

## Union Council Minutes of Meeting

**Date** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 16:00-17:00  
**Location** Online via Microsoft Teams  
**Chair** Vishwajit Bhoir

### Voting Members Present

Presidents Oladimeji Adepoju, Prince Ikechi, Oludolapo Dada, Oluwatosin Solarin  
Part-Time Officers None  
Voting Members Ben Rayne, Emmanuel Abiodun, Frederick Ugwumandu, Ifeanyi Okwor, Tosin Ogunrinu

### In Attendance

Student Voice Declan Merrington  
Coordinator  
(Democracy)  
Student Voice Hélder Costa  
Manager

## Minute Log

- 1. Welcome From the Chair**  
The Chair welcomed the meeting.
- 2. Ordinary Items**  
VB moved on to the ordinary items of the meeting.
  - 2.1. *Apologies***  
Apologies were received from Oyin Arogundade and Monica Tawrados.
  - 2.2. *Declarations of Interest***  
There were no declarations of interest.
  - 2.3. *Quorate***  
The meeting was quorate.
  - 2.4. *Approval of Minutes***  
The minutes of meeting previous were approved by circulation prior to the meeting.
- 3. Extra-Ordinary Items**  
VB stated that there was only one extra-ordinary item.
  - 3.1. *NUS National Conference Delegate Election***

DM stated that the results of the election would be posted on the SU website on Friday, and thanked students for nominating themselves and voting in electing their representatives at NUS National Conference.

**4. Recurring Item: President Spotlight**

VB handed over for the regular Presidential update.

**4.1. *President: London***

OS gave an update on work being done at London Campus surrounding events for International Men's Day, Depression and Mental Health Awareness Month, a Mini Cultural Festival and a "Paint Your Worries Away" event, all in an effort to spotlight mental health wellbeing and management, particularly amongst men.

**4.1.1.** There were no questions for clarity.

**4.2. *President: Education***

OD updated the meeting on the ongoing campaign to reform the University's 'Fit to Sit' policy, stating that a survey was going out in order to gather data to present to the University, encouraging students to fill it out. OD then continued the update by discussing ongoing work to stop essay mill accounts on social media, as well as liaising with the library on better spotlighting their study skills programmes.

**4.2.1.** FU stated that OD's efforts were commendable and wished the Fit to Sit campaign luck.

**4.3. *President: Activities***

PI gave an update beginning with meeting Ben Dale from the University as a key contact, as well as successfully garnering signatures on the petition for a more flexible payment plan via the Change It! tool. The update then focussed on the formation of a North East Coalition of sabbatical officers across different student unions in the north east, before concluded on meeting with the CFO of the University.

**4.3.1.** FU enquired as to whether staff were in support of the petition. PI stated that SU staff had supported him in his creation of the petition and have formed a campaign group to further the aim.

**4.4. *President: Wellbeing***

OA gave an update, stating that other SU staff had participated in, and raised money for, Movember during this month. The update then concluded with spotlighting that the Go North East strike was still ongoing.

**4.4.1.** BR asked how PO was working with the University to help students with the Cost-of-Living Crisis. PO stated that talks would occur and that there would be an update at the next Union Council

FU thanked the Presidents for their work in campaigning and the visibility on campus through Change It! and various surveys.

**5. Recurring Items: Part-Time Officer Spotlight**

There were no Part-Time Officers present for this item.

**6. Any Other Business**

PO gave an update focussed on ongoing meetings with Elor focussed on catering and pricing during the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

FU stated that it was important that the Elected Officers were to spotlight the ongoing Go North East strike, as this had affected many students and discussions between the workers and Go North East appear to be standstill.

EA asked for clarity on whether student bus passes were being accepted on the Metro between St Peter's campus and City campus, as they have heard of students being fined for not having a ticket. PI stated that they must use the Compass app to show their travel pass, and asked EA to tell students who have been fined to get in touch with the SU Advice service.

DM thanked VB for their chairing, and wished them the best in his graduation, before stating that a interim-chair would assume for the next meeting of Union Council.

<b>Action Log</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
(October 2023) To act on all policies that have been approved.	Specified in paper.	Ongoing.
To update Union Council on how work is being done with the University to help students in the Cost-of-Living Crisis.	Oladimeji Adepoju.	To be updated at next meeting.