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# **Union Council**

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| **Date:**  | 12.12.23 |
| **Time:** | 5.00pm |
| **Location:** | S3.01 and Online |

## **Minutes**

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| 1.0 | 1.1 | **Present:** Brandon Tester, Jess Bradbury, Sruthi Subhash, Lucy Ryan, Amy Pile, Peter Ashiagbor, Rafael Pantaleon, Samantha Bwire, Marissa Layden, Tricia Glassborow, Ellie-J Lynn, Ethan Hutcheson, Matthew Garrett, Gareth Teggin, Jamie Hobbs, Anish Khuttan, Om Dhadwal, Jack Spencer, Grace Paisley, Dee Whyte, Lauren Feagan, Abi Hix, Amber Ogles, Ana Timoteo, Eva Dzyubenko, Evie Mehrtens, Oliwia Milkiewicz, Nickola Milkiewicz, Beth Leale, Bethany Jackson, Jacob Hosanee, Wren Sell, Patrick Fillingham, Samuel Shepherd, Vytautas Kravcenka, Rishabh Jindal, Rayan Hamour. Darnel Baker, Harry Copeland, Emily Crawshaw |  |
|  | 1.2 | **In attendance:** Sarah Nawaz |  |
|  | 1.3 | **Apologies for Absence (Union Officers Only):**  |  |
|  | 1.4 | **Absent without apologies:** |  |
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| 2.0 |  | **Opening and Key Dates** |  |
|  |  | * Welcome and introduction to meeting,
* Introduction to new structure of meetings
* Run through of key dates, available on what’s on page
* Union Council Chair: to be elected, explanation of role and expectations given, students encouraged to apply, nominations close on 13th at 12pm.
 | **LR** |
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| 3.0 |  | **Updates** |  |
|  | 3.1 | Sabbatical Officers BTe:* First trustee board of year meeting took place, audit of accounts and the yearly budget were signed off.
* A selection committee has been set up to appoint new lay trustees for the board
* Submitted papers to the University council- key points were raised around University customer service and accommodation.

J.B:* Working on an EDI calendar that is more detailed and allows as many students as possible to feel celebrated
* Working with societies and clubs on their fundraising takeovers and how to plan events
* Working with Kelly Willes to plan RAG events and start preparation for green impact accreditation,
* Feedback system has been set up. Is for everything to do with SU: how it’s run, activities offered etc. Link has been sent out and please fill out.

SKS:* Attended the first senate, education committee and trustee meetings
* Currently working on management fest
* Working on a campaign that is focussed on mental health and wellbeing, goal to have a safe space for students to come together and talk about any issues.

AP:* SU area will be set up in Aylesbury on the ground floor. Will be based there on Monday and Tuesday, so any issues please come and see me
* Help yourself bookshelf – students have donated lots of books so a help yourself shelf has been established. It will be students’ responsibility to ensure books are returned
* Help yourself shelf to be established at Aylesbury as well.
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|  | 3.2 | Trustees * Explanation of trustee and student trustee roles given
* The 4 student trustees were introduced
* An update from Strategy and Planning meeting: working group formed to look at the executive officer structure, there will be a January staff day, 3 student led campaigns were confirmed.
 | **LR****BTe** |
|  | 3.3 | Executive Officers * Officers were introduced.
* Currently have vacant posts for: LGBTQ+ and Postgraduate
* Nominations close tomorrow (13th)
* Plan is to have an executive officers update in meetings
 | **LR****BTe** |
|  | 3.4 | AU and Societies Council Chairs* No updates
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| 4.0 |  | **Guest Speaker** |  |
|  |  | Kevin Campbell-Karn: Talk on AI* Chatgpt has bought AI to forefront
* What’s is about, the impact on education, how it can be used.
* With Nicola Shepherd, worked over summer on guide on how it can be used appropriately and ethically,
* Guide is available on University website
* There is an opportunity module on Exploring AI
* If anyone has any ideas for its use, let them know - currently have created videos on how to use, and are training staff on the issue.
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| 4.0 |  | **Question of the Month** |  |
|  |  | * What do you want to see from the SU departments this year? E.g., sports, societies, representation, volunteering etc
* Link for answers on website
* All answers are anonymous, and students are asked to be honest
* Sabbs will respond to answers on the website and will feedback to the relevant departments.
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| 6.0 |  | **Sabb Hot Seat** |  |
|  |  | * Chance to ask Sabbs any questions
* Will be happen every meeting.

Whats next for Saabs?: JB: Working on black history month, University sustainability meeting coming up: will be the first time presenting what SU up to, has tap audition this eveningSKS: Working on a wellbeing campaign - how to execute. Also looking at the learning resources available for each course.BTe: continuing to advocate the student voice with the University, looking into University customer service and also highlighting student accommodation issues.AP: Working on placement travel survey – looking at the cost, impact etc. Has found someone to paint sunflowers for areas as part of the Sunflower Campaign. Also working on a placement booklet.What are you looking forward to most this year?AP: Hoping to have provided an intervention that will still be in place in the future, a legacyBT: Ensuring the union is in a good place before end of their Sabb roles, making students happySKS: Any opportunities to make students happy while at UniversityJB: End of year award ceremonies and opportunities to celebrate studentsHow do you plan on getting more students involved and how do you plan to support those students?BT: By speaking to students and being available for them, ensure students’ individual needs are catered for not just by Sabbs but the whole Student Union team.AP: to be more available at Aylesbury and generally supporting student more.JB: By using student feedback from surveys and ensuring that the feedback reaches the relevant department.Thoughts regarding homeless people living outside University?JB: The Bar and Ents team have been working with Thames Valley Police. Legally they cannot be moved and the area they are on is not University property. If anyone feels threatened, they are encouraged to phone the police.BTe: Please me mindful of the situation those people might be in.Anything the SU can do about lectures not being timetabled to 6pm, cannot participate in societies etc. Also, they are being timetabled for 6 hours straight: can’t eat or concentrate?Will be looked intoWhy were timetables were coming out late?BTe: System requires manual input by staff which lead to delays, plans are for the system to be updated in 2 years’ time. Sabbs have been pushing to ensure the timetable is done on time.Can Brandon please email LGBTQ+ his talent for tomorrows drag for RAG?BTe: Will do it straight awayWill there be a Soak the Sabbs this year?Yes, speak to Kelly Willes to organise.Regarding new catering service, would be possible for Beats to have more choices?JB: SU no longer look after Beats, now run by Gather and Gather. Please use the Lounge. BTe: Looking at doing grab and go sandwiches in the Lounge.Any chance of wider selection of no alcohol/low alcohol drinks?JB: There are more options and deals available for non-alcoholic drinks. No or Low alcohol drinks are more expensive so there needs to be the demand for them in order for costs to be covered. Will speak to Bar and Ents staff.SU kitchen closes at 4pm, doesn’t make sense as lectures finish at 4.30/5.00?BTe: The time has been extended from 3pm from last year and longer hours depends on staffing costs and availability. Will speak to catering staffWhat’s best way for committee members to contact you? BTe: Come into office, email, social media. JB: Committee members should be in the AU and Societies group chatsDoes Brandon want music for drag 4 RAG?BTe: Padam Padam by Kylie MinogueIs there was for sports for fun ambassadors to be involved with sport4rag events plan?JB: Yes, speak to her or Dan Lawrence.Any chance of being able to pay cash at campus cafes?JB: There is a big cost to have cash, will ask.BTe: Attendees today will be put into a draw to win supermarket voucher £20. It is available for 3 students, email to be sent tomorrow and any winners will have 24 hours to claim. |  |
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| 7.0 |  | **Any Other Business** |  |
|  |  | * BTe: Are you registered to vote? There is potentially a general election next year and students are encouraged to vote
* JB: JB and BTe can’t run for Sabb officer again. If any is interested, they should start considering it. Please come speak to them or the other Sabbs about the role.
* Any there any more fresher shifts available? Yes, please email Katie Smith
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| 8.0 |  | **Key Dates for your Diary** |  |
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| 10.0 |  | **Date and time of subsequent meetings:** 2nd November 2023 at 5.00pm, Room S3.01 and Online |  |