer: Ayse Enver

Secunder: Trang To

This Union notes:

1. That the current officer title is limited to those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. This is not fully representative of the range of identities within the university.

This Union believes:

1. That the title does not adequately represent the members.
2. By failing to include all self-identified identities, the union is not adequately representing its members, nor allowing sufficient space for self-expression and identification.

This Union Resolves:

1. To expand the title of the office to that of LGBTQ+ officer to better represent its members, and foster inclusivity and self-identification by expanding the title to be more open to greater identification with the change of name.