

Student Members' Meeting

Agenda

6pm Tuesday 11th February 2020 | B200, University Building, Northampton Square

	Item	Paper Ref:	Lead:
1	Welcome and Apologies	N/A	Chair
2	Minutes To agree the accuracy and approve the minutes from the last meeting.	SMM-001	Chair
3	Confirmation of Items for Any Other Business	N/A	Chair
4	Items specially brought forward by the Chair To note any items brought forward by the Chair	N/A	Chair
Items for Information			
5	Trustee Report on Union Activities	SMM-002	TK
6	Annual Accounts of the Union		TK
Items for Decision			
7	List of Affiliations	SMM-003	TK
8	Iftar as part of Study Well	SMM-004	SHK
9	Running Study Well events all year	SMM-005	AC
10	Mandatory Unconscious Bias training for all Union staff	SMM-006	RS
11	In-House In City	SMM-007	SD
12	UCU Industrial Action	SMM-008	TK
13	Make CityBar work for City Students	SMM-009	TK
14	Creating a physical space for the Graduate School	SMM-010	AO
15	British Sign Language to be offered by the Language Centre	SMM-011	EF
16	Room booking	SMM-012	IHK
17	Lecture Theatre Plugs	SMM-013	AC
18	Longer Opening Hours and More Resources for the Library	SMM-014	AO

19	To improve the Assessment and Feedback process within CASS	SMM-015	DA
20	Let's create an opt-in paper system	SMM-016	MO
21	Climate Change	SMM-017	CK
22	Re-mark system	SMM-018	RG
23	Lecture Capture	SMM-019	RG
Any Other Business			
24	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

Chair's Support – Angelo Weekes, SU Representation Manager

Student Members Meeting Minutes - Unapproved

5pm Tuesday 12 February 2019 | B200, University Building

SMM-001

Attendance record

School	Number
Cass Business School	19
School of Arts & Social Sciences	27
School of Health Sciences	33
School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering	36
The City Law School	19
Total Number of Student Attendees*	121

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

Officers	Initials	Title
Kristina Perelygina	KP	President
Tuna Kunt	TK	VP Education
Nazia Bharde	NB	VP Activities & Development
Albena Haytova	AH	Chair of Student Council (Meeting Chair)

Staff in Attendance	Initials	Title
Angelo Weekes	AW	Representation Manager (Chair's Support)
Hannah Roberts	HR	Head of Membership Development
Skye Golding	SG	Wellbeing & Insight Coordinator (Committee Secretary)
Mark Riley	MR	Societies Coordinator (Door)
Manoj Kerai	MK	Activities and Events Coordinator (Door)
Nabil Yousef	NY	Democracy Assistant

Part One**1) Welcome and apologies**

AH opened the meeting and welcomed attendees to the Student Members' Meeting and outlined meeting conduct.

2) Minutes

Minutes from last year approved by those present.

Paper Reference: SMM-001

3) Confirmation of Items for Any Other Business

No Items were received.

- 4) **Items specially brought forward by the Chair**
 5) No Items brought forward.

Items for Information

5) **Trustee Report on Union Activities**

Paper Reference: SSM-002

KP provided the meeting with an update on activities, including:

- Exciting year for the Union in its first year operating as a charitable company limited by guarantee. This means we have increased independence from City and managed our own finances. Knox Cropper have also been appointed as the Union's auditors.
- Through a programme of work, the Union has now established at least one Academic Society in every discipline and will be working to further develop these societies over the coming years.
- To improve inclusivity, there has been a continued focus on holding events which do not rely on the consumption of alcohol.
- There have been targeted events such as the International Culture Show, Black History Month Debate and events for students of faith.
- There was a 7% increase in student satisfaction in NSS question 26 and the Union is now in the top 15% of students' unions in the country for this question.
- Advice Service: During the period of 1 October 2017 to 31 July 2018 in comparison to the previous year, the Union increased the number of cases handled by 46.1%, the number of students supported by 47.3% and the number face-to-face appointments held by 97%.

No questions were asked from the floor.

6) **Management Accounts**

KP provided details of the Union's financial statements. Key points included:

- Total incoming resources for the year increased 46.4% to £1.185 million. This income was mainly from an increase of the Block Grant received from City, University of London.
 Total resources expended increased by 31.6% to £1.30 million. This increase was largely due to the creation of a number of coordinator roles which did not exist previously.
 We are pleased we have been able to increase the Union reserves to £208K which ensures we have 3 months operating costs. Having a strong reserves positions will enable the Union to be more adventurous with its spending in future years.

Part Two

Items for Decision

7) **Affiliations**

Paper Reference: SSM-003

KP presented the proposed list of organisations that the Students' Union and Societies wished to affiliate to. KP noted that these would be voted on as a block.

There were no speeches against.

Decision

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

8) Oppose PREVENT

Paper Reference: SSM-004

Ruqaiyah Javaid (RJ) introduced the Motion. She explained that the Prevent duty unfairly targets Black and Muslim people. RJ told the meeting that there were 5700 referrals in 2015, with only 5% going on to receive radicalisation education – leaving many innocent people traumatised by the process. Closer to home at City, speakers have been classified as high-risk by university due to having Muslim names. RJ asked the Union to oppose Prevent through a number of measures.

Speech Against: The point of Prevent is to stop all terrorism, not just Islamic terrorism. It also looks at the BNP and EDL. The measures are meant to help people who may go in that direction due to mental health issues etc. Only 5% of referrals go on to receive radicalisation education. The Prevent duty doesn't criminalise people or stop speakers coming to campus. The Prevent duty sits under wellbeing departments – it is to help people, not criminalise them.

Speech For: The speaker against was thanked for their contribution. It was argued that the Prevent duty clearly attacks Muslims, indicating beards and hijabs as risk factors. Markers of terrorism are poorly defined by the Prevent duty and it is left to members of staff to interpret them – leading to confusion in staff rooms and suspicion among students and staff. The original Prevent only targeted Muslims, with the addition of right-wing extremism occurring only to appease the public. 5% figure shows a huge over-referral rate, leaving people traumatised. Parents are being told their children will be taken away. Speakers have been deterred from attending events due to Prevent. Palestinian society has experienced speakers being flagged because of Muslim names. It was argued that Prevent does not protect people.

Speech Against: It was argued that the Prevent duty plays no part in deterring speakers from attending events. The speaker's knowledge of the Prevent duty was questioned. The argument was given that amendments to add right-wing groups were to be celebrated and that Prevent stops people going down a dark path and hurting themselves and others.

Speech For: Several local cases of Muslims being targeted for nothing were indicated as evidence of Prevent's unfair targeting. Arguments were made that the University should be a place for personal and political growth, and for challenging your experiences and beliefs. Prevent creates an atmosphere of suspicion and stops students organising for exploring change in their beliefs. The Union should take a stance against Prevent. It was suggested that, as a charity, the Union doesn't have to comply, but if it chooses to do so, it furthers an Islamophobic, far-right agenda.

Decision

The Meeting **approved** the motion.

9) Academic Certainty

Paper Reference: SSM-005

Raha Ghadaksaz (RG) introduced the motion, explaining that second years on her course had been unhappy with inconsistent marking and poor feedback and wants to provide a more formalised way for large groups of students to access support from the Union when the University doesn't listen to their concerns over grades. At the moment appeals have to be

done on an individual bases and not by a whole cohort. RG argued that the University should be able to explain why students had received the grades they have been given.

Question: How have you brought this issue to the University's attention?

Response: RG explained that she had brought the issue to module leaders herself and had spoken to around 25 other students who had all either emailed or met with staff at the University and received no help.

Question: What exactly are you asking for?

Reponse: RG – For Union support in seeking explanation and getting exams looked at again.

Question: Where does the process end?

Answer: When the University can explain why certain grades have been given and provide answers to inconsistencies in marking.

Question: KP asked if students in this instance had been through the formal appeal process.

Answer: RG explained that students could only appeal individually through a clerical check or extenuating circumstances. She wants support for formal procedures on behalf of multiple students at once.

There were no speeches against.

Decision

The Meeting **approved** the motion

10) Friday Prayer on Campus

Paper Reference: SMM-006

Kawthar El-Rrakik (KER) introduced the Motion. He pointed to City's large Muslim cohort, who wish to continue the tradition of Friday prayers on campus so students don't have to leave campus or miss lectures to pray. The policy also assists with overcrowding at local mosques, building community. KER also pointed out that religious belief is a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act. This is a renewal of a previous policy.

There were no speeches against.

Decision

The Meeting **approved** the motion.

11) The Right to Clean Praying Facilities on Campus Paper Reference: SSM-007

Zakariya Sheikh (ZS) introduced the motion, explaining that while he was grateful for the prayer room's existence, students were struggling with the fact that is not properly cleaned and maintained. Prostration during prayer is unpleasant when the floor is dirty. The Islamic Society have purchased a hoover but been told they cannot store it in the room, and that it must be cleaned by staff. This is not happening.

Question: What's it like at the moment?

Response: It's not even hoovered weekly. We can't clean it ourselves. We have spoken to the Chaplaincy and PAF but seen no change.

There were no speeches against the motion.

Decision

The Meeting **approved** the motion.

12) Graduation Prices

Paper Reference: SSM-008

TK introduced the motion, explaining that the costs of attending graduation, including tickets and gown hire, were prohibitive for some students and should be removed as far as possible to allow all students the chance to attend.

Speech Against: Cost of graduations has to be paid for somehow. There are staff and cleaning costs etc. The fees go back into the University. Paying extra for graduation is only around £100 per person compared to the hundreds of thousands extra absorbed by the University as a result of charging. £100 is not that much. It's unreasonable to spend money on what is essentially a party. Don't go if you don't like the cost.

Speech For: TK argued that it is the right of all students to attend their graduation. The University makes a large profit and has a surplus. It's a moment students will remember for the rest of their lives. City has lots of Widening Participation students who might be financially struggling and it is our responsibility to support them at the end of their journey here.

Question: The mental health department is underfunded, isn't that more deserving?

Answer: I agree that is important but we have recently put in place the Stepchange framework and work is being done. It's not either or, we can afford quite a lot.

Speech For: We have made savings through electronic books in the library, so can definitely find money for graduation.

Speech Against: There is a surplus which last year was 14 million. However this goes back into the University to improve facilities and learning resources. Would rather that money go into more staff, buildings, facilities rather than graduation.

Speech For: NB – Told attendees that she is a BAME student and the first in her family to go to University. She couldn't afford lots of aspects of University life and had to work hard to support herself. Says it is crass to say you shouldn't go to graduation if you can't afford it.

Speech Against: Student said he was also from a widening participation background and has three jobs to support himself with no help from parents. Appreciates that the University needs this money for elsewhere. Claimed he was probably poorer than everyone in the room but that the issue should not be made personal.

Speech For: TK. Graduation is a big part of the student experience and everyone has a right to it.

Decision

The Meeting **approved** the motion.

13) Keep Wednesday Afternoons Free

Paper Reference: SSM-009

Edward Armitage (EA) introduced the motion, which is a renewal of a previous policy which has not been uniformly enforced. Explained that keeping Wednesday afternoons free for students to take extra-curricular activities was common practice at UK universities. Allowing students this time to pursue other opportunities outside of lectures improves student experience and makes students more employable.

There were no speeches against.

Decision

The Meeting **approved** the motion.

14) Tackling Sexual Harassment on Campus

Paper Reference: SSM-010

TK introduced the motion, explaining that it would mandate consent and active bystander training to be made available to student leaders, improve the mechanism for reporting incidents and introduce anonymous reporting. It would also introduce a yearly awareness campaign to educate students on what constitutes sexual harassment and improve safety in halls.

Question: Sexual harassment is not black and white and an alleged male perpetrator is often treated differently because something he's said has been taken the wrong way by a woman. Can you give us an example of what would constitute sexual harassment?

Answer: I can't give every example as, like you said, the issue is not black and white. It's also important to emphasise that it's not always a male perpetrator against a female victim.

Student who asked the original question responded that he found a reversal of genders unlikely.

Question: Can we make sure anonymity is protected for both parties?

Answer: TK – The process is already anonymous other than to a central body and the individuals handling cases.

Question: I just wanted to point out that the process is unclear for all types of assault and harassment, not just those cases with a sexual component.

Answer: TK agrees. Work is being centralised this year after work from Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment working group.

Question: Can we make sexual harassment and assault training mandatory? It is as important as what we are studying on our courses.

Answer: TK – proposal is for the training to be for student leaders to begin with but it would be good to expand.

Question: Can it include free self-defence classes, particularly for women?

Answer: EA – I see your point, but that puts the onus on the victim. We should teach perpetrators not to assault people and not vice versa.

A student responded that while EA was correct, there was still no harm in learning to defend yourself as the Union could not control the outside world.

Chair moved to a vote.

Decision

The Meeting **approved** the motion.

15) Increasing Participation in Sport through Student Groups

Paper Reference: SSM-011

NB introduced the motion and explained that student groups and societies were not insured to play sport together as part of those groups, making it difficult for students who did not wish to play for a team to participate in exercise and stay healthy. The motion asks the University to provide insurance to encourage people to play sports through societies, building community and improving health and wellbeing.

Question: Just to clarify, this is to do with societies and not teams?

Answer: NB – yes, this is for non-competitive sport, allowing students to use CitySport without paying individually.

Question: Is this for the University to give the Union money so they can provide insurance or for the University to cover the insurance?

Answer: NB – we currently have only £20,000 to cover over 130 societies so cannot afford it. We are open to negotiations on how the logistics work but the University would need to provide funding.

Decision

The Meeting **approved** the motion.

16) City Students' Union to Affiliate to Nightline

Paper Reference: SSM-012

NB introduced the motion, which asks to Union to affiliate to Nightline, an independently registered charity offering listening, support and information to higher education students by way of a confidential helpline out of hours. It would be in addition to the current counselling system which is underfunded and not open outside of working hours.

Speech Against: I'm not against mental health services but this service is already available nationally through Samaritans. This is a big cost for what is a duplicate service.

Speech For: Exam times are particularly tough and it's hard to know where to find support. No harm in having more options if it can help.

Speech Against: I get it but why can't Union make us aware of already existing services. This adds more cost to the University when there are already well-funded societies providing the same service.

Speech For: I've tried some other services and they took a few days to get back to me. What if it's serious and you don't have that time? If facilities are on campus it eases the pressure on existing services and makes it easier for students to access help.

NB informed students that the fee would be 10p per student for the Union and 27p per student for the University and that students would be able to volunteer and get training through the service.

Decision

The Meeting **approved** the motion

Any Other Business

17) Any Other Business

There were no items submitted to discuss.

AH closed the meeting.

Items for Information

This section includes information about what the Union did in 2018-19 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.

Trustee Report on Union Activities & Annual Accounts**SMM-002**

Please follow the [link](#) below, or see our Student Members' Meeting 2020 web page



City_University_of_
London_Students'_l

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 2019/20.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organisation</th> <th>Affiliation</th> <th>Other details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>City, University of London Students Union</td> <td>National Union of Students (NUS)</td> <td>Total of £34730.40. paid annually (2019/20)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christian Union</td> <td>UCCF: The Christian Unions</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservative Society</td> <td>Conservative Party</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enactus Society</td> <td>Enactus UK</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Erasmus Student Network</td> <td>Erasmus Student Network UK</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girl Up Society</td> <td>Girl Up</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu Society</td> <td>National Hindu Students' Forum</td> <td>Total of £105.00 paid annually</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Islamic Society</td> <td>Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Socialist Society</td> <td>Socialist Workers Party</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Street Doctors Society</td> <td>Street Doctors</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNICEF Society</td> <td>UNICEF</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Women in Media Society</td> <td>Women in Media</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Organisation	Affiliation	Other details	City, University of London Students Union	National Union of Students (NUS)	Total of £34730.40. paid annually (2019/20)	Christian Union	UCCF: The Christian Unions		Conservative Society	Conservative Party		Enactus Society	Enactus UK		Erasmus Student Network	Erasmus Student Network UK		Girl Up Society	Girl Up		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		Street Doctors Society	Street Doctors		UNICEF Society	UNICEF		Women in Media Society	Women in Media	
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Action for Meeting	To approve the affiliations listed above.																																							

Iftar as part of Study Well

Proposer: Shahd Haj Khalil

Secunder: Ali Qureshi

This Union notes:

1. Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar and the holiest month of the year. It is when the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). During Ramadan, fasting from sunrise to sunset is obligatory for every Muslim adult who is in good health i.e. the majority of Muslim students here at City.
2. Ramadan lasts for about one month and commences when the moon is sighted. Iftar is the evening meal which breaks the fast. Iftar happens at sunset and Muslims often gather together to eat this meal.
3. For the next few years, Ramadan is expected to coincide with the exams and assessment periods.
4. Each year, as part of the Study Well campaign, City SU partners up with the University to organise a host of exciting events and activities throughout the exams and assessments periods. The SU also provide breakfast on some days on Study Well. This is so that the SU supports the academic performance and the overall wellbeing of students.
5. In 2017 and 2018, the Vice President of Activities and Development held an iftar meal for one day in Ramadan.

This Union believes:

1. That Ramadan is central to the Islamic faith and thus important to Muslim students.
2. City SU's campaigns such as Study Well should be integrated with events that reflect the diverse needs of its student body. Iftar evening would be a natural addition to the SU's other events, such as providing breakfast.
3. Holding an open Iftar celebration contributes towards the SU's commitment to ensure the wellbeing of its students of faith and indeed all students. It also fosters the notion of community, togetherness and understanding between all of its students in the face of rising Islamophobia.

This Union resolves:

1. The Study Well campaign should recognise the individual needs of student groups so as to effectively support their academic performance and wellbeing by establishing a permanent Iftar evening meal on at least one day a week during Ramadan, if not more frequently, when Ramadan coincides with the exam and assessment period.
2. The SU should work in collaboration with Muslim students to facilitate and provide a space for the Iftar gathering.
3. The Iftar event should be integrated into and become a permanent event as part of the annual Study Well campaign or other equivalent campaign that coincides with Ramadan if Study Well were to be discontinued.

Running Study Well events all year round**SMM-005****Proposer:** Aaron Carey**Seconded:** 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.

Mandatory Unconscious Bias Training for all Union Staff**SMM-006****Proposer:** Rania Salim**Secunder:** Saqlain Riaz**This Union Notes:**

1. A microaggression is 'A comment or action that subtly and often unconsciously or unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group (such as a racial minority)'
2. These may stem from a lack of cultural sensitivity and understanding which leads to people being marginalised, oppressed, or otherwise mistreated.
3. City, University of London has a diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-faith student community.

This Union Believes:

1. That all students and staff members should feel safe and secure, ensuring that the university and Union provides an environment where they do not have to face racism and microaggressions in carrying out their duties.

This Union Resolves:

1. That all Union staff members be trained in mandatory unconscious bias training, in-house or external, and for the process to be repeated and refined, wherever possible, on an annual basis, and for new Union staff members when they start their official positions.
2. The Union will lobby the University to implement and provide meaningful mandatory unconscious bias training for all academics and staff members at City, University of London.

In House In City**SMM-007****Proposer:** Shaima Dallali**Secunder:** Maimuna Bushale**This Union notes:**

1. City, University of London has made public statements that profess the University's commitment to:
 - “... contribut[ing] to the global good of society.”
 - “... building and maintaining an environment which values the diversity of its students, staff and all its community.”
 - “... a collegial environment of equality and mutual respect.”
 - “... challenging all forms of inequality”
2. City, University of London offers their staff good terms and conditions of employment, however this is not available to cleaning and catering staff. They are employed by private companies rather than by City University. The private companies give them only statutory minimum terms and conditions.
3. City, University of London are operating a 2-tier workforce where those employed privately are treated like 2nd class Citizens.
4. Staff employed as cleaners or caterers are disproportionately women and/or black and minority ethnic (BAME). Many are migrant workers.

UNISON, the trade union representing cleaning and catering staff, is running an #InHouseInCity campaign for cleaning and catering services to be brought 'in house', i.e. to be directly employed by City, University of London. Many students and staff have already added their names to UNISON's #InHouseInCity petition.

5. City University have claimed that the process to bring staff in house would be too expensive (they estimate it would cost £1M a year). However, the facts cannot be ignored. Last year, the President was paid an annual salary of £344.5K, 105 colleagues employed by City were paid over £100k and at the end of 2019, City reported a yearly operating surplus of £10.9M (excluding movements on pension provisions).
6. City, University of London also claim that these staff do not provide services that are part of City's core business. Ensuring we have a clean environment to study and food for staff and students ARE core services!
7. King's College, LSE, Goldsmiths, Birkbeck and SOAS have already managed to bring all staff in house whilst UCL and University of London are all in the process of bringing their outsourced staff back in.

This Union believes:

1. Catering and cleaning staff should be in house meaning they would be directly employed by City, University of London, and would have the same terms and conditions as every other employee at City.

2. That ALL staff are to be treated with dignity, equality and justice.
3. That catering and cleaning staff do provide services that are a part of City's core business as they ensure our university is kept a clean and a pleasant environment for students to study and they also provide us the food that allows us to stay engaged in our studies.
4. This has not been an issue for students previously, not because we do not care, but because we were not aware cleaners and caterers were being treated as 2nd class citizens. Many students are still unaware.
5. That City, University of London needs to start practicing the values it professes to hold.

This Union Resolves:

1. The Students' Union will work with Unison to campaign for the University to bring catering and cleaning staff in house.
2. The Students' Union will make clear and public their stance regarding this campaign by, but not limited to, writing to the University President and University Council, posting statements on the Students' Union social media and encouraging students to sign UNISON's petition.
3. The Students' Union will work to inform students of the employment conditions of cleaning and catering staff and the #InHouseInCity campaign by devising a communication strategy with UNISON.
4. The Students' Union will communicate with, participate in and support upcoming #InHouseInCity rallies and protests by UNISON.

UCU Industrial Action**SMM-008****Proposer:** Tuna Kunt (SU President)**Seconders:** Amelia Durkin, Anne Onwusiri (PGT Officer), Clement Koszuta**This Union notes:**

1. University and College Union (UCU) has completed 8 consecutive days of strikes at the end of Term 1, regarding two disputes: pensions and pay & working conditions. City Students' Union, mandated by the Referendum, supported striking staff.
2. UCU has voted to strike again, as the disputes have not been resolved. The action will start on Thursday 20 February and escalate each week, culminating with a week-long walkout from Monday 9 to Friday 13 March with a total of 14 proposed strike days.
3. The November referendum question was: Should City Students' Union support the 'strike' and 'action-short-of-a-strike' UCU industrial action on pensions and on pay & working conditions? A total of 895 students voted, meaning the quota was passed and the motion was deemed to be carried. 656 votes for yes, 218 votes for no, 21 abstentions.

This Union believes:

3. The referendum result should be respected and upheld.
4. Students need fairly rewarded staff and UCU claim since 2009, pay has been effectively cut by nearly 20% in real terms, while staff are being asked to work harder and longer than ever before.
5. Casual contracts remain entrenched. Yet the university employers are refusing to commit themselves to meaningful action on any of these appalling conditions.
4. Women and black minority ethnic staff experience significant pay discrimination.

This Union Resolves:

1. For the next round of strikes announced by UCU (for the dates stated above):
 - a. To commit Union resource to support staff on the picket line.
 - b. For officers to support staff on picket lines across the action and encourage students to do the same.
 - c. To publish a statement on the SU website in support of staff.
 - d. To send out an all student email on our stance, including a joint SU and UCU statement on the matter.
 - e. To continue to support our students during industrial action as business as usual and work towards minimising the impact, including advice on complaints compensation claims.
 - f. The Union to support all students and work to minimise disruption on studies. Some of the ways in which the Union should support students include encouraging academics to make students aware if they will be striking to reduce unnecessary journeys to campus, helping students who wish to make a claim against City and keeping students informed on progress.

Make CityBar work for City Students

SMM-009

Proposer: Tuna Kunt (President)

Seconders: Amelia Durkin, Anne Onwusiri (PGT Officer)

This Union notes:

1. That City Students' Union has seen rapid growth over recent years, including in student participation, the number of activities and services being offered and the positive impact it is having on members.
2. The SSLC (Student-Staff Liaison Committees) data shows that students are frequently asking for more space to socialise, study and spend time.
3. CityBar is a large and flexible space, but it is underused during the day and not to its full potential in the evenings.
4. Sodexo has been contracted to manage the licensed trade offer for up to the next 5 years, however as demonstrated by the Courtyard Café, this can be done in partnership with the Union.

This Union believes:

1. The food and drink offer at CityBar is not meeting the needs of students as it has no food offer during the day and satisfaction with the evening offer is low.
2. Having alcohol on display during the day and calling it a bar is not inclusive to all students. This especially impacts on some students of faith's ability to go in and use the space during the day.
3. That the space can be easily turned into a multi-purpose room. The space can be a social student space during the day and a bar in the evenings for better space utilisation.
4. That the Union is limited on space, which negatively affects the Union's future ambitions and the opportunities it can provide to societies to run bigger and better events.

This Union Resolves:

1. To lobby City, University of London to enable the Union to manage the space in which the bar operates.
2. To ensure student groups are able to run events in the space.
3. To lobby Sodexo to provide a suitable catering offer throughout the day and evening.
4. To lobby City, University of London to provide sufficient resource so that the Union can:
 - a. Rebrand the space and remove the name 'bar'.
 - b. Ensure that the bar facility and alcohol provision are not visible during the day.
 - c. Run a program of inclusive events during the day which develop a community on campus.
 - d. Run a program of evening activities which meet the needs of students.
 - e. Make the space more student-friendly.

Creating a physical space for the Graduate School**SMM-010****Proposer:** Anne Onwusiri, Postgraduate Taught Officer**Seconders:** Tuna Kunt, City SU President**This Union Notes:**

1. There is no central physical space that post graduate students can go to for information or to foster a healthy community through interactions within a common space.
2. Graduate students account for approximately 50% of the total student population at City, University of London.
3. The Union believes that creating a space would engender a sense of cohesion and community as well as helping ease the frustrations created by limited access to study spaces for half of the student population.

This Union Believes:

1. That graduate students should have a space that they can identify as their own.
2. That graduate students would benefit greatly from a streamlined information gathering process through a central hub.
3. That graduate students deserve a better space to develop their community.

This Union Resolves:

1. That the SU President will liaise with the space management committee to identify potential spaces.
2. VP Education will bring this policy to the Board of Studies.
3. Students' Union will campaign for this policy throughout the year.

British Sign Language to be offered by the language centre**SMM-011****Proposer:** Ellie Foulger (Disabled Students Officer)**Seconded:** Anne Onwusiri (Postgraduate Taught Officer)**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 through the Language centre. Some of these languages offer three tiers of classes: basic, intermediate and advanced whereas some only offer basic classes.
2. There is no current offering of British sign language by the University to students or staff to my knowledge. There is a British Sign Language Society however.

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 at the very least a basic level.
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 it is unclear why the University does not also offer this, especially since they are already offering free language classes in other languages.

This Union Resolves:

1. The University should introduce a British Sign Language course for free to all staff and students through the language centre.
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.

Room Booking**SMM-012****Proposer:** Ibrahim Khalid Hamid**Secunder:** Sarah Kazi**This Union notes:**

1. Societies are able to book rooms between 4 - 9pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday and 1-9pm Wednesdays, in sessions of no more than 3 hours.

2. The 2019/2020 Room booking Guidance requires societies to "Send this form in at least 10 working days in advance of the date they wish to book."

However, further down the guidance states [under point number 2] "All requests must be made at least 5 working days in advance."

3. The guidance is unclear whether 10 days is needed or 5 days.

4. The 2019/2020 guidance does not present the most up to date information. Policy change made by the Activities and Development Officer at the end of the academic year 2018/2019, which has allowed societies to now ask for funding for external catering. However, the guidance does not reflect this

5. Currently, there is no requirement on the Students' Union to respond to Room Booking requests within a specific time limit. This means that societies can be left without knowing if their room booking has been confirmed – or may receive a confirmation on the date they require the room!

This Union believes:

1. The Room Booking Request Guidance is unclear over the required amount of notice needed for Societies to book a room.

2. The 2019/2020 Room Booking Request Guidance has not been updated from previous years and thus does not reflect changes made for this academic year.

3. The required 10 working days notice for Room Bookings is too long and must be shortened to 5 working days.

This Union resolves:

1. To work on reducing the room booking time to no more than 5 working days.

2. The Students' Union will present the correct and most up-to-date information to societies, and ensure communication with societies when there are changes to policies.

3. To inform societies as soon as possible of any changes that have been made that are conducive to the running of their society

Plug sockets in all lecture theatres**SMM-013****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 powering devices, 3-point plugs and USB ports 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.

Longer Opening Hours and More Resources for the Library**SMM-014****Proposer:** Anne Onwusiri, Postgraduate Taught Officer**Seconded:** Tuna Kunt, City SU President**This Union Notes:**

1. The Northampton Square Library is open 08.30 – 00.00 on weekdays and 10.00 – 22.00 on weekends
2. Cass Learning Resource Centre is open 08.30 – 00.00 on weekdays and 10.00 – 00.00 on weekends
3. The City Law School Library (Gray's Inn Place) is open 09.00 – 22.00 on weekdays, 11.00 – 18.00 on Saturdays and 11.00 – 17.00 on Sundays
4. The City Law School Library (Northampton Square) is open 09.00 – 22.00 on weekdays, 12.00 – 18.00 on Saturdays and 12.00 – 18.00 on Sundays

This Union Believes:

1. The Northampton Square Library and Cass Learning Resource Centre should be open for longer hours during the whole academic year.

This Union Resolves:

1. City Students' Union to lobby the University to open the Library's for longer hours, in particular earlier opening times.
2. City Students' Union to lobby the University to provide more study space for students
3. City Students' Union to lobby the University to provide more funding and resources for students' study space and materials

Improve the Assessment and Feedback Processes within CASS in Regards to Reports and Essays

Proposer: Danya Aamir

Seconder: 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

Let's create a an opt- in paper system**SMM-016****Proposer:** Mohamed Omar**Secunder:** Mehmet Cirakoglu**This Union notes:**

1. That a considerable amount of printed course content goes wasted due to students losing it.
2. That having both access to critical course content online and in paper is unnecessary
3. Students are not disadvantaged by not having printed course content they do not need.

This Union believes:

1. This is unsustainable.
2. That unwanted paper course content doesn't add value to the student body
3. That it is time for a change

This Union Resolves:

1. .That we create an Opt- in system for paper resources
2. That course leaders should print out less than the capacity of the class
3. That no student should be burdened by an opt-in system

Climate change**SMM-017****Proposer:** Clement Koszuta (Socialist society president)**Seconders:** Iwan Moreton, Louis Sugunasabesan**This society notes:**

- (1) The Earth's temperature has already risen by 1 degree above pre-industrial levels.
- (2) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018 warned that we only have 12 years to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees. Carbon emissions need to be cut by at least 45 percent by 2030 and reach zero carbon by 2050 in order to avoid a dangerous tipping point.
- (3) Climate change is already impacting all aspects of our lives: from more extreme weather conditions, to reduction of species biodiversity, to the plight of climate refugees to air pollution. Fires in Australia in December 2019 and flooding in Jakarta, Indonesia in January 2020 have again highlighted what the stakes are and the urgency.
- (4) The participation of workers in the Earth strikes including solidarity strikes, rallies and protests—most notably in Britain on 20 September 2019.
- (5) That the 2019 TUC Congress passed a resolution initiated by members of the University and College Union (UCU) calling for workplace action and solidarity with the Earth Strike on 20 September 2020.
- (6) That school students have called further national strikes for Friday 14 February and Friday 13 March.
- (7) That the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is holding its next major Conference of the Parties (COP) summit in November in Glasgow—COP26. Importantly this will review UN member states' effectiveness in implementing the Paris Agreement from the COP21 talks in 2015.
- (8) That an estimated 500,000 people joined protests at the COP25 talks in Madrid last year after the summit was moved from Chile.

This society believes:

- (1) The issue of climate change is affecting and will continue to affect our lives; we need to support the fight on climate change.
- (2) That the Student Union can make a big difference to the movement against climate change and that a fightback in universities across Britain is a crucial part of the fight to reduce carbon emissions.
- (3) That the brilliant stand of the school students deserves our full solidarity. They have given us all hope for the future.
- (4) That the COP26 summit in Glasgow in November offers an important and unprecedented opportunity in Britain for protests that can pile pressure on governments around the world—not least our own! —to take action on climate change.
- (5) The future of our planet is at risk if we do not organise to force governments to cut emissions at least in line with the 2018 IPCC report.

This society resolves:

- (1) To demand that the Student Union officially declare a climate emergency.

- (2) To support the climate march on March the 13th by helping to organise a student-staff assembly on the issue of climate change on the university's grounds.

SMM-018**The University should implement a re-mark system that reassesses the substantive content of exams****Proposer:** Raha Ghadaksaz 170022162**Seconded:** Sania Chowdhury 170021654**This Union notes:**

1. The remark system that is currently in place does not review the substantive content in assessments. Therefore there is no way to question the accuracy of an examiners opinion, in case of error
2. The university should extend its remark policy to include reassessment of substantive content, in order to obtain conclusive academic opinion on students' assessments
3. Individual students should have the option to submit their assessments for review, without unreasonable restrictions

This Union believes:

1. Approval of this motion will encourage the university to recognise the student demand for extension of its remark policy, and take students' concerns into genuine consideration
2. Students will gain better standing in addressing this issue with endorsement, guidance and support from the union
3. The inclusion of substantive review in our remark policy will further improve and legitimise the standard of assessment in our university

This Union Resolves:

1. The union should communicate the desire for substantive remarking to the university on behalf of students, and encourage them to implement this addition to the remark policy
2. The union should assist students in reaching out to university leadership or other academic authorities for rectification where there is a possibility of grading error
3. Where applicable the union should provide students with information on their existing rights and provide guidance on means of submitting a request

Students should be afforded better access to their lectures through the implementation of compulsory lecture capture for all appropriate modules where the technology is available

Proposer: Raha Ghadaksaz 170022162

Seconder: Sania Chowdhury 170021654

This Union notes:

1. Where Lecture Capture technology is available, it is not automatically put in place. Often students have to request for it to be put 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. The university should be commended for its continued investment in lecture capture technology, and should be encouraged to implement lecture capture better with its existing resources while further investments are being made

This Union believes:

1. Lecture capture should be available for all modules where reasonable
2. ___Lecture capture aids effective learning, note taking and revision, as it allows students to learn at different speeds, addressing individual learning needs and styles
3. Lecture capture works with the individual student's schedule, improving access to course content

This Union Resolves:

1. To continue to advocate on behalf of students for the implementation of lecture capture for all appropriate modules where the technology required is currently available
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