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*Minutes*

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Student Assembly

Thursday 9th November 2023

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendance:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>OFFICERS POSITION</b>
Madhoo Preetha Damaraju	Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Officer
Morgan Hadley-Charter	LGBTQ+ Officer
Shashank Manjunatha	Community Living Officer
Ana Monica Santos Pereira	CBASS Officer
Dr Naveed Zakirhusen	CHMLS Officer
Suraj Shaw	CEDPS Officer
Fabyeon Burgess-Yearwood	Disabled Students office
Daksh Parihar	International Students Officer
Piyush Thakur	PG Officer
Delia Stoican	EU Officer
Muzamil Ahmad	Student Assembly (Community)
Haseen Raihan	Student Assembly (Community)
Muhammad Ahmad	Student Assembly (Community)
Zuhad Ali	Student Assembly (Community)
Abhishek Ghawate	Student Assembly (Community)
Deepak Yadav	Student Assembly (Community)
Haris Khan	Student Assembly (Community)
Surabhi Nanda	Student Assembly (Community)
Muhammad Ashhar	Student Assembly (Community)
Vaibhav Sharma	Student Assembly (Community)
Siya Garg	Student Assembly (Community)
Kate Karen D'souza	Student Assembly (Community)
Umang Samani	Student Assembly (Business School)
Sabarni Mukhopadhyay	Student Assembly (Law)
Prekshi Singh	Student Assembly (Life Sciences)
Mohammad Ashabul Haque (Raad)	Student Assembly (Computer Sciences)
Shubham Bhanudas Gaikwad	Student Assembly (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
Sidarth Tewani	Chair of Student Assembly
Rayanuddin Mohammed	Student Assembly (Electronic and Computer Engineering)

## Absentees:

Kiara Jayasuriya Kuranage	BME Officer
Mallikarjun Modi	Student Assembly (Community)
Jash Nayankumar Mistry	Student Assembly (Brunel Design School)

## Apologies:

Vishal Parihar	Student Assembly (Community)
Haseen Raihan	Student Assembly (Community)
Utkarsh Santosh Pashankar	Student Assembly (Community)

## 2. Minutes of the previous meeting – Tuesday 24th October 2023

Minutes were approved.

## 3. Matters Arising

3a) Vote for vice chair for student assembly.

Sabarni, Kate and Vaibhav nominated. Kate elected.

3b) Student lead on environmental and sustainability matters in the absence of a PT officer.

Mohammed expressed interest in the role. Fabyeon expressed interest in supporting student lead. Ruth will be in touch with both.

## 4. Motions to change Bye-laws

No motions to change Bye-laws.

## 5. Motions

No motions.

## 6. Ratification of Independent Trustee - See Appendix 2.

Jo Emma Gregory-Gallagher ratified. Corporate Governance Committee to meet next week regarding increasing number of external trustees – will likely have 2 more candidates to present at the next assembly meeting.

## 7. Officer Reports – Verbal updates

### General Updates:

- Men's Mental Health Campaign
  - A part of the campaign, the Heads-Up campaign, launched November 9<sup>th</sup> – any male-identifying student can share their story in any form (poem, video etc.) and it will be on the Union Instagram and the website. People who share something will have a chance to win £100 worth of Amazon vouchers.
  - A wider range of a Men's Mental Health campaign is currently in the planning process as well; if anyone has any ideas, contact Shashank or Vincent.
- Disability Month is starting in November and going into December and a number of events have already been planned or are in the process of being planned.

- A Brunel Disability Network social media page has been created and will be shared, and Fabyeon is working with Charles on doing a flyer to spread awareness.
- They are also in the process of getting approval for a Disability Club/Society which will be launching upon approval and Jasmine's return.
- Student awareness of full-time officers – more flyers should be distributed around campus highlighting full-time officers including the officers faces so students can familiarise themselves with them.
  - Would be great to have one or several officers put on a digital billboard somewhere on campus. A meeting will be organised regarding this and Fabyeon will be updated accordingly.

#### **Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Officer Update:**

- Menstrual Empathy Challenge – meant to experience what it's like to have period pain through stimulation or variable devices
  - Centred on promoting empathy and understanding for women during menstrual cycle, aiming to break down societal stigmas associated with menstruation.
- Installation of Tampon and Pad Dispensers
  - Universal access – available to everyone who needs them
- Additional washrooms for the queer community
  - Neutral washrooms
  - Collab with the LGBTQIA+ officer
- Brunel Together – cultural exchange
  - Want all societies to promote each other's events on social media to get larger audiences for cultural events
- Food Fiesta – a culinary extravaganza
  - Bringing all the societies together with their homemade food and share recipes
- Mental Wellness – 1-on-1 sessions
  - Collaboration of Well-being Centre – has been discussed with Ruth and will research more with Well-being Centre
  - To create a confidential and safe space, specifically for those exploring their gender identity
  - Collab with LGBTQIA+
- **Officer + student responses:**
  - LGBTQIA+ Officer response:
    - Will you be researching more into gender neutral language to ensure that what you're stating is correct?
    - Response: yes, more research will be done
  - Period dispensers already were established – will you be expanding on this?
    - Response: was in contact with Ruth already, will likely be mostly focusing on gender-neutral washrooms, will possibly be in contact with Viktoria regarding her previous period campaign.
  - University is in process of getting gender-neutral washrooms – individuals in charge of that will be contacted about this and told to contact officer

#### **8. Student Matters**

8a) Unitu – How its going? Updates from dept reps? RS

- Ruth is dealing with departments reps who have issues accessing it
- Departments should encourage student reps to use it
- Andrea was introduced to the assembly

**8b) Union Disciplinary and complaint policy review changes.RS See appendix 3 and 4.**

- Ruth and the HR and Compliance Manager have made changes to the Complaints and Disciplinary Process and sent it to everyone.
- Change has been made in response to student feedback: there will now be a student assembly member on the disciplinary panel so there is more student representation and accountability.
- Next meeting Ruth will likely do a vote to put in a motion to amend the bylaws and bring policies forward, and recommends students read through what she's sent before then.

**8c) Elections 2024, should we try different timings? RS**

- Timing is good as is – February and March are still the best options because there's not much else going on for students, academically, culturally, etc, so they will be able to focus more on campaigning.

**8d) Safety on campus SM – Security will be in attendance.**

**Student concerns raised and security response:**

- Concerns raised over how active security is and how much security presence is on campus in response to some recent dangerous incidents.
- Student victim of one of these incidents raised concerns about confusion regarding his police case – police stated the case is closed, but security guard present claimed it was open.
  - Security guard stated that parallel investigations with the police cannot happen.
- Can security do anymore more to help the victims of these events and the larger student body feel safe during the course of investigation?
  - It was established neither of the victims present at the assembly feel safe walking around campus.
    - Security guard gave overview of what happens regarding support after an incident – victims have been contacted by SSWT and dangerous person involved in incident was asked to vacate campus.
- Concerns raised over non-students being able to get into student halls and insufficient door locks.
  - Security expressed personal student responsibility needs to be taken into account and stated the door mechanisms have been changed to make sure the doors are closed properly now.
- Question asked regarding what security is doing to tackle drug presence on-campus.
  - Security explained response procedure.
- Concern raised over lack of security cameras in halls.
  - Security guard claimed there are enough cameras, and recommended student go to resident manager if they come across issues.

- Security gave information about security escorts students can contact if they feel unsafe.
  - Concerns raised that this does not guarantee security will be available and several students have had experiences of trying to get escorts and security taking too long or never showing up.
    - Security guard expressed appreciation for students' comments and said they would raise these issues within their team.
- Creation of Security Campaign to raise awareness?
  - Security has been in touch with TPOs and organising meetings with tutors about safety.
  - A day-in-the-life video will be shot and put on the Union page to promote what security is doing.
- Concern raised over what to do if a student is carrying a kind of weapon.
  - Security recommended calling the security office and reporting it.
- Craig suggested encouraging students to be more active bystanders.
- Craig raised concern of students wanting to safely protest regarding the current events in Israel and Gaza.
  - Security recommended being very mindful of what you put online and take part in peaceful protests and will work within team to come up with some things to put online to guide students on how to express themselves safely.
- Concerns raised over non-students coming on-campus and disrupting/hurting students.
  - Security approaches people showing suspicious behaviour and will remove trespassers and recommended students contact security if they see someone they suspect is not a student or may be dangerous.
- Question raised over what would security's response be to people who are hesitant to contact security.
  - Security stated that contacting them is always the best option and that you can report things anonymously as well.
  - Student addressed if it's something related to sexual misconduct there are other online resources for that as well.

**9. Urgent Business**

None.

**10. Additional**

- Introduction of Iwan, the NUS election lead
  - Contact Iwan regarding organising general elections
  - Wants to put together a national manifesto
    - Opportunity to put together events to get students together and to facilitate conversations, to start putting together our proposals from the Union to go to the NUS to go into the manifesto.

**- END -**