

Student Members Meeting Minutes

5pm Tuesday 24th November 2020 | Online: Via Zoom

Attendance record

School	Initials
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*	-

Officers	Initials	Title
Saqlain Riaz	SR	President
Ruqaiyah Javaid	RJ	VP Education
Shaima Dallali	SD	VP Community & Wellbeing
Sajid Siddiqui	SS	Chair of Student Council (Meeting Chair)

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

Part One

1) Welcome and apologies

Registration for the meeting began from 4:30pm and students were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair.

2) Deputy President Professor David Bolton

Deputy President of City University, Professor David Bolton opened the meeting by talking about the plans and priorities for the term ahead and then accepted questions from the floor.

Question: Regarding students with learning agreements such as extended time on exams, how will this work online?

Response: Previous process was to go through every individual and organise a specific adjustment; that will be part of the plan. Professor David Bolton offers to speak to the team responsible to publish a general statement on the plans.

Question: Coming into Term 2, will there be any push for schools and courses to facilitate more live online lectures?

Response: Feed this back to your year tutor or Programme Director, but there should be a push for a mix of deliveries. Feedback has shown that students are enjoying a mix of pre-recorded short lectures and some live sessions.

Question: Could you tell us about the budget spending plan for the Students' Union?

Response from SU President: This will be discussed in section 6 of the meeting.

Question: Following on from an earlier question, could something be done to encourage live across a course as a whole, rather than contacting each module leader?

Response: We are not saying substitute pre-recorded for live lectures, it is about supplementing one with another. Course Director, Year Tutors and other staff should be looking at student feedback and responding to it; this feedback has been seen in work by the Union and representation across the Union too.

Question: An email about Hardship fund and applying for technology has been received, however this is targeted at Undergraduate and Postgraduate students would like the same opportunity; and SHS students would like more face to face practice sessions, can something be done on these?

Response: The school is highly aware of the second point and the need for more face to face practical sessions; on the first issue, the scheme does prioritise disadvantaged UG students however there is a specific academic services contact in SHS that the student can contact – T. Copeland. Professor David Bolton will contact the head of academic services in SHS about this.

3) Minutes

Paper Reference: SMM-001

Minutes from last year **approved** by those present.

4) Confirmation of Items for Any Other Business

Request: For a motion on the condemnation of the cartoons of the Muslim Prophet to be submitted.

Response: This is on the agenda already as SM-010.

5) Items specially brought forward by the Chair

None

Items for Information

6) City Students' Union Preliminary Financial results 2019-20

Paper Reference: SSM-002

SR – Delivers report on the impact of Covid-19 on the financial position of the Union including sources of income and expenditure and changes from 2019/20 to 2020/21.

Question: When will things get normalised and back to normal with regards to teaching?

Response: The institution has to follow government guidance, but your course should be in contact about plans to you. No guarantee of face to face next term.

Question: on the breakdown of spending and changes to donated income; and the purpose of teams such as Representation & Democracy.

Response: Funding comes from a block grant from the institution. Representation and Democracy includes the SMM, and pays for full time staff, Programme Reps, Sabbatical Officers, lots of events and campaigns, council and Study Well. All of which can be found on the website.

Question: on the support available to student societies and how much more can be done to support societies.

Response: We are working to make support for societies more accessible, both in how they can access things. Suggests any questions on societies can also be directed to M. Riley at the SU.

Part Two

Items for Decision

7) List of Affiliations

Paper Reference: SM-003

List of Affiliations **approved** by 92% majority.

8) Culturally Competent Mental Health Services

Paper Reference: SM-004

SD Presents motion on a culturally competent mental health service. It is important City acts now. This motion will ensure the Union can lobby the University to develop it's service and make it more culturally competent.

Question: about an option for students to choose their counsellor including background from a list.

Response: This has been done at other Unions and will be kept in mind.

Question: about an option for students to choose their counsellor and that the service is trained to the same standard.

Response: That it may be a form to fill in to show preferences such as information about the counsellor, as students may need this to relate to them.

Question: How can the Union to help encourage City to get more counsellors?

Response: In the interest of time, could the student email SD directly.

Motion **approved** by 80% majority.

9) Tackling Climate Change Framework

Paper Reference: SM-005

SI presents motion on the tackling of climate change and a new framework, including the publishing of an action plan, working towards a 'climate proof curriculum' and future support for a GND from NUS.

Motion **approved** by 83% majority.

10)'Rejecting the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism'

Paper Reference: SM-006

Argument for: SHK presents the motion on rejecting the IHRA definition as presented in papers: That the definition allows for conflation of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, an impact on free criticism of the state of Israel and for the definition impacting academics and content allowed to be used on courses.

Argument against: Student presents an argument against the motion regarding the lack of an anti-Semitism policy in the Union or institution; the reading of the definition in the motion; the definition is to protect students and other people in this country from anti-Semitism.

Students at the meeting request the opportunity to ask questions about the motion before moving to a vote.

Question: About the IHRA definition and why it has been linked to Zionism.

Response from seconder: The issue is that at other Universities the definition has been used to shut down Israeli apartheid events, at other Universities academics have been disciplined for speaking against Israel.

Response from Argument against: Any calls for the definition to be misread to stop campaigns for Palestine is wrong and an incorrect use of the definition. Whilst this may have happened at other institutions; at City there is no policy on anti-Semitism, and the only policy on anti-Semitism is against adopting the IHRA definition.

Response from seconder: The student can speak to the SU to implement an anti-Semitism policy, but this shouldn't infringe on the rights of Palestinian students.

Question: Students raise that students that would like to join the meeting to vote on this motion are unable to access it as the meeting is locked.

Response: The meeting is locked since voting on motions began.

Students are asked if they cannot see the poll to raise this in the chat.

Question: Students also raise the concern that there is an issue with the voting poll and length of time given to debate meeting.

Response: Rules given at the beginning of the meeting state that there will be an argument for and against.

Meeting is temporarily opened.

Motion is **Not passed** by 45% to 35% Majority.

11) The need for more Students' Union Spaces on Campus– Timings of motions adjusted.

Paper Reference: SM-009

SR Presents the motion on more SU Spaces on campus; calling for the planning and repurposing of space from offices and meeting rooms to be converted into SU spaces and spaces for students. It will mandate the SU to continue establishing student facing spaces.

Motion is **Passed** by majority of 86%

12) No Detriment Policy – technical issue delay.

Paper Reference: SM-008

RJ presents the motion for reinstatement of a 'No Detriment' or 'Safety Net' policy; students were informed that this had previously put this in place in June 2020. This policy would be to lobby the University to establish a 'No Detriment' phase two policy to be applied to future assessments.

Question: On whether the policy will relate to students between masters and UG.

Response: This is a conversation to be had with the University to manage this difference.

Motion is **Passed** by majority of 90%.

13) Students Deserve Better For Their Money

Paper Reference: SM-007

RJ Speaks on motion that students quality of education has been impacted by Covid and deserve better for their money; many City Students that were impacted by staff strikes in 2019-20. the Union to Lobby the University to refund all tuition fees and to work to improve online teaching and to work on projects that improve the student experience.

Questions to be emailed directly to RJ due to time constraints.

Motion is **Passed** by majority of 95%.

14) Condemning the Islamophobic cartoons made of the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh)

Paper Reference: SM-010

SR presents the motion on Condemning the Islamophobic cartoons made of the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh); recognising the fine line between freedom of speech and hate speech. The motion calls for the Union to release a statement outlining its commitment to Muslim Students, work with the Muslim community and student societies and to run an annual Islamophobia awareness campaign.

Motion is **Passed** by majority of 76%.

Any Other Business

17) Any Other Business

Question: on Motion 1, and that councillors are trained are to be inclusive and respect people whilst they provide their service. A trained professional will look after everybody including their religions and beliefs.