



Graduate Students' Association Council Meeting Minutes - Monday 15th December 2021

Date: Monday 16th August 2021

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Google meet

Position	Name	Attendance					
		15/1 2/21	30/ 11/ 20	01/ 02/ 21	01/ 03/ 21	05/07 /21	16/0 8/21
Sabbatical Officers							
President	Viviane Cao						
VP Wellbeing and Community	Jiaying Tan						
VP Academic	EKansh Kapoor						
Part-Time Officers							
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						

PGT Students' Officer	Trisha Singh							
MRes Students' Officer	Vacant							
PhD Students' Officer	Rajat Sharma							
BAME Students' Officer	Antariksh Kudal							
LGBTQ+ Students' Officer	Evelyn Oldham							
Disabled Students' Officer	Man Li							
Women's and Non-Binary Students' Officer	Naschla Aburman							
Student Parents Guardians and Careers' Officer	Alexandra Hold							
Distance Learning Students' Officer	Roheel Mahmood							
Working Class Officer	Vacant							
Religions/Faith Officer	IKE DAVID CHIMDINDU							
Sustainability Officer	Widya Hapsari							
Online Learning Students' Officer	Barry McGuire.							
Part - Time Students' Officer	Rany Bargouthi							
GTA Officer	vacant							
Faculty Representatives								

Arts and Humanities	Alex Hudson	vaca nt					
Sciences		vaca nt					
Social Sciences	Vacant	vaca nt					

In attendance:

Darryl Butcher, CEO

Dr Purnur Altay Interim Representation and Democracy Coordinator

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the council members for their first meeting and after a brief account of introductions.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted by the council members.

3. Co-opting of new Part-Time Officers (if applicable)

4. [Minutes from the Previous Meeting 16 August 2021](#)

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

6. Sabbatical Officer Scrutiny & Support

[Presidents' Report](#)

[VP Academic Report](#)

[VP Wellbeing Report](#)

Purnur reported activity over the previous period, including the GSA office space and social campaign; a different approach has been taken, due to the master plan of the University being developed. The language bursary campaign has now ended, this is due to the University announcing no budget for the bursary long-term. Purnur provided an account of the meetings she attended and highlights of her time in the office.

Jane reported that she has been writing her handover document, working on the articles with members of the Trustee Board, and listed meetings attended over the latest period.

Clara reported that she has also been writing her handover document for her successor, focussing on developing the GSA mental health strategy, financial campaign and decolonisation plan.

7. New General Business

a. [Articles of Association Updates](#)

Jane reports there have been amendments to the Articles of Association to resolve discrepancies with By-Laws. Jane highlighted the proposal to:

- Removed gendered language, encouraging gender neutral language.
- Removed some of section 13 on Association Council to only refer to the by-law.
- Amended section 28 on the creation of the by-laws.
- Amended section 15 on student trustee elections to make them twice a year.

Barry raises that 28.4 should remove rules from the Articles and the measure on disqualification and removal of Trustees if they have mental health problems; Jane responds that there must be a policy for fitness to practice as a Trustee, and she would explore language that was non-discriminatory, as this is core to the GSA.

The amendments to the Articles of Association passed unanimously.

b. [Sustainability Motion](#)

Harriet outlines that the document includes measures to improve the sustainability of the University, such as waste, travel, investment and teaching. Harriet also mentions the GSA specific document will go through the Board of Trustees, upon creation.

Jessie asks what the vote will require the University to do. Harriet responds that the Council vote will allow her to present the document to the University as recommendations from the Council to hopefully be implemented in the future. Danny highlighted that the plastic straw policy should not impact accessibility for disabled people, Harriet responds that the policy is only when the plastic is not required for accessibility purposes, and not a complete ban.

The motion clearly passes.

c. [Volunteering Motion](#)

Danny explains that the motion is about clarifying the GSA's position on volunteering expenses and for the sabbatical officers to lobby the Trustees to make a fund available. The motive behind the motion is that expenses have been identified as a barrier to engagement with volunteering, such as the heritage sector for work experience. The postgraduate community fund does not cover this as it is viewed as a personal expense. The money would cover topics such as travel expenses.

The motion clearly passes.

8. Any other business (AOB)

The GSA BBQ will be held on the 20th of August to celebrate the volunteers, you can book a space via this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gsa-summer-barbecue-tickets-163975909359>

Jane and David say thank you to everyone for their work as this is the last Council meeting.

Harriet asks about creating handover notes in September and Sherry says that is fine as long as it is produced by the 10th of October and to send them to the representation email address.

Danny asks when they will lose access to their GSA accounts, Sherry says she will find out and create an exit pack for PTOs.

AP: SI to speak with TC&DB re: Access to the PTO Gmail accounts.

