

MINUTES:

Union Council Meeting – 13/09/2023

Attendees

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

Apologies not received

Atikur Rahman
Alfiya Vahora

In attendance

Kara Nutley

1. Chair of Union Council

KN asked for UC members to put themselves forward for Chair. CdSC only applicant.

Members voted on 2023/24 Chair of Union Council:

In favour of Cassie: 6

Abstentions: 0

Result: CdSC elected Chair of Union Council

CdSC welcomed everyone and confirmed quoracy.

2. Approval of Minutes from last two meetings (25th January and 26th April)

CdSC proposed that due to the new team not being present for the previous meetings, the minutes shouldn't be approved but taken as read.

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

Approve - 0

Not approve - 0

Abstain - 6

- *ACTION: KN to publish the minutes as read, but unapproved.*

2. Sabbatical Officer Reports

2 sets of Sabbatical Officer Reports to be approved:

- 26th April 2023
- 13th September 2023

26th April 2023

Report by: Foysal Mobarock. President Surrey

Committees attended since last Union Council meeting:

- Fashion & Textile School Board
- Film, Media, Performing Arts School Board
- Business School for the Creative Industries School Board
- Academic Board
- Student Experience Committee
- Epsom Campus Operations Group (COG)

Update on projects since last Union Council meeting:

- Epsom Campus Improvement - met with Epsom's new Campus Manager, Stephen Minnett, to discuss this manifesto point. There are plans for the outdoor space by the Refectory, activities after class and at weekends and changes to be made to the queuing system in the Refectory to speed up service time.
- Met with Bonnie from UCA International College (UCAIC) to discuss ways to better support Direct Entry Students and help their language skills.

Annual leave taken since last Union Council meeting:

18 days

Report by: Sol Gjølves, President Kent.

Committees attended since last Union Council meeting:

- None

Update on projects since last Union Council meeting:

- Cultivate Campus Community - planning is well underway for the Rochester Masquerade EOY Ball taking place on Saturday 27th May on the Rochester campus.

Annual leave taken since last Union Council meeting:

2 days

Couldn't be approved because the meeting wasn't quorate.

Members voted on Sabb Reports from 26th April 2023

Approved: 5

Not approve: 0

Abstain: 1

26/04/ 23 Sabb Report approved

Report by: Cassie de St. Croix, SU President

Committees attended since last Union Council meeting:

- Student Engagement Committee
- Cost of Living Committee
- Induction and Enrollment Committee
- Board of Governors

Update on projects since last Union Council meeting:

- I've begun outlining plans for my campaigns across the year, and have most notably started idea generation on restructuring the course rep system. I would like to work closely with reps, campus officers and the UDM to facilitate this change in structure to include a UCASU feedback loop.
- I've also attended a kick off meeting for a campus accessibility audit with Diversity & Ability, and will be working closely with them over the next few months in line with my access campaign.
- In line with my community engagement campaign, we have successfully established a partnership with Christchurch Students' Union to enable Canterbury students to attend their freshers' events. I'm looking into extending this relationship for further events throughout the year, and am meeting with CCCU and Kent sabbatical officers at the end of the month.

Annual leave taken since last Union Council meeting:

6 days

Members voted on CdSC Sabb Report from 13th September 2023

Approved: 6

Not approve: 0

Abstain: 0

CdSC 13/09/23 Sabb Report approved

Report by: Rajon Voumick, SU President

Committees attended since last Union Council meeting:

- Cost Of Living Working Group 09 June.
- Architecture Committee (Place review)
- Human Resources & Remuneration Committee - 20th July
- UCAIC School Board meeting-15th July.

Update on projects since last Union Council meeting:

- I have started my campaign plan - English Language Club proposal for non-native speakers. For this, I am continuing my discussions with our union members as well as those who work on EAP(UCA). I am continuing my

activities to make the canteen accessible for Diverse students and my plan for the canteen survey is in process.

- In July I met with incoming interim VC, Professor Nick Foskett and last week I met with Cindy Millman, and Stephen Minnett, who agreed to help me with both Campaigns.

Annual leave taken since last Union Council meeting:

0 days

Members voted on RV Sabb Report from 13th September 2023

Approved: 6

Not approve: 0

Abstain: 0

RV 13/09/23 Sabb Report approved

3. Actions

- **ACTION: ALL to comment on Sustainability Policy draft for the next meeting**
Update: In progress
- **ACTION: Housing Guide to be published. Currently been worked on by SU staff.**
- **Update: In progress**

4. Campus Officers

We are missing a Canterbury Campus Officer. KN asked UC to decide whether they would like a bi-election or for UC to co-opt applicants. CdSC echoed in favour of the co-opt and offered floor to UC.

Members voted on bi-election or co-opt for Canterbury CO:

Bi-Election: 1

Co-opt: 6

Abstain: 0

UC voted for Canterbury CO to be co-opted.

- **ACTION: KN to implement Canterbury CO co-opt applications before next meeting.**

Discussion around the lack of engagement from two of the Epsom officers, Atikur and Alfiya. Suggestion made to offer a deadline for them to either continue or step down from their role.

- **ACTION: CdSC to email Atikur and Alfiya offering them a deadline to continue as Epsom Campus Officers or step down. No reply = removal from Union Council.**

Discussion around the campus officers who are leaving in February due to Masters' finishing. Proposed that as part of the Canterbury co-opt application, we ask for expression of interest in Epsom and Farnham roles.

- ***ACTION: KN to make addition of Epsom and Farnham CO in the co-opt application as expressions of interest.***

5. Cultural Events

Discussion around CO's supports events for things like Black History Month, Diwali and Ramadan.

- ***ACTION: KN send out dates/months for key events.***

6. UCASU supporting Surrey Police

KN presented some campaigns that Surrey Police are working on and whether UCASU should be supporting this work as previous sabbatical officers have questioned whether the Union should collaborate with local police due to perceived negativity of the student body towards establishments such as the police.

Campaigns are safety orientated: Sharing safety messaging about night-time safety in Epsom and, showing support to an Active Bystander campaign initiated by Leicestershire's Police "You're Right, That's Wrong".

Members voted whether UCASU should support these campaigns:

Yes, support: 7

No, don't support: 0

Abstain: 0

UCASU to support Surrey police campaigns as necessary.

- ***ACTION: KN to speak to Surrey Police contact and say that UCASU are happy to spread the safety messaging but limiting the promotion of the police.***

7. Rochester societies money

UCASU have £1300 leftover from Rochester societies. Decision to be made on what to do with the money. Suggestions were made such as distribute among relevant societies on other campuses or put into a community events budget to be spent on cultural campus events

- ***ACTION: ALL to think about where Rochester Societies money could be spent.***
- ***ACTION: KN to circulate a breakdown of which societies the money came from.***

8. Identity Communities

We have disbanded Identity Communities (IC) due to lack of engagement despite numerous changes and efforts into revamping the initiative. IC remain as part of the Union's bye-laws so consideration is needed as to making an amendment here, as well as considering how these groups are represented going forward.

- ***ACTION: ALL to think about what representation we should have and how we can bring communities together. Look at researching other SU's.***

9. Any other business

MT said that they hadn't received the presentations from Officer Induction Week.

- ***ACTION: KN to send out Officer Induction presentation to all***

IM raised a point about the guarantor scheme. KN and CdSC mentioned that previous President Kent, Sol Gjoines, had done a lot of work around this and made progress.

- ***ACTION: KN to contact Mark Ellul about the guarantor scheme***

The next meeting is Wednesday 11th October, 1.30pm, on Teams