

Student Members' Meeting

Agenda | 5pm Tuesday 24th November 2020 | Online |

	Item	Paper Ref:	Lead:
1	Welcome and Apologies	N/A	Chair
2	Deputy President Professor David Bolton The University's Deputy President will outline City's plans for Term 2's academic activity and take questions from the floor	N/A	Chair
3	Minutes To agree the accuracy and approve the minutes from the last meeting.	SMM-001	Chair
4	Confirmation of Items for Any Other Business	N/A	Chair
5	Items specially brought forward by the Chair To note any items brought forward by the Chair	N/A	Chair
Items for Information			
6	City Students' Union Preliminary Financial results 2019-20	SMM-002	SR
Items for Decision			
7	List of Affiliations	SMM-003	SR
8	Culturally Competent Mental Health Services	SMM-004	SD
9	Tackling Climate Change Framework	SMM-005	SI
10	'Rejecting the IHRA definition of anti-semitism'	SMM-006	SHK
11	Students Deserve Better For Their Money	SMM-007	RJ
12	No Detriment policy	SMM-008	RJ
13	The need for more Students' Union Spaces on campus	SMM-009	SR
14	Condemning the Islamophobic cartoons made of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)	SMM-010	SR
Any Other Business			
	Any Other Business To consider any other business notified earlier	N/A	N/A

Secretary – Jonathan Otter, Representation Assistant
Chair's Support – Angelo Weekes, SU Representation Manager

Student Members Meeting Minutes – Unapproved

6pm Tuesday 11 February 2020 | B200, University Building

SMM-001

Attendance record

School	Initials
Cass Business School	
School of Arts & Social Sciences	
School of Health Sciences	
School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering	
The City Law School	
Total Number of Student Attendees*	

*actual numbers fluctuated during the meeting, however quoracy (30) was maintained throughout.

Officers	Initials	Title
Tuna Kunt	TK	President
Saqlain Riaz	SR	VP Education
Rania Salim	RS	VP Community & Wellbeing
Josh Clayfield	JC	Chair of Student Council (Meeting Chair)

Staff in Attendance	Initials	Title
Angelo Weekes	AW	Representation Manager (Chair's Support)
Hannah Roberts	HR	Deputy Chief Executive
Raquel Marques	RM	Representation and Democracy Coordinator
Jonathan Otter	JO	Representation Assistant (Meeting Secretary)

Part One

1) Welcome and apologies

JC opened the meeting and welcomed attendees to the Student Members' Meeting and outlined meeting conduct. Reminds everybody that the meeting is for students only. Students' Union staff are in attendance to facilitate the meeting.

2) Minutes

Paper Reference: SMM-001 Minutes from last year **approved** by those present.

3) Confirmation of Items for Any Other Business

No items brought forward.

4) Items specially brought forward by the Chair

No items brought forward.

Items for Information

5) Trustee Report on Union Activities

Paper Reference: SSM-002

TK introduces themselves. Talks about the new strategy and the priorities. All information available on the website. Community fund has been introduced. High profile islamophobia awareness month and Union on tour events.

6) Management Accounts

TK – A gross income of just over £1,000,000 and Net income £59,000. The union ended the year in unrestricted reserves of £265,000.

These items are for information and not for discussion, a full break down of both items 5 and 6 are available on the papers.

Part Two

Items for Decision

7) Affiliations

Paper Reference: SSM-003

TK Presented the proposed list of organisations that the Students' Union and Societies wished to affiliate to. These are to be voted on as a block. There were no speeches against. JC moves to open vote.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the list of affiliations.

8) Iftar as part of Study Well

Paper Reference: SSM-004

Proposer of the policy was unable to attend.

Ali Qureshi (AQ) proposes to include Iftar meals as part of Study Well. States Ramadan is the holiest period of time. Ramadan is expected to clash with exam period for the next couple of years. Study Well is to support students during exam period. Union events should support students especially with a diverse student body. The Study Well campaign should hold 1 Iftar meal of each week of Study Well as well as a safe space to hold it in. This should also continue if Study Well Discontinues.

Question Will this be done through Sodexo?

Answer There are charities available that will do this, do not expect this to be through Sodexo.

No Speeches against.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 35 for – 0 against – 0 abstain.

9) Running Study Well events all year

Paper Reference: SSM-005

Aaron Carey (AC) states Study Well runs during exam periods, it is important that students know when it is and get the support they want. Study Well could be beneficial if it runs all the way through the term, it gives more consistent support. Notifying students is important, knowing when Study Well is run is not consistent, and a notice board or messaging would be useful.

The SU should run Study Well events and activities more often throughout the year, not just during exams.

No Speeches against

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 34 for – 0 against - 1 abstain.

10) Mandatory Unconscious Bias training for all Union staff

Paper Reference: SMM-006

Rania Salim states – Unconscious bias training is effective for countering micro aggressions, an act which negatively impacts a member of a minority group, whether consciously or unconsciously.

We should tackle micro aggressions at City, University of London, starting with mandatory Unconscious Bias training at the SU.

Question is there a group to provide this training?

Answer We are currently looking at an external provider as a trial.

Question What is the duration of the course? Union Staff are pressed for time.

Answer It is important to uphold the values of the union, training would be a day or half a day.

Question Would we escalate this to Students as well?

Answer We want to make it mandatory for staff and then lead it to students as well.

No Speeches against.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 34 for – 0 against – 1 abstain.

11) In-House In City

Paper Reference: SSM-007

Shaima Dallali (SD) proposes many of our catering and cleaning staff go through a great injustice. They are subject to statutory minimums. We want city to bring Catering and

Cleaning Staff in house, and be subject to the benefits and rights of City staff members. Many of these staff are women, from abroad or members of our BAME community. Cleaners and caterers get no sick pay if they are ill for more than 4 days. City state it is too expensive and claim it is not part of core business. We want to show City that we do care.

Question A concern for the employees, some may be on 0 Hours, if we pass the policy, are we saying that they are drawn into the City community?

Answer Unison represent these staff members and will answer any questions on the process.

Question If City did not listen before, why will they now?

Answer According to Unison, this would only cost £1m, and City declares massive reserves.

Question Can we incorporate Catering and the Bar into Union activity?

Answer Doesn't feel this is relevant to the matter at hand.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. Unanimously 35 for - 0 against – 0 abstain.

12) UCU Industrial Action

Paper Reference: SSM-008

TK, this is a motion to support striking staff in the upcoming strikes. We held a referendum for the previous strike within this academic year. This strike is based upon the same reasons.

Question Which schools will be affected?

Answer the Union works with the University to figure out where is affected and which courses but lecturers will tell you if they are striking however, declaration is not mandatory.

Question What will we do to support them?

Answer The union will provide resources to support the staff, Union officers will support the picket. The Union will write an article on the website, and support students if they raise complaints.

Question What support is there for PG Students?

Answer We engage in the University and UCU conversations to ensure we can see when the strikes will happen. Union advice also support students with compensation claims and there is scope to push for this.

Question Students negatively view strikes. T4 International Students are particularly affected. Does this reflect all students' opinions?

Answer We push for compensation especially for international students.

Question Do we encourage students not to cross the picket line to support the strike?

Answer Some courses are externally regulated and we do not want to encourage students to miss attendance which may affect graduating or visas.

Question Specific sessions are being cancelled, what we can do about compensation or extenuating circumstances for final projects being missed?

Answer Office for Students has clear guide lines for what universities must do. This motion does not mean that we do not fight for students.

Preliminary vote is taken:

For 31 – 2 against – 2 abstention.

Argument against: As an international student we are missing lectures, it has a very negative impact on students. We appreciate it is an issue for lecturers, but it is a problem for students. Students need compensation.

TK responds that she agrees the need for compensation. Hopes that there will not be 14 days of strikes and wants issues to be resolved as quickly as possible.

Against: Data science course, exams were not dealt with properly because of the strikes. Will the strikes not cheapen our degrees when we should be standing out in the job market?

TK responds, this motion does not define the trade union action. We (the Union) want to resolve the issue so we do not lose the full number of days. We want students to tell the Union what to do.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 31 for – 2 against – 2 abstain.

13) Make CityBar work for City Students

Paper Reference: SSM-009

TK: we are limited on student space as we are an inner-city University. CityBar is a good space that could be utilised better. The Union should manage the space, not financially. Use as a day space, make sure it is accessible and used, bottles of alcohol are currently on view during the day, even when not serving. Better use for Union evening events. Sodexo will manage it still but the Union will hold the space.

Question will people be able to drink during the day?

Answer it will still serve at the same time. It is currently shut at the bar during the day but the alcohol is still visible, nothing would change except for hiding the alcohol.

Question Can we use more space once we have the management for societies?

Answer Yes, once we have it we can manage it for our societies.

Question How easy will it be to gain control?

Answer We can do it, it would be mutually beneficial.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 31 for – 0 against – 0 abstain.

14) Creating a physical space for the Graduate School

Paper Reference: SSM-010

Anne Onwusiri (AO) introduces herself. Proposes making a space for graduate students, states further outlines and details are in the papers.

Question What are we suggesting?

Answer Using unused spaces that are not effective for Graduate Students.

Question How do we limit access so only PG students attend?

Answer Similar system to the Law common room, not strict access but designate it for PG Students.

Question Other schools have a similar issue. Why Post Grads?

Answer Post Graduate students make up over 50% of the student body. If you want one for your school, you can talk to the School Representative Officer for SASS. PG Students feel disenfranchised.

Question Everyone wants a common room, 50% is a lot of people, where will we have the space?

Answer It is not the only option for getting a common room.

Question What benefit would a PG student area have over a general use area?

Answer Older students find shared areas less acceptable and are on a high pressure, short term course, a designated space would help relieve this.

Question How would the space look?

Answer Similar to Law common room.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 30 for – 1 against – 0 abstain

15) British Sign Language to be offered by the Language Centre

Paper Reference: SSM-011

Ellie Foulger (EF) City currently offers 6 languages through the language centre, 2 are offered at basic only. BSL should be added so people can access it.

Question Are languages free?

Answer Yes

Question Are we looking for someone from BSL Society to come in?

Answer We would encourage BSL Society but the University will run the way they want to.

Question Will it be tiered?

Answer Yes, ideally, but we need to ensure we can test it.

Question Are there new lecturers needing to be hired?

Answer No, current staff can enrol onto the courses for free.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 31 votes for – 0 against – 0 abstain.

16) Room Booking

Paper Reference: SSM-012

Ibrahim Khalid Hamid (IKH) states a vital role of societies is to book spaces for events. The booking form contains clear contradictions regarding the number of days needing to be booked in advance. This lack of clarity needs to be rectified. The time in advance needs to

be reduced to 5 working days, for students with turbulent lives. The current form does not reflect changes to policy. Changes should be included and communicated to students. Room booking systems have been unprofessionally managed. There is apparent bias. Students demand swift and transparent communication.

Question Do you think there could be a change in how we book rooms rather than an email system?

Answer The current system could be streamlined, training for society committees is important but it is not always possible to attend, and the form should be updated.

Decision

The Meeting **approve** the motion. 31 for – 0 against – 0 abstain.

17) Lecture theatre plugs

Paper Reference: SSM-013

Aaron Carey (AC) states many lecture theatres have plug sockets under seats, for lectures which are over an hr long this is necessary. I propose we lobby the university to ensure we have plug sockets in every lecture theatre for example Oliver Thompson Lecture Theatre (OTLT).

Question Is it possible to socket the Great Hall?

Answer OTLT was simply an example.

Question Would this happen during a term?

Answer I hope this to be during a break.

Amendment Proposed: To lobby for plugs in the OTLT rather than Great Hall.

Speech For: I believe that we should do this in the OTLT rather than the Great Hall which may not be economically viable.

Question on the amendment: Are they working on the Great Hall already?

Answer Then if it is being upgraded, we should leave them to it.

Question Should we not focus on class rooms?

Answer Start at the largest rooms and work the way down.

Question If they are already renovating the Great Hall should we not lobby for including plug sockets now?

Answer We need to clarify as to whether this is going ahead.

Amendment We should push for the inclusion of Plug sockets in the OTLT in a B200 style.

Argument We should not continue to lobby for the Great Hall if there is talks of renovation.

Decision on the amendment

16 for – 7 against – 7 abstain

The amendment is added.

Decision

The Meeting **approve** the motion (with amendment). 29 for – 1 against – 0 abstain

18) Longer Opening Hours and More Resources for the Library

Paper Reference: SSM-014

AO wants longer opening in the library and more resources for all schools as outlined in the paper.

Question What difference will this make?

Answer We can currently take assessments out but only during staffed hours, with class finishing times we cannot do this.

Question Do we want to encourage students to study later?

Answer It would not be promoting late study but it sometimes necessary, we can highlight that it is ok to study late.

Question How long will it remain open until?

Answer Some Universities hold 24 hours, this would be ideal. Maybe staggering the introduction such as starting at 7am.

Question Can we duplicate resources from Grays Inn Library to NSQ Library.

Answer I would be happy to add that to my policy as an amendment.

Amendment Proposed: Can we duplicate resources from Grays Inn Library to NSQ Library?

Question Can you not use the processes that are there to send resources between?

Answer This is not always possible on short notice.

Decision on the amendment

29 for – 0 against – 1 abstain

Amendment added.

Question What about security attendance?

Answer Security would be paid extra for out of hours ideally.

Question Why are some library open longer than others?

Answer It may be a supply and demand issue. I may want to make an amendment to open all libraries open 24 hours.

Amendment Proposed: For this policy to be made across all libraries, not just Northampton Square.

Question Is this still an issue following the prior amendment?

Answer This will be a gradual approach to open all libraries longer.

Decision on the amendment

28 for – 1 against – 1 abstain

Amendment added.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion (with 2 amendments). 30 for – 0 against – 0 abstain.

19) To improve the Assessment and Feedback process within CASS

Paper Reference: SSM-015

Danya Amir proposes to improve feedback process within CASS. Final exams don't get any written feedback. 3rd years are being trialled to look at their exam feedback however they are about to graduate, this would be more beneficial for 2nd year students. Markers should give constructive feedback. Marking by tutors is not uniform, and no 3rd party checking.

Amendment Proposed: Extend this policy to all schools.

RS - We should extend this to all schools.

Question will this not weaken the policy for Danya?

Answer This policy can still be pushed in CASS.

Decision on the amendment

12 for – 4 against - 11 abstain

Amendment added

Question How do you plan to ensure this is implemented with a lot of detail?

Answer If they mention how many topics you are expected to include, outside of class work, there should be a clear criteria for assessment feedback.

Question Does this not clash with UCU Strike?

Answer It is up to the lecturer how much feedback they give currently, if we give a set criterion then they will follow that.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 26 for – 0 against – 4 abstain.

20) Let's create an opt in paper system

Paper Reference: SSM-016

Mohamed Omar (MO) is tired of receiving unnecessary print outs. Deforestation is a major issue, we already have digital resources. We should make it an opt in system to receive class paper

Question What about those without a laptop?

Answer No student should be disadvantages, however we should not assume everyone needs a handout.

Question Who opts in?

Answer Lecturers should assume no one wants papers, and students can opt in.

Question How do we communicate this to our lecturers?

Answer We can add this as a moodle feature.

Question Is this just for academic classes, or does it apply to the Union as well?

Answer The current Union process is not a major issue.

Question Will this be done by digital form?

Answer Yes, ideally.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 30 for – 0 against – 0 abstain.

21) Climate Change

Paper Reference: SSM-017

Clement Koszuta (CK) Climate change is a major issue, the Union needs to declare a climate emergency and support the Climate march in March.

Question How do we fit all the students in to the climate march?

Answer We can use the outside areas.

Question Do we have any initiatives suggested, such as interactive sessions?

Answer March 13th to hold a teach out, this is the start and we aim to build from there.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 29 for – 0 against – 1 abstain

21) Re-mark system

Paper Reference: SSM-018

Raha Ghadaksaz (RG) states we need an official policy for the University to better implement a remark policy.

Question Does this have to happen internally or with the exam boards?

Answer This will have to be what the University see fit.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion. 30 for – 0 against – 0 abstain

21) Lecture Capture

Paper Reference: SSM-019

RG this is not a new issue, previous officers such as TK have worked on this. Lecture Capture is currently an opt-in system. This is not ok.

Question I have heard the reason some politics lecturers do not use Lecture Capture is because they do not want the views, they share to be put forward online.

Answer the University could review courses with sensitive information to be excused.

Question What would be done differently this year, whenever this is brought up in Rep meetings it is brushed aside?

Answer We could have an opt-out policy, currently we have an opt in. Lecturers themselves may not know the technology is there for them to use. An opt out policy would ensure it is put in place.

Amendment proposed: Lecture capture to be mandatory for foundational modules where possible.

Argument Lecture capture should be used for mandatory or foundational modules where possible, elsewhere it should be up to lecturer decision.

Question People may have chosen electives, but students can't drop modules if there is no lecture capture.

Answer It is the same as the argument for core modules.

Amendment withdrawn

Question It says at the discretion of the university in SM-0019, is this not the current policy?

Answer We are not demanding it, that is not productive and where it is possible it should be put in place.

Amendment proposed: Remove the clause "To lobby the university to make it policy that all lecturers, where held reasonable at the discretion of the university, should use lecture capture." And change it to "To lobby the university to make it policy that all lecturers, where held reasonable with the exception of an opt out policy, should use lecture capture".

Decision on the amendment

28 for – 0 against – 2 abstain.

Amendment added.

Decision

The Meeting **approves** the motion (with amendments). 30 for– 0 against – 0 abstain

Any other business

17) Any Other Business

1

A question on turnout, it is a low turnout and many societies have events on the same date as AGM.

Chair states: There have been many clashes and this is a timetabling issue for the Union. We cannot ban other societies from hosting events.

Student: Many students would not turn up even if incentivised, this is not the Union's fault.

Chair: we need to invite our friends and reach out to our communities.

Student: I have spoken to all of our contacts and none seem to engage.

TK states: I and the Representation team are happy for feedback, we can try change the way this is done, such as moving it online but I take the point especially with clashes.

EF many students are confused by the name "Student Members Meeting".

Chair agrees but we need to communicate to each other and share the knowledge we have.

Student: The Union needs to incentivise the meetings more.

Student: Many students live a far away distance and this is in the evening, we may never be able to get many people to come.

2

A student raises an issue with the quality of the Showers, they run cold and are not accessible for students. The university should include towels and the water is too cold.

AOB Complete.

Chair closes the meeting.

Items for Information

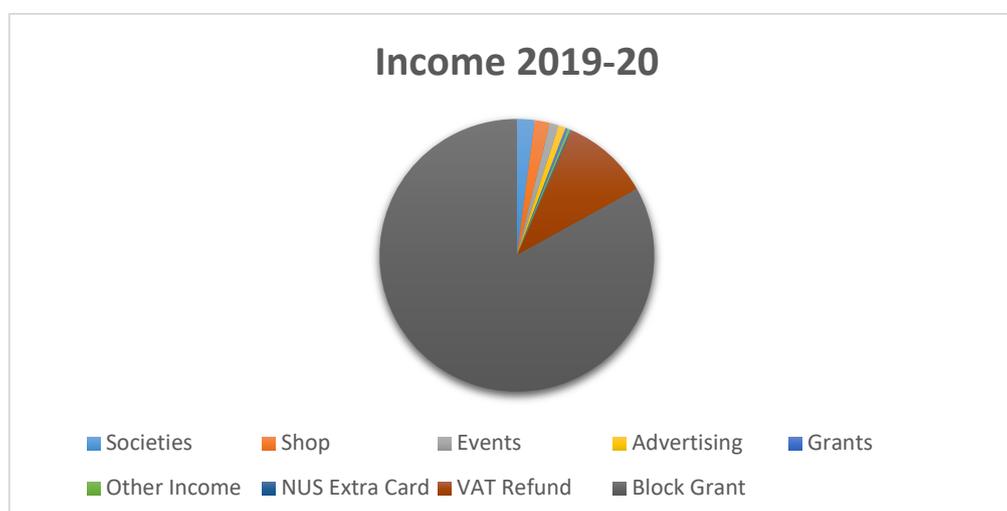
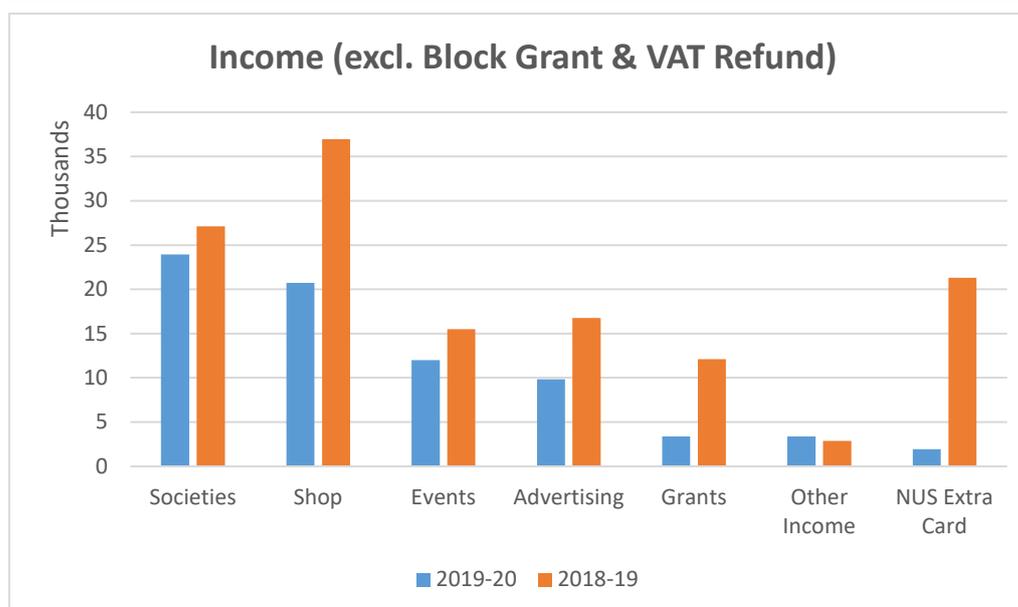
This section includes information about what the Union did in 2019-20 and gives members a chance to question the Union about the things it delivered and how the money was spent.

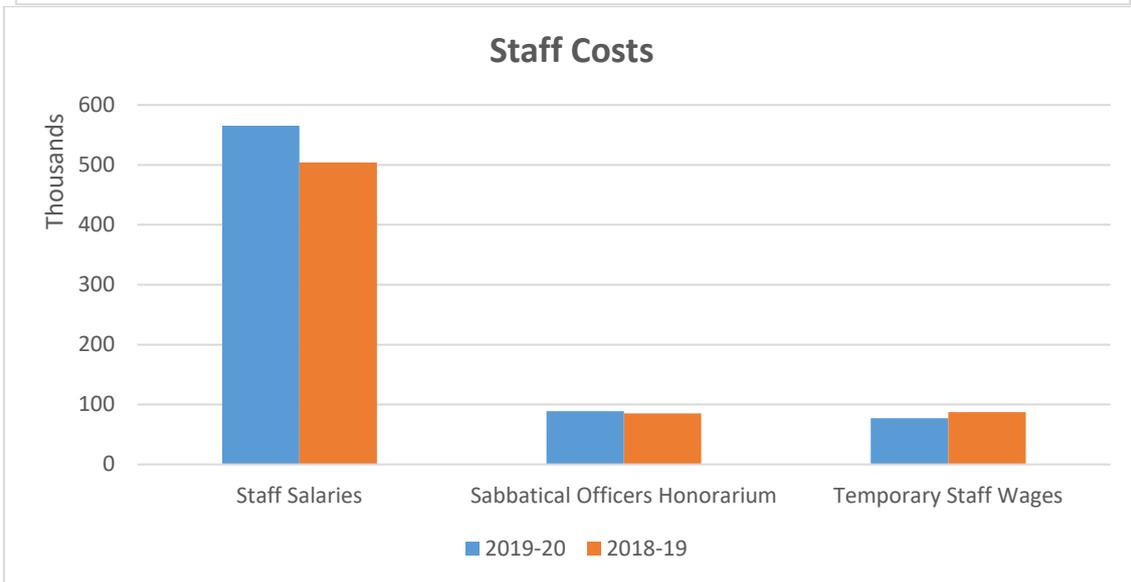
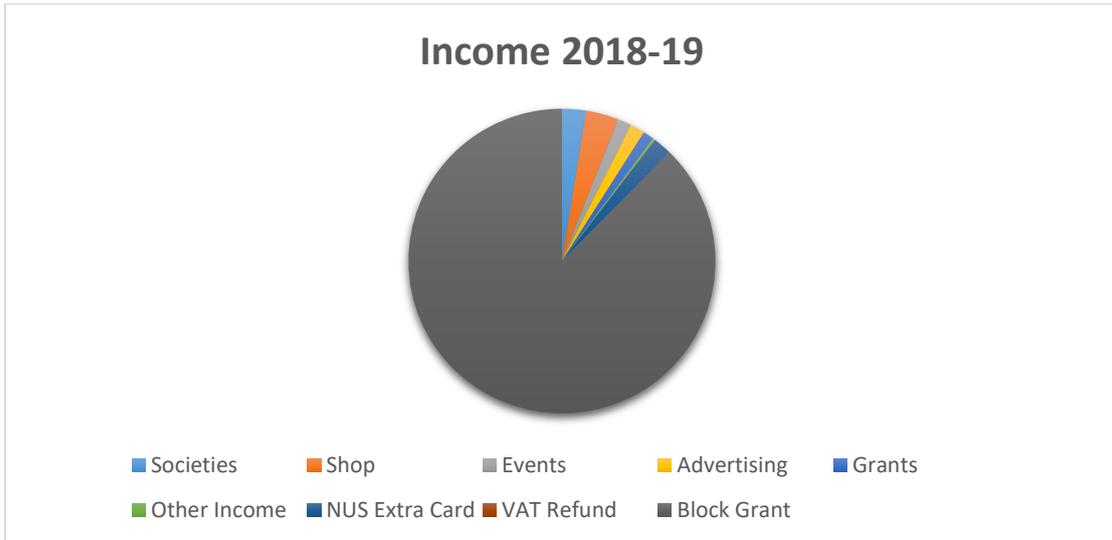
The end of this part gives members the chance to put questions to members of the Trustee Board.

City Students' Union Preliminary Financial results 2019-20

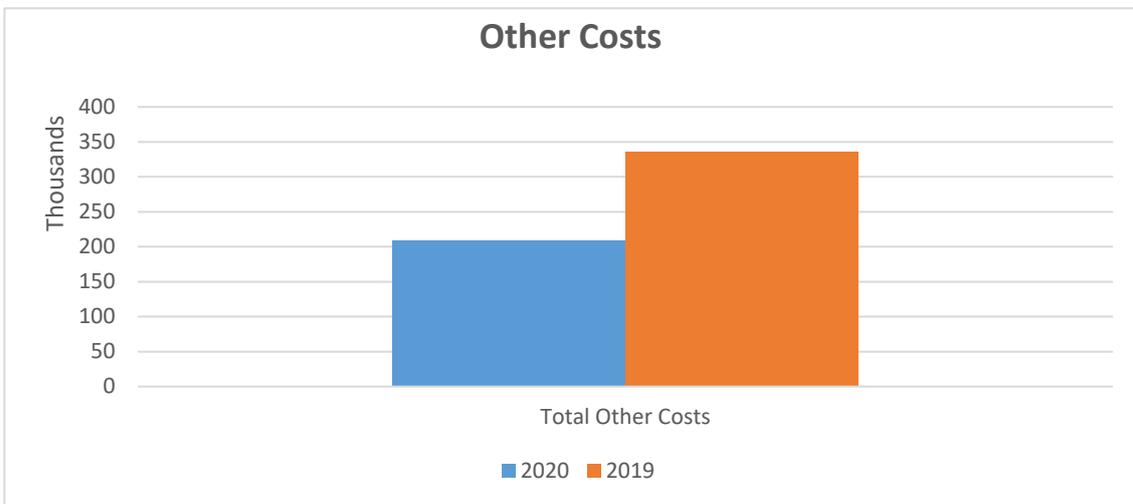
SMM-002

	2019-20	2018-19
	£k	£k
Income	1031	1072
Paycosts	(731)	(677)
Other Costs	(209)	(336)
VAT Refund	119	0
Surplus	210	59





	2019-20	2018-19
Number (FTE) Of staff	20	17



Part Two

Items for Decision

SMM-003

Paper Title	List of Affiliations		
Paper Number	SMM-003		
Summary	<p>The Students' Union affiliates with external partners to help benefit our members and advance our strategic 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 2020/21.</p>		
	Organisation	Affiliation	Other details
	City, University of London Students Union	National Union of Students (NUS)	Total of £23488.05, paid annually (2020/21)
	Carrot Radio	Student Radio Association	
	Christian Union	UCCF: The Christian Unions	
	Conservative Society	Conservative Party	
	Enactus Society	Enactus UK	
	Erasmus Student Network	Erasmus Student Network UK	
	Hindu Society National	Hindu Students' Forum	(Total of £105.00 paid annually)
	Islamic Society	Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS)	
	Socialist Society	Socialist Workers Party	

Motion Title: Culturally Competent Mental Health Services**Proposer:** Shaima Dallali (Vice-President Community and Wellbeing)**Secunder:** Ruqaiyah Javaid (Vice-President Education)**This Union notes:**

1. Anxiety and depression are the most common types of mental illness reported among students.
2. Students are now at significant risk of suffering from mental health due to Covid-19.
3. University students are struggling with loneliness and anxiety due to campus lockdowns, with the risk that their mental health will deteriorate further unless urgent action is taken.

This Union believes:

1. For a significant proportion of students who suffer with mental health issues, these problems can make day-to-day tasks difficult, impacting upon their lives and studies significantly.
2. That students and staff acknowledge mental health is a serious issue which requires more discussion and action.
3. Now, more than ever, the mental health and counselling services at City need to be prepared for an increased number of students that may require mental health support.
4. Students from BAME backgrounds are more likely to be affected by a mental health crisis.
5. Students are more likely to ask for support if the services are culturally sensitive and cater to their individualised needs

This Union Resolves:

1. To lobby the University to show their commitment to students' welfare by increasing provisions and resources
2. To lobby the University to transform the mental health and counselling services to become culturally competent, this includes but is not limited to hiring counsellors of colour.
3. To ensure that students are included in the process of reshaping their mental health and counselling services.

Motion Title: Tackling Climate Change Framework**Proposer:** Shad Islam (Ethics & Environmental Officer)**Secunder:** Ellie Foulger (Disabled Students' Officer)**This Union notes:**

1. There is a consensus within the scientific community that the greatest cause of climate change is human activity.
2. The UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) 2019 Emissions Gap Report states the world is on course for a 3.2°C rise in global temperature – significantly higher than the Paris Agreement's target of 1.5°C.
3. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) state that keeping below the target of 1.5°C would require “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” – which includes Higher and Further Education.
4. Climate change is causing more extreme weather conditions/events around the world including forest fires, droughts, loss of land and habitats, extinction of species and famine.
5. Poorer nations which are equipped the least to deal with the effects of climate change could be the most severely affected regions in the world.

This Union believes:

1. The issue of climate change is an issue that affects and will continue to affect us all.
2. Responding to climate change is one of the biggest challenges humans will face and everyone including the university must contribute to tackling the issue.
3. Educational institutions have an obligation to act and contribute to the combating of climate change and its symptoms.
4. The University and Union should act now in order to align themselves to the work of the National Union of Students (NUS), University and College Union (UCU) and Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK) and their Green New Deal (GND).

This Union Resolves:

1. For the Union and University to formally acknowledge the Climate Crisis by declaring a climate emergency by the end of the academic year and publish their year-to-year blueprints to meet carbon neutrality.
2. The Union should publish an action plan covering the next 3 years documenting how it will implement environmental and energy policies and practices.

3. The SU should begin student consultation in the academic year 2020/21 for a “Climate Proof Curriculum Project”. This work should follow the framework and structure of the De-Colonisation and Black Awarding Gap work done nationwide.
4. The Union will commit to full divestment in fossil fuels, including any banking with companies that invest in fossil fuels. The Union should also begin a Divestment Campaign in which to apply pressure on the university to ensure they also only make ethical investments.
5. The Union should implement a no-flights policy for work journeys within England, Scotland and Wales.
6. To publish all policies relating to food, travel, land usage and carbon and energy management used by the Union either directly or through their partnership with the University.
7. The Union will engage in the NUS GND and provide termly updates on how it has supported this work. Additionally, The Union will table a motion once the GND is published to adopt its findings and plans

Motion title: 'Rejecting the IHRA definition of anti-semitism'**Proposer:** Shahd Haj Khalil**Secunder:** Shayma Abdirizak

This Union notes:

- The University has a legal duty to protect Freedom of expression and must take reasonable steps to ensure that our academics, students and visiting speakers are not censored.
- The occupation of Palestine is one of the world's longest-running conflicts. The State of Israel has been internationally condemned for its brutal and violent tactics in settler-colonialism, child imprisonment and apartheid laws. In October 2020, Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education, wrote to Universities strongly urging them to adopt the IHRA definition, lest they will face sanctions affecting our funding.
- The definition was first used to study an upsurge of hate crimes in Northern Europe by a European committee monitoring Racism and Xenophobia but was not formally adopted and eventually abandoned.
- It was subsequent that the IHRA definition originated as a "working definition" from the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, in 2005. This organisation did not formally adopt it and in due course abandoned it, but it was picked up again as a "working definition," in 2016 by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which as its name implies works on research into the Holocaust.

This Union believes:

- City, University of London is an independent institution which has autonomy and should not be intimidated by political pressures.
- The IHRA working definition of antisemitism is not legally binding and attempts to integrate it into University policy would be in conflict with the intended purpose of the definition.
- That all forms of discrimination, including religious or racial, must be unequivocally condemned.
- The University is already fulfilling its legal obligations to protect all students from racism and discrimination through its safeguarding, bullying and harassment policies, and by adhering to the Equality Act 2010.
- The IHRA working definition includes 11 examples, of which some relate to criticism of the racist State of Israel and will therefore endanger academic freedom and pro-Palestine activism.
- The discredited definition, and specifically its illustrative examples, conflates anti-Semitism and legitimate criticism of the laws, policies and constitutional order of the State of Israel.
- The IHRA definition has been condemned by leading academic experts on antisemitism, civil rights organisations, MPs and global Jewish social justice organisations, who can agree on the threat that the IHRA definition places on civil liberties and free speech on Israel.
- The IHRA definition attempts to suppress the right to bring information about Palestinian/Israeli history into the public domain and therefore violates the student

right to free expression. It also impedes on the academic freedom to learn, discuss and question, which is a fundamental aspect of University life.

- That the IHRA definition is a threat to the fundamental right for Palestinians to describe their lived experience of oppression.
- That it is a core right to openly criticise any ideology, including that which informs the actions, policies and laws of the State of Israel and is protected under numerous international laws and conventions, including Article 10 of the European Convention for Human Rights.

This Union resolves:

- To lobby the University to unequivocally protect;
 - The right to describe the facts of Palestinian oppression,
 - The right to describe Israel's laws policies and actions as racist or constituting apartheid,
 - The right to criticise the political ideology of Zionism and to call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel as nonviolent measures of accountability to bring about its compliance with its obligations under international law and its respect for Palestinian rights.
- That itself and the University prioritise its student community over external political pressures to adopt the IHRA definition.
- To lobby the University to reject the adoption of the IHRA definition and make its commitment to freedom of speech clear.
- To continue working with Jewish students and students of other faiths to create an environment free of discrimination and racism

Motion title: Students Deserve Better For Their Money**Proposer:** Ruqaiyah Javaid (VP Education)**Secunder:** Shaima Dallali (VP Community and Wellbeing)

This Union Notes:

- Education is a fundamental right for all and should be made free via reallocation of funds obtained via taxation.
- In normal circumstances, a minimum tuition fee of £9,250 per year is unjustifiable. Under Covid circumstances, where students are experiencing a significant impact on academic standards, welfare support and access to resources which are integral to their learning, a minimum £9,250 fee has become outstandingly unjust.
- Several trade Unions, including UNISON, UNITE and GMB have campaigned for free education.
- That Class of 2021 students have had a poor experience of teaching, being doubly impacted by staff strikes as well as Covid. Little remedy can be offered for this outside of fee refunds.
- That 'value for money' is a conversation that we may engage in, but we also recognise that no true value can be placed on education. Nonetheless, value for money is important to mention as we accept the reality that students are paying fees currently. In the context of students paying £9,250 p/annum at a minimum, it places even more of an onus on the University to ensure that the education that they are offering is worth that much.

This Union Believes:

- That education is a social good and a fundamental right. This is incompatible with a system of Higher Education which forces students to pay for their education and reduces teaching, learning and research to a simple tool for economic growth.
- That education is increasingly being marketised and firmly standing in opposition to this is absolutely vital.
- The University has been financially impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and students have borne the brunt of this. Students should therefore be viewed with sympathy, and drastic measures need to be put in place to ensure that they are not impacted beyond what is unavoidable.

This Union Resolves:

- To lobby the University to refund all tuition fees for years affected by Covid and staff strikes.
- To lobby the University to work towards improving online and in-person teaching to a standard that is commensurate to the fees that students are paying.
- To lobby the University to work on projects and campaigns that improve the student experience.
- To collaborate with other Students' Unions and the NUS on Free Education and Fee Refund campaigns
- To lobby the University to freeze any fee increases.

Motion title: 'No Detriment policy'**Proposer:** Ruqaiyah Javaid**Secunder:** Shaima Dallali

This Union notes:

- A 'No Detriment' policy means that students will not be penalised for any dip in performance on assessments undertaken during Covid-19 circumstances. Final grades cannot fall below a previous average as long as they achieve a pass, but a student can still improve their grades based on their performing above this average.
- A student petition was raised in March, where 600 students requested that City adopt a No Detriment policy.
- Covid-19 has had a significant impact on all students' ability to fulfil their academic potential for various reasons, not limited to bereavement, stress and anxiety.
- Earlier this year, City University implemented a 'No Detriment' or 'Safety Net' policy, which meant that the results of assessments taken after 16th March would not negatively affect students' degree classification. Students' capabilities need to be fairly assessed within the context of a pandemic and this means extending the No Detriment policy.
- The 'No Detriment' or 'Safety Net' policy ended at the start of Term 1 2020/21.

This Union believes:

- That the pandemic has been a very difficult time for all students, both personally and academically. Students deserve to be given a fair chance of succeeding so that they do not miss out on being able to achieve their potential.
- The reason the No Detriment policy was introduced was in part due to the move to online teaching. While some students are receiving some level of in-persona teaching, many are not, and the vast majority of study remains online. Conditions of study are similar if not identical to the first lockdown, but there is now no safety net policy in place as there was then.
- The University must do all it can to support students through these challenging times and take steps to ensure students are engaged in their assessments and are not negatively impacted.
- Universities such as University of Brighton have extended their No Detriment policy to support students through the pandemic. Various other SU's are lobbying for their No Detriment policies to be extended.
- Submitting evidence for extenuating circumstances claims is an added burden for students who are already facing significant challenges.

This Union resolves:

- To lobby the University to establish a 'No Detriment' phase two policy which would be applicable to future assessments taking place under Covid.
- To lobby the University to extend the SYAS policy throughout the pandemic.

Motion Title: The need for more Students' Union Spaces on campus**Proposer:** Saqlain Riaz**Secunder:** Soheil Ahmadi**This Union notes:**

1. There is a distinct lack of dedicated Student Spaces at City, University of London
2. The University has committed to providing a new Students' Union Common room in joint collaboration with the Students' Union
3. The Students' Union has no physical presence at the Business School Postgraduate campus at Bunhill Row

This Union believes:

4. There is a need to create and repurpose spaces on campus to ensure all Student spaces are inclusive and accessible
5. Students come to University to study, make friends, and build communities through their Cohorts, Societies, and Clubs
6. Space on campus has become increasingly purposed to serve as meeting rooms and office space, much of which is inaccessible for Students during their time on campus

This Union Resolves:

7. __For City Students' Union to actively lobby City, University of London to dedicate and refurbish more Student facing spaces on campus, with a focus on the City Bar space for the immediate future.
8. __For the Students' Union to have ownership over these spaces, ensuring students are thoroughly consulted in the design and repurposing process to create a truly inclusive and accessible space for all Students
9. __For the Students' Union to establish a physical space at the Business school postgraduate campus at Bunhill Row, the purpose of which will be to bring our Student communities, activities and voices together under one banner.

Motion Title: Condemning the Islamophobic cartoons made of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Proposer: Saqlain Riaz
Seconder: Shaima Dallali

This Union notes:

1. That there are a large number of Muslim students at City, University of London
2. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is a figure of respect for Muslims, therefore caricatures and comments made about him may cause distress and anxiety to the Muslim community
3. Islamophobia as well as cases of Islamophobic attacks on Muslims, has been rising across the globe.

This Union believes:

4. That we must condemn hate speech to ensure all members of our community, both of faith and no-faith, feel safe and secure in our institutions and society more widely
5. That although we uphold and respect the principles of freedom of speech, we must take into account the religious and cultural sensitivities that come with it.
6. Freedom of speech is an important principle that needs to be protected but this needs to be balanced against our duty to prohibit hate speech, defamation and incendiary comments against protected characteristics.

This Union Resolves:

7. To release a statement outlining its commitment to Muslim Students in making them feel safe and represented in light of the ongoing targeting of Muslims and the Muslim community around the world
8. To continue to work closely with the Muslim community and student societies, to raise awareness of all forms of Islamophobia, which includes, but is not limited to, running an annual Islamophobia awareness campaign
9. To ensure cases of Islamophobia on and off campus are dealt with by the University, supported by the Students' Union an