**MINUTES:**

Union Council Meeting – 14/12/2022

**Attendees**

Sol Gjoines

Foysal Mobarock

Mitesh Mehta

Avnika Kuvadiya

Faryal Sohail

Rose Reber

Elyse Anderson

Eleanor Gravestock

**Apologies**  
Avnika Kuvadiya

Patricia dos Reis

**Apologies not received**

Amanda Francis

Charlie Neudeck

Mihaela Pecaku

Tae-Jean Grierson

**In attendance**

Kara Nutley

1. **Introduction to the newly elected and appointed PTO, Eleanor Gravestock - Farnham PTO (FE place)**

SG introduced and welcomed Eleanor.

1. **Approval of Minutes from last meeting (3rd November)**

KN had not circulated them but will do post-meeting for email approval.

* *ACTION - KN to circulate 3rd November minutes by end of the week.*

**3. Sabbatical Officer Reports**

**Report by:** Foysal Mobarock. President Surrey

**Committees attended since last Union Council meeting:**

* Joint Communications and Games & Creative Technology School Board meeting on 2nd December.
* Fashion & Textile School Board meeting on 5th December.
* Business School Board meeting on 6th December.
* Film Media School Board meeting on 8th December.
* UCAIC School Board meeting on 8th December.
* Architecture School Board meeting on 9th December.

**Update on projects since last Union Council meeting:**

n/a

**Annual leave taken since last Union Council meeting:**

1.5 days

**Report by:** Sol Gjøines, President Kent.

**Committees attended since last Union Council meeting:**

* UCA’s Policy & Procedure Group (PPG)
* FE School Board
* Fine Art, Crafts & Photography School Board
* UCA’s Board of Govenors

**Update on projects since last Union Council meeting:**

* Sabb promo on Instagram
* Cost of Living - working with UCA to introduce initiatives including free breakfasts in the canteen.
* Blog post for UCA

**Annual leave taken since last Union Council meeting:**

0 days

Both reports approved by all.

**4. Actions from last meeting**

As Minutes hadn’t been produced, Actions haven’t been detailed.

* *ACTION: Kara to bring a draft Sustainability Policy to September Union Council for approval. - not complete. to be brought to next meeting.*
* *ACTION: KN to circulated previous Actions with Minutes from 03/11/22*
* *ACTION: Foysal to talk to Steve Dickson about meal deals across all campuses*
* *ACTION: Foysal/Sol/Kara to feedback to the Cost of Living working group that greater quantities of vegetarian options would be welcomed on the Kent campuses.*
* *ACTION: Sol to speak to Scott Keiller in Sustainability about bus passes*
* *ACTION: ALL to send any questions to Kara (cost of living)*
* *ACTION: Kara to draft a survey (cost of living)*
* *ACTION: Housing Guide to be published. Currently been worked on by SU staff.*
* *ACTION: FM to alert Philip Powell to the housing scams*
* *ACTION: SG & FM to send detailed email to Sarah Clark surrounding housing crisis issues*
* *ACTION: KN to contact Eleanor and introduce to UC*
* *ACTION: Sol to ask Chris Wraith about funding for Fashion Show*
* *ACTION: PDR to send Sol details about the Fashion Show*
* *ACTION: Kara to contact Rose and Joey Main (Course Rep) to find a suitable date to meet Maidstone students*

**5. Officer Structure 2023/23 (Appendix 1)**

SG introduced the proposal to a temporary Officer Structure for the 2023/24 Academic Year. Full details can be found in Appendix 1, below.

KN gave further context and explanation to the rationale behind the proposal.

RR spoke about having mini SU’s on each campus with a focus on what is going on in their areas. KN explained that was the principle behind having Campus Officers, for them to be working closely and feeding into the two Presidents.

ALL seemed to like the idea of having three Campus Officers per campus. RR raised the concern of students wanting to get involved with UCASU but are often unsure how to do so. KN acknowledged this notion and asked for the PTO’s support in the election period. SG responded to RR, acknowledging and thanking the officers for their support.

**Vote**: Unanimous in favour of Option 2 - 2 x ‘blank’ Presidents with 3 x Campus Officers.

* *ACTION: KN, SG & FM to discuss the finer details on how Option 2 would work*

**6. Any other business**

MM - spoke about the cost of annual bus permits for students travelling miles outside of Canterbury, in comparison to other Kent-based universities. SG explained that there is a significant cost involved to subsidise students but is following this up with the relevant UCA department. MM estimates that up to 80 students are affected.

MM - mentioned a lack of pain medication being available on campus after a student needed some but couldn’t get it from Canterbury Reception. SG explained this is down to health & safety. Pain medication does not form part of first aid care so wouldn’t be distributed by a first aider.

**The next meeting is Wednesday 11th January, 2pm, on Teams**

**Appendix 1 - Proposed, temporary officer structure for 2023/24**

The Students’ Union elections will take place in March 2023 with nominations opening at the end of January 2023. Union Council is being asked to decide on a *temporary* structure for 2023/24 while UCASU recruits a new CEO. Once in place, the incoming CEO will lead on a more permanent change, in conjunction with officers.

The reason behind this temporary change is due to the closure of the Rochester campus in Summer 2023. This will leave a greater inequitable proportion of students between the two Presidents.

UCA has 6548 enrolled students across the four campuses made up of:

* 1234 in Canterbury
* 2431 in Epsom
* 2373 in Farnham (including Royal School of Needlework)
* 510 in Rochester (including Maidstone Studio)

UCASU currently has the following officer structure:

| **President Kent** | | **President Surrey** | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Canterbury Part-time officer | Rochester Part-time officer | Farnham Part-time officer | Epsom Part-time officer |
| Canterbury Part-time officer | Rochester Part-time officer | Farnham Part-time officer | Epsom Part-time officer |
| Canterbury Part-time officer (FE) | Rochester Part-time officer (FE) | Farnham Part-time officer (FE) | Epsom Part-time officer (FE) |

Elected in the main March elections

Elected as part of Union Council co-operative the following October

If the current set-up continues, President Surrey will be “responsible” for over 75% of the UCA student population. There is a clear disproportion in responsibilities and while this could favour Canterbury students; Epsom and Farnham will have diminished student representation.

I have proposed different options below, for you to consider and vote on.

**Option 1 - Stay the same**

Keep the positions as they are.

**Option 2** - **‘Blank’ roles & Campus Officers**Have two blank President positions where there is no remit for looking after a county. Instead, the Presidents are responsible for UCA-wide issues, instead of localised ones. To ensure we have representation for each area, PTOs are renamed as Campus Officers and there is a focus for them to look at their home campus and work with *both* Presidents to ensure issues are raised and solutions are considered and/or acted on.

Electing the two Presidents could take place one of two ways:

1. The two students who receive the highest number of votes via Alternative Voting System are elected, regardless of campus.

OR

1. To ensure a presence in Kent, the student who is leading from the Kent campuses to be elected, even if there are multiple Surrey students ahead of them.

Considerations:

* Epsom and Farnham are twice the size of Canterbury and four times the size of Rochester; therefore there will be more students to vote for Surrey-based candidates, putting a Kent-based nominee at a disadvantage.
  + **Mitigation:** Weight the voting so a Canterbury vote = 2x Farnham/Epsom and a Rochester vote = 4x (exact weighting needs to be worked out).
* Electing two students from the same campus - issues of fairness in having two sabbs on one campus; space - where would they sit if elected from Canterbury, Rochester or Epsom?