

## AGENDA 09 APRIL 2025

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- 1.
2. Introduction and welcome from Chair (**Quinn Walker**) and approval of minutes
  1. Actions from previous meeting
  2. Approval of minutes from last meeting
3. President Reports;
  1. Canterbury - Verbal, not submitted
  2. Farnham - Verbal, not submitted
4. Campus Officer Reports
  1. Canterbury - Verbal, not submitted
  2. Epsom – Verbal, not submitted
  3. Farnham – Verbal, not submitted
5. Motions and Ideas
6. Budget
  1. Proposals - none submitted
  2. Tracking - none submitted
6. AOB
  1. Election stats and results from Deputy Returning Officer

### 1.1 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Implementing AI motion (research, online, Trustees for awareness)

### 1.2 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

**In attendance:** *Charlie Skinner, Quinn Walker, Runchen Li, Shayaike Hassan, Alex Kosierkiewicz\*, Cassie De St Croix, Josh Singh-Hill*

*Apologies sent: Ethan Weir, Maddy Truin*

#### 1. Minute From Last Meeting

- Unanimously Approved

#### 2. President Report

##### 2.1. Cassie's Report (Verbal)

- ACE Appeal Panel
  - After students have been withdrawn they can appeal one more time, Cassie is a member.

- It's a good opportunity, but the University often doesn't know their own processes so this can be problematic.
  - Asked for all Council members to encourage students to talk to the Union if they are in this situation
- MYU fairs
  - Canterbury was quiet, but the University enjoyed it
- 360 Review
- Trustee Meeting
- Town Hall meeting with University and Staff
  - Large scale cuts are impending- this is happening across the sector, there will be job losses
  - These happen monthly so there will be an update by next UC
- £2000 available to improve the Lounge in Canterbury, for aesthetic renovations.
- Met with timetabling- things are improving
- EDI committee
- Lots of meetings have been cancelled across the University.
- Opportunities for feedback from the Union are being reduced
  - The University claim this is just a period of change and things will get better
- Sarah Clark PVC Students is on sick leave, she was a big ally for the Union.
- Additional Work:
  - Accessibility
  - Programme Committees
  - AI Committee
  - Report and Support

### 3.2. Charlie's Report

- Blue Monday: Gave out sweets and staff to create a positive atmosphere, staff appreciated it lots.
- Introductory meeting with PVC Education, spoke about the focuses of SU and the University
- MYU Events went well
- 360 Review went well
- 5 Applicant days
- Met with Timetabling
- Met with Events team before Graeme left
- Creative education committee
- It's an interesting time at the University, other institutes are seeing strikes, there could be something happening here in the future maybe

One abstention from Shayaike, as he did not clarify his stance when asked by Chair.

## 3. Campus Officer Reports

### 3.1. Farnham

#### 3.1.1. Alex

- Not much to report on due to physical health conditions.
- Cassie reassured that if support is needed, Presidents and Execs can offer it

### 3.2. Canterbury

#### 3.2.1. Quinn

- January intake are settling in well
- Society applications and engagement and membership has increased
- Lots of events
- Talking to students about representing their own interests
- Elections are exciting students!
- Course boards aren't working, sign ups aren't communicated well to staff, extra training is not attended well
- People are still not receiving what's on emails
  - Cassie: communication is a constant problem mentioned for the Union, questioning how we could better communicate with people.
  - Quinn: Ensuring messaging goes through tutors, especially course rep notifications
  - Shayaike: Students want Course Rep updates and meeting announcements via Email, not teams channels
- Pushback for a Society used AI in a poster, there is a motion drafted regarding this that will be proposed soon.
- MYU
- SUNT is going well
- Seeing lots of new clubs and societies pop up. There has been conversations between Socs and Hannah Helbert (Union Bar and Events Manager). It's nice to see the lounge being busier.
- Cassie attended fine art course board- Course reps found this incredibly useful and were thankful

#### 3.2.2. Josh

- NSS Pizza Party was interesting- how was this afforded? People were taking food home with them. Did not feel like a good use of money.
  - Cassie asked if the pizza was only given to those that fed back- it was available to all there regardless. An incentive **not** a bribe.
- Canteen is in decline due to staff issues
  - Also a barrier for some courses to get food due to operating hours
- Course Rep meeting for Architecture- chasing up tutors for feedback and reports

### 3.3. Epsom

#### 3.3.1. Runchen

- Timetabling is an issue for Epsom students
  - Study weeks are removed / interrupted
- Students want Course directors to contact them about forums so they do not miss them.
- WeChat groups- making things more accessible for international students

- CSSA is partnering with other Universities and may be interesting in starting one with UCA, like ABACUS last year

### 3.3.2. Shayaike

- Lots of things going on at Epsom, lots of focus on Business students.
- Business students are really busy currently, he is apologetic for lack of communication.
- University is putting meetings and Course rep meetings on when students are in lectures and cannot attend
- UCA are not helping students find placements- but they need placements to pass their course
  - Multiple students have approached the Union about this
  - Same in Canterbury- anxiety is high in second years. Students shouldn't be unable to fulfill course requirements due to not being able to get a placement.
  - Charlie is open to talking Epsom CO's in person, Cassie can join virtually
- Courses are changing and UCA is not giving students support or knowledge
- MYU event was nice, campus is getting a breath of life

### 3.4. Motions and Ideas

- Quinn: Motion proposed: Policy regarding Generative AI Environmental society used AI generated images which had lots of backlash.
  - Students thought it was problematic
  - Union contacted about having an AI policy
  - No policy in place that stopped Environmental Soc using AI, therefore no rules were broken. Generative AI (Such as MidJourney and ChatGPT) and traditional AI (Alexa, Siri, Google) are not the same.

Concerns: Environmental impact, ethical concerns, stealing art from artists, unknown the limitations of AI. AI should not be used at an arts university. SU represents student needs and should lead on it. Arts are already defunded enough, AI is stealing a job. Further research is needed, but if students are uncomfortable and there is a distrust, the Union should create policy.

UCASU: AI content should be labelled as such.

UCA: We need to send a message. UCA is pro-AI in the curriculum. University is writing their own AI policy right now.

Outcome:      Yes- 6  
                      No-  
                      Abstain-1

### 3.5. Budget

- No tracking
- No submissions

### 3.6. AOB

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## 6. AOB

### ELECTION STATS AND RESULT

The UCASU Elections 2025 were held to fill a total of ten elected positions. The candidate statistics below do not include RON (Re-Open Nominations):

#### Candidate Overview

- President Canterbury
  - 3 candidates stood, 1 withdrew
  - 1 position available — *filled*
- President Epsom
  - 3 candidates stood, 1 withdrew
  - 1 position available — *filled*
- President Farnham
  - 8 candidates stood, 2 withdrew
  - 1 position available — *filled*
- Campus Officer Canterbury
  - 4 candidates stood
  - 3 positions available — *all filled*
- Campus Officer Epsom
  - 3 candidates stood, 1 withdrew
  - 3 positions available — *2 filled, 1 unfilled*
- Campus Officer Farnham
  - 4 candidates stood, 2 withdrew
  - 3 positions available — *2 filled, 1 unfilled*
- Campus Officer Maidstone
  - 1 candidate stood, 1 withdrew

- 1 position available — *unfilled*

## Complaints

Two formal complaints were received during the election process:

- One was submitted after the official complaints deadline and was therefore not considered.
- The other raised concerns but found no breaches of the Union Campaigning Rules.
- Total complaints upheld: 0

## Recommendations for Future Elections

- Ensure candidates stand for only one position - this will be included within updated By-Laws presented to BoT.
- An internal procedural improvement which is not deemed appropriate for Union Council

## Voter Turnout

- Individual voters: 624 (approximately 13% of the student body)
- Total votes cast: 1,881

## Votes per Position:

- President Canterbury: 453 votes, 167 abstentions
- President Epsom: 446 votes, 199 abstentions
- President Farnham: 530 votes, 51 abstentions

## Election Results

- President Canterbury: Joshua Singh-Hill
- President Epsom: Shayaike Hassan
- President Farnham: Phoebe Daniels
- Campus Officer Canterbury: Quinn Walker, Ben Pardon, Marten Darkin

- Campus Officer Epsom: Gian Gnaegi, Samikshya Pandey
- Campus Officer Farnham: Jenny Nguyen, Ritika Dubal