

MINUTES:

Union Council Meeting – 11/10/2023

Attendees

Cassie de St. Croix (Chair)
Rajon Voumick
Hetvi Desai
Ioana Miron
Kongphat Phaiboonnukulkij
Maddy Truin
Bhumi Thakor

Apologies not received

Atikur Rahman
Alfiya Vahora
Yinka Ikubuwaje

In attendance

Kara Nutley
Andy Morwood

AM introduced himself as the Union's new Change Director and part of the Turnaround Board.

CdSC welcomed everyone and confirmed quoracy.

1. Approval of Minutes from last meeting (13th September)

CdSC asked members to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

Members voted on whether to approve, not approve or abstain from approving the previous minutes:

Approve - 6

Not approve - 0

Abstain - 0

13th September minutes approved.

2. Actions from previous meeting

Action	Status	Responsible?
Publish the minutes as read, but unapproved.	Pending	KN
Implement Canterbury CO co-opt applications before next meeting.	Done	KN

Email Atikur and Alfiya offering them a deadline to continue as Epsom Campus Officers or step down. No reply = removal from Union Council.	Done	CdSC
Make addition of Epsom and Farnham CO in the co-opt application as expressions of interest.	Done	KN
Send out dates/months for key events.	Done	KN
Speak to Surrey Police contact and say that UCASU are happy to spread the safety messaging but limiting the promotion of the police.	Done	KN
Consider how Rochester Societies money could be spent.	Pending	ALL
Circulate a breakdown of which societies the money came from.	Done	KN
Consider what representation we should have and how we can bring communities together. Look at researching other SU's.	Pending	ALL
Send out Officer Induction presentation to all	Done	KN
Contact Mark Ellul about the guarantor scheme	Done	KN

Pending Actions:

- **Publish the minutes as read, but unapproved**
 - To be done by the next meeting.
 - ***ACTION: KN to publish final two sets of minutes from 2022/23 on UCASU website.***
- **Consider how Rochester Societies money could be spent.**
 - CdSC asked if any students had transferred to another campus.
 - MT suggested distributing money to other societies that are the same to.
 - CdSC proposed distributing money to relevant societies on other campuses i.e. Rochester Film > Film in Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham. Anything leftover to go to Club & Society participation fund.
 - **Approve - 6, Not approve - 0, Abstain - 6.**
 - **Distribution of Rochester society money approved**

- ***ACTION: KN to arrange distribution of funds.***
- **Consider what representation we should have and how we can bring communities together.**
 - MT raised CdSC's point from last time about campus officers representing their respective community. CdSC elaborated on this point and highlighted the increased workload this may entail. HD echoed the good idea but that it might be difficult to get students to go to the right person.
 - CdSC asked if we could have a joint email account for officers. KN said yes, but we should take this conversation away to discuss with staff, ideally before elections so we can come up with a structure that potentially includes liberation officers.
 - RV asked about paying part-time officers. AM raised the 1994 Education Act that states if you pay an elected officer that counts towards their two years in office. Being voluntary means they can continue to be an officer for 2+ years.

3. Sabbatical Officer Reports

Report by: Rajon Voumick, SU President

Committees attended since last Union Council meeting:

- Cost of Living Project-28 Sep 23.

Update on projects since last Union Council meeting:

- English Language Club Proposal: I've developed a proposal for an English Language Club for non-native speakers. With valuable input from our ACEO, the proposal is now finalised.
- Canteen Survey Campaign: We've also completed the campaign plan for the upcoming canteen survey. The survey link is prepared and ready for launch.(Possible Start Date:23/10/23)

Annual leave taken since last Union Council meeting:

0 days

Members voted on RV Sabb Report from 11th October 2023

Approved: 5

Not approve: 0

Abstain: 0

RV 11/10/23 Sabb Report approved

Report by: Cassie de St. Croix, SU President

Committees attended since last Union Council meeting:

Cost of Living Committee
Canterbury Campus Operational Group

Update on projects since last Union Council meeting:

Not many updates on projects this month as I've been focussing on delivering Freshers' and working on the strategic direction of the Union.

Annual leave taken since last Union Council meeting: 0

Members voted on CdSC Sabb Report from 11th October 2023

Approved: 5

Not approve: 0

Abstain: 0

CdSC 11/10/23 Sabb Report approved

4. Campus Officers

CdSC gave a verbal update on Alfiya and Atikur who have failed to engage with their roles as Epsom Campus Officers. CdSC sent an email to them asking if they'd still like to be part of Union Council and gave a deadline to respond. Neither replied so both Alfiya and Atikur are removed from office.

- ***ACTION: KN to remove Alfiya and Atikur from any Union Council comms or wording, both internal and external.***
- ***ACTION: KN to implement an Epsom Campus Officer co-opt for two officers before next meeting.***

CdSC presented applications for Canterbury Campus Officer (2) and asked for members to vote.

Applicant A - received 1 vote

Applicant B - received 5 votes (co-opted)

- ***ACTION: KN to inform Applicant B that they have been co-opted and invite to next Union Council meeting.***

KN explained the Epsom and Farnham campus officer co-opt, this was an expression of interest for post Christmas when a number of CO's leave UCA.

- ***ACTION: KN to email Farnham and Epsom applicants to thank them for their submissions and that they will be considered after Christmas.***

5. Policy Reviews

5.1 - Transgender and Non-Binary Student Policy

CdSC advised these needs a re-write, the wording is outdated. MT agreed with this statement and spoke about the need to condense the policy, HD agreed with both CdSC and MT and CdSC suggested one change should be around respecting pronouns.

- ***ACTION: KN and CdSC to review with Union Development Manager and bring back to Union Council.***

5.2 - Sustainability Policy

Recommendation that UC have more time to discuss.

- ***ACTION: ALL to read and come back with edits.***
- ***ACTION: KN to carry over to next meeting.***

6. Update on UCU's Industrial Action and UCASU stance

CdSC explained UCASU's stance in support of UCU's Industrial Action and invited UC to discuss before turning over to a vote.

Members to vote if they are in favour of UCASU supporting UCU's Industrial Action.

Approve - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 0

UCASU to support UCU Industrial Action

7. Any other business

KN explained when Agenda and Minutes will typically be sent out (Agenda 5-7 days before meeting, Minutes within 1 week of a meeting).

AM said he'd update UC at the next meeting on UCASU's future plans.

- ***ACTION: KN to add AM's presentation for November meeting.***

The next meeting is Wednesday 15th November, 1pm, on Teams