



**Graduate Students' Association Council Meeting Minutes - Wednesday 25th January 2021**

**Date:** Tuesday 25th January 2022

**Time:** 5:30pm

**Location:** Zoom

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Attendance</u>					
		15.1 2.20 21	25.01 .2022	15.0 3.20 22	17.0 5.20 22	17.0 7.20 22	23.08 .2022
<b>Sabbatical Officers</b>							
President	Viviane Yuxin Cao						
VP Wellbeing and Community	JiaYing Tan						
VP Academic	Ekansh Kapoor						
<b>Part-Time Officers</b>							
Chair of Council	Aaryan Singh Bisht						
International Students' Officer	Ashish Garg						
Participation Officer	Ksenia Horoshenkova						
Sports Officer	Rachita IJ						
Volunteering Officer	Alonge Ifeoluwa Ololade						

Colleges Officer	Rohan Toke	Green					
PGT Students' Officer	Trisha Singh	Green	Orange				
MRes Students' Officer	Vacant						
PhD Students' Officer	Rajat Sharma		Orange				
BAME Students' Officer	Antariksh Kudal	Green					
LGBTQ+ Students' Officer	Evelyn Oldham	Green	Green				
Disabled Students' Officer	Man Li	Green					
Women's and Non-Binary Students' Officer	Naschla Aburman	Green	Green				
Student Parents Guardians and Careers' Officer	Alexandra Hold		Orange				
Distance Learning Students' Officer	Roheel Mahmood	Green	Green				
Working Class Officer	Debayan Dey	Green					
Religions/Faith Officer	Ike David Chimdindu	Green					
Sustainability Officer	Widya Hapsari	Green					
Online Learning Students' Officer	Barry McGuire	Green	Green				
Part - Time Students' Officer	Rany Bargouthi	Green					
GTA Officer	Vacant						

Faculty Representatives							
Arts and Humanities	Daniel Lock						
Sciences	Rachitha IJ						
Social Sciences	Chenyang Song						

## Agenda

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

In the absence of the Council Chair, the Clerk asked whether there are any volunteers to be the temporary Chair. LGBTQ+ Students' Officer nominated themselves and it was seconded by other members. Evelyn Oldham took over the chairing responsibilities for the meeting and welcomed members of the group. Apologies were received from Aaryan Singh Bisht, Ashish Garg and Trisha Singh and the agenda was adopted.

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting- 15th December 2021**

The following amendments were made to the minutes by Women, Trans and Non-Binary Students' Officer and with these amendments, the council minutes were approved.

- The reason for the principal officers to take a neutral stance.
- The decision made that there should not be any immediate decision taken on the industrial action before council members gather enough information about strikes.
- That the discussion about the strikes are cut short.
- That the council members would be provided a session on the procedures of a council meeting.

### **3. Matters Arising**

No matters arising noted

### **4. Sabbatical Officer Scrutiny & Support**

#### a. [Presidents Report](#)

The president provides a brief account of what they have done over the last two weeks.

Barry noted that as a result of the motions in the previous meeting, the President's report needs to include a session on Policy and Governance.

No questions noted for the President

b. [VP Academic Report](#)

The VP Academic provides a brief account of what they have done over the last two weeks.

No questions and comments noted

c. [VP Wellbeing & Community Report](#)

The VP Wellbeing and Community provides a brief account of what they have done over the last two weeks.

No comments or questions noted

**5. New General Business**

6. Industrial Action- VERBAL

The VP Academic provides a short update about the UCU's current considerations about the strike action and that the UCU will be announcing the dates that they are going to strike and/or action short of strike. He also notes that the GSA will be receiving its stance following the forthcoming announcement from the UCU.

The chair opened the floor for questions and comments.

Online Students' Officer comments that the GSA should be in favour of the strike action and potentially announce their decision after the announcement from UCU and added that the first point actually is to decide whether the council change their stance.

VP Academic recommends the council members to consider and monitor how the university is responding to the demands and expectations of striking members.

Women, Trans and Non-Binary Students' Officer requests that this time the decision should be made collectively by council members and whatever is the decision, the GSA needs to communicate it well to its membership as the reasons for the previous stance was not very clear for students.

Part-Time Students' Officer asks about the impact of any decision GSA can make on the strike action and notes that the council is not very informed about what Strikes are for and how it impacts both parties and students.

Online Students' Officer clarified that the GSA's stance in this is of a symbolic nature.

Part-Time Students' Officer that any decision should include pros and cons for the GSA membership.

Women, Trans and Non-Binary Students' Officer questions the possibility of inviting a UCU member to one of the council meetings to get informed.

In response to this, the Chair welcomes the opportunity but notes that in that case, it is also important to provide the university a chance to pitch their position and its reasoning as well.

The council members outlined their perspectives on the matter and it is asked whether there should be a ballot on the matter.

The Chair explained to council members that for council to vote on a decision like this, it needs to be proposed as a motion and invites members to submit a motion.

Online Students' Officer asks the possibility of doing a ballot over email if further information comes to light before the meeting and the Clerk responds with a yes, and it requires two thirds of the council members to respond.

## **7. Any Other Business (AOB)**

### a. Council Meeting Schedule 2021/22

There is not any other AOB raised and the chair thanks the group and ends the meeting. The next meeting will take place on 15 March and the paper deadline will be 9 March 2022.