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# **Union Council**

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| **Date:**  | 11.04.24 |
| **Time:** | 5.00pm |
| **Location:** | S3.01 and Online |

## **Minutes**

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| 1.0 | 1.1 | **Present:** Will Deeley, Natasha Neal, Brandon Tester, Sruthi Subhash, Jess Bradbury, Sarah Jackson, Mohammad Shafgaat, Sabjeet Singh, Sachin KumarPardeep Jain, Harry Tomlinson, Om Dhadwal, Ben Turnball, Rob Freeman, Desmond Hadi, Tricia Glassborrow, Wren Sell, Scout Boulting, Ellie Lynn, Lauren Milne, Erika Moore, Ana Timoteo, Daria Naumova, Abigail Birch, Peter Ashiagbor, Dee Whyte, Georgia Haynes, Bethany Jackson, Esther Stephenson, Vytautus Kravcenka, Amber Ogles, Evie Mehrtens , Lauren Feagan, Penny Connell, Grace Paisley, Marissa Leyden, Ellie Lee, Olivia Stocco, Camille De Fonseca Teixeira, Harry Copeland, Oladayo Bello, Joy Dellah- Gu, Jasmine |  |
|  | 1.2 | **In attendance:**  |  |
|  | 1.3 | **Apologies for Absence (Union Officers only):** Dhanya Mohan (International), Mohit Nayal (BAME), Liv Ross (Womens), Amy Pile |  |
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| 2.0 |  | **Opening and Key Dates** |  |
|  |  | * Holi: 15th April, Student Hub
* AU dinner: 17th April, Old Town Hall
* Festiball: 3rd – 5th May, The Venue
* Bournemouth Beach Clean: 8th May
* SU Student Staff Recruitment Day: 10th May
* Pride Celebration: 1st June
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| 3.0 |  | **Updates** |  |
|  |  | Sabbatical OfficersBTe:* Involved in interviewing for new SU Graphic Designer and Dean of Students
* Nick Braisby will be leaving his Vice-Chancellor role
* Went to Italy to support students on Tour
* Attended Student Experience Forum
* Interviewed for a new Trustee

JB: * Has been planning several collaborative projects with the university celebrating EDI
* Had Eid celebration on Tuesday, thanks to students who volunteered
* Next week we have a Holi event in The Atrium in collaboration with the Uni
* June 1st the SU is holding a pride event
* Varsity was a huge success; the result is currently pending awaiting a Volleyball re match next week
* It is award season and hence Jess is preparing her speeches for these events
* Ramblin Roots – a three-day Americana, folk and country music festival hosted by the Students’ Union – which Jess was working at
* Freshers’ helper training – has been working to see how we can improve training for our students next year to be more engaging
* Festiball will be happening at the start of May and students will need to collect a wristband beforehand to gain access and their Id cards on the night.

SKS:* Formalising PCM feedback to be more actionable for students. Sruthi is working
* Working on a Home Away from Home campaign – looking at students journeys at Bucks and helping them be a part of the BNU community.
* The SU has introduced suggest a meal so that students can suggest meals from home that we will serve in The Lounge to support students living away from home
* Sruthi is interested in students and staff engaging in a podcast
* Sruthi raised at the recent University Education Committee that Academic Integrity procedures being completed by the University where not happening quick enough and hence
* Attend southern union conference

AP:* Aylesbury focus – added ultimate cinema, books are going well with good feedback from students, and she is working on improving library facilities.
* She is working on an antibullying campaign called B.E.T.H and is looking for students to be part of filming
* Sunflower campaign: opportunities for local college students are being made to design the sunflowers across Uxbridge, High Wycombe, and Aylesbury
* She wrote a paper to Senate covering digital poverty and a lack of support of students
* She will be attending the National Union of Students National Conference next week with three student delegates
* Interprofessional learning – connecting health and social care. Amy is part of a working group to improve students learning.

Executive OfficersLR (Womens):* Womens Officer Update: Sanitary bag making on Friday 12th April and is continuing to spread awareness of reporting when it comes to students’ safety and promoting both University and Students’ Union support services that are available.

EL (LGBTQ+):* Continuing previous campaign ideas and working with the University regarding how to speak with trans students. Looking at creating a presentation to deliver to staff to improve student support.

**Elected Officers 2024/2025*** New officers were introduced.
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| 4.0 |  | **Guest Speaker/Discussion** |  |
|  |  | Steve Edge, Head of Sustainability at BNU* BNU sustainability commitment: 2030 net zero commitment. Will get there for the buildings but not the wider scope which is aimed for 2050. The University are committed to the United Nations goals. There is a nature positive pledge to make places greener and more biodiverse.
* Sustainability strategy was launched in April 2023. The University has changed its cleaning supplies to be more sustainable.
* Have relaunched the Sustainability Committee which includes the SU and green representation
* Signed up to be a Nature Positive University
* Over the past 2 years have introduced Sustainability Impact Assessments, green spaces for well-being, having no single use plastic in Beeches
* Need to know what sustainability topics matter to students and what BNU can do to support this.
* Attendees given opportunity to ask SE any questions.
* If we are reducing to zero, does that mean there is a reduction in printing and less physical library books? – Good question but no easy answer
* With the strategic plan there was a lot about environmental and social sustainability, but what about economic sustainability? Is there anything that the University is doing? - Being a real living wage employer and procurement of services that the University uses, trying to influence others to improve their sustainability.
* What are 5 things students can do? - Try not to buy lots of new things due the carbon it produces. Try and minimise the amount of meat and red meat consumption – a bit less helps or when you do try better sustainable options.
* How is waste managed within the university because I have noticed living in halls that all the bins are put into one by the council so is anything recycled? - On campus we use a company who do recycling. The council are responsibility for halls, and we have a lack of control over this. The University hopes this gets recycled elsewhere. The University will be exploring this with the council. BTe mentioned that he will lend his support.
* Is there any plans or actions regarding waste around campus as recycling and waste is mixed? - Two aspects, firstly strategy has definitions and goals and quantitative targets. Food waste bins are being introduced to Beeches and The Lounge to encourage recycling of food waste.
* All ideas sound great for high Wycombe but what about Uxbridge and Aylesbury? - Taps being looked at for Uxbridge and food waste bins may be later down the line depending on how waste is distributed.
* Is the university looking at changing the campus link to an electric bus? - Something the university will investigate as it comes at a cost
* Regarding the food bins for the SU, will they encourage flies? - hopefully they will be emptied quickly so they should not be too bad.
* Staff employed in the lounge aren’t cleaners; how will this be managed in The Lounge around health and safety policies for our SU staff? - A conversation has been had with the head of commercial services for the Uni to discuss a safe way of doing this
* Is there plans for the food waste to be transported / change from accommodation? - Another conversation to be had with the council. A mixture of money and time affects this
* What is the Uni doing to lobby the government to challenge them on sewage and damage to oceans? - As far as Steve is aware the University is not challenging this in any aspect.
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| 5.0 |  | **Question of the Month** |  |
|  |  | * What would you like to see prioritised by your current elected officers before they finish their term in office?
* Attendees were asked to submit their responses/questions via Menti
* Financial Aid for students who don’t have student finance: recommended to speak to the student’s union advice centre for financial advice
* Pushing activities and sport for fun sessions to continue into summer: we are pushing for this and working with the university to try and get space in the hall
* Student parking availability: Students should not be bringing their cars with them to university and some students are allowed on a case-by-case basis. Students need to speak to the local council. Desborough car park is the cheapest. If looking to park in and around High Wycombe
* Conversation has been had regarding students using the Eden car parking space for a discounted rate to support commuting students. Brandon Tester will be chasing this. Students can get a free out of hours car parking permit.
* Increased awareness for students not studying on campus, there are online training now and speak to the elected officers if you have a suggestion
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| 6.0 |  | **Sabb Hot Seat** |  |
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| 7.0 |  | **Any Other Business** |  |
|  |  | * SJ: If you are a distance learner or want to do something specific, we can source anything you want for your degree. We are recruiting for several different roles within the student staff teams. You can sign up for the recruitment day on the 10th May to find out more about the different roles and potentially get a job.
* Union Council will be taking place over summer
* Thrive Collective Showcase: Dance show put on by students, come and support them. You can get free tickets on the What’s On page on the SU website
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| 8.0 |  | **Date and time of subsequent meetings:** 9th May 2024 at 5.00pm, Room S3.01 and Online |  |