

Student Assembly

Date: 23rd March 5pm 2023

Location: Lecture Centre 067 and Hybrid via Teams

Chaired by Suraj Shaw due to the Chairs absent and deputy chair. See Bye-Law G: Student Assembly 8. *It is the duties of the Vice-Chair to assist and advise the Chair in their capacity. The Vice-Chair of Student Assembly shall assume the duties of Chair in the absence of Chair. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, an appropriate Student Officer shall assume the duties of Chair.*

1. Attendance

Daksh Parihar	Assembly Rep Computer Science Department
Fabyeon Burgess-Yearwood	Disabled Students Officer
Nilay Patel	Assembly Representative - Business School
Shashank Manjunatha	Student Assembly Member
Shyman Pradip Tanna	Assembly Representative - Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department
Ana Monica-Santos Pereira	EU Officer
Faiza Al-Shafin	Student Assembly Member
Fardeen Khan	Student Assembly Member
Gano Othow	BME Officer
Jay Gill	Student Assembly Member
Mohammad Abdullah Haque	Student Assembly Member
Suraj Shaw	VP CDEPS
Umer Abbas	Student Assembly Member
Megan Staples	Student Voice Admin
Imogen Atkinson	Student Voice Admin
Vincent Ofori	Democracy and Student Engagement Coordinator
CL Lithgow	Chief Executive

Honorary Guest

Morgan Hadley-Charter 2023/2024 LGBTQ Officer

Kiara Jayasuriya Kuranage 2023/2024 BME Officer

Apologies

Wiktorja Swoboda

Archan Raval

Tanmay Sharma

Burhan Asif

Ahmad Khalid

Nisarg Anil Pawar

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** - 19th January 2023 Hybrid (The Venue and Teams) Minutes approved.

3. **Matters Arising**
N/A

4. **Motions set to lapse for a full breakdown of the motions and what they entail please see Appendix 2 via the Student Union website.**

1) Lennon Wall Motion Passed - 31/10/2019 Set to Lapse 31/10/2022

This Union Notes: A Lennon Wall symbolizes freedom of speech and non-violent resistance. There are now Lennon Walls everywhere in Hong Kong, as Hong Kong is now facing serious political problems and there is ongoing Police violence against peaceful protesters. In addition to police violence, police are also actively stopping lifesaving services from reaching protestors. Therefore, Hong Kong people use the Lennon Wall to support each other and give out the information of the police violence.

CL - The Lennon Wall used to be in the Hamilton Centre and was there for three months and was a time specific action.

BAME Officer – Can it be repurposed instead of getting rid of it for example turning it into a movement on campus for international support?

EU Officer - Wont this be classed as a new motion?

CL – yes you will need to put forward a proposal to repurpose it – my suggestion would be to put forward a new motion. If you would like help with this, please contact the voice team.

**The motion was put to a vote and 8 voted to allow the motion to lapse.
The Lennon Wall motion has now been lapsed.**

2) Motion to oppose the hall rent increase. Passed 31/10/2019 Set to lapse 31/10/2022.

This motion was brought in at as a time specific issue due to rent increase in 2019 as it was proposed to increase the rent by 33%.

**The motion was put to a vote and 9 voted to allow the motion to lapse.
The Motion to oppose the hall rent increase has now been lapsed.**

3) Motion to reduce inconvenience in halls of residence. Passed 31/10/2019 Set to Lapse 31/10/2022.

CL explained that at the time there was lots of complaints from students living in halls. This was due to cleaning and inspect that they were not given enough notice. Student felt like they were being treated poorly and a lot of work was put through to combat

this. Now if someone wishes to enter your room, they have to book an appointment instead unless it is an emergency.

EU Officer- is this just due to cleaning?

CL – no for estates

EU Officer - this is still the same there is cleaners and estates cleaning coming in all the time and will say they will come in across a time period of a month or a week.

Fabyeon – if people still have a problem where has the data come from that this has been changed.

CL – We was told that they were not allowed to enter rooms without a booked prior appointment just this week so this is clearly a relevant issue, and this motion should be kept alive.

The motion was put to a vote and 8 voted to keep the motion alive.

The motion to reduce inconvenience in halls of residence has been voted to continue.

4) Union to lobby Brunel University London to declare Climate Change as an Emergency. Passed 31/10/2019 Set to Lapse 31/10/2022.

VP CEDPS – in my opinion this should be kept active as this climate is become worse and the environment and ethics officer should work with the university.

CL – the university has signed a motion that declared that climate change is an emergency. However, the spirit of the motion has died out and there still needs to be discourse with the university.

The motion was put to a vote, 6 voted to keep the motion alive and 2 voted to abstain.

The motion to lobby Brunel University London to declare Climate Change as an Emergency has been voted to continue.

5) Young Carers Motion. Passed 28/11/2019 Set to Lapse 28/11/2022.

CL - Young careers are specifically disadvantaged and I think most have been accomplished to assist those in a disadvantage position.

The motion was put to a vote. 4 voted to keep the motion alive, 1 voted to allow the motion to lapse and 1 voted to abstain.

The Young Carers motion has been voted to continue.

6) Motion to put all seat padding in all lecture centres. Passed 28/11/2019 Set to Lapse 28/11/2022.

CL - At the time the university agreed that any new seats put into the lecture centre will be padded.

BAME Officer – This isn't the case they are not all padded.

CL - There are refurbishment schedules to apply this to all of them.

The motion was put to a vote. 1 voted to keep, 6 voted to remove.

The motion to put all seat padding in all lecture centres was voted to lapse.

7) Union to Lobby Brunel University to Divest by 2020. Passed 28/11/2019 Set to Lapse 28/11/2022.

CL – my understanding is that the university does not have investments in fossil fuels. This motion may not be valid anymore due to my interpretation from what I have heard.

The motion to was put to a vote. 4 voted to push this at the next student assembly. 2 voted to discuss this now.

The motion to lobby Brunel University to Divest has been pushed to the next Student Assembly. The information surrounding Brunel University investments in fossil fuels will be investigated and presented at the next student assembly.

8) Union to Lobby Brunel University to improve water fountain provision on campus. Passed 28/11/2019 Set to Lapse 28/11/2022.

CL – there was some improvements, and some are meant to follow through. For example, one at some point in the Hamilton centre. There is a map that identifies all the water fountains.

SA members - There is a map in the sports centre and there was one published online.

The motion was put to vote 2 voted to keep the motion alive, 5 voted to lapse the motion and 1 voted to abstain.

The motion to lobby Brunel University to improve water fountains provision on campus has been lapsed.

9) Motion to have reusable cups. Passed 30/01/2020 Set to Lapse 30/01/2023.

CL - This is the motion about the union should sell their own reusable cups. Reusable cups are now used in the Venue and Locos.

The motion was put to a vote and 8 voted to lapse the motion, 1 voted to keep the motion. The motion to use reusable cups has been lapsed.

10) Motion to approve the new Ethics and Environmental Policies. Passed 30/01/2020 Set to Lapse 30/01/2023.

CL - We recommended to keep this alive so we can continue to check the policies, so they are update and fit with the times.

The motion was put to a vote, 8 voted to keep the motion alive. The motion to approve the new Ethics and Environmental Policies has been voted to be kept alive.

11) Stop stressing our Mature and Postgraduates Students. Passed 30/01/2020 Set to lapse 30/01/2023.

CL - this motion was to tackle the academic structure and accommodation. The post grad students had to leave accommodation before they had finish teaching the university now have tried to tackle this and restructure the year.

The motion was put to a vote, 7 voted to keep the motion alive, 1 voted to abstain. The motion to Stop stressing our Mature and Postgraduates Students has been voted to be kept alive.

5) Officer Reports.

Full Time Officer – a report was put forward that is available on Brunel Student Unions website on appendix 3. No questions were raised regarding this report.

Part time officers

BAME Officer - Has been supporting most of the campaigns going on this term. There is an event this Monday called SPEAK with the purpose to gather students' experiences regarding inclusion and regarding student services, lectures and academic services.

EU Officer – working on multiple things throughout the year and working on the cost of living campaign and is in charge of the new one Brunel campaign. Did not submit the report as the time she was given left only one day to deliver the report and that day was given a meeting with Uni food to discuss work for next year so decided to prioritise something that would benefit the students.

Disabled Student Officer - Collaborated with Pick up the Mic to have the podcast more engaging with the students and created an online drop in office that started this week. As a result, from the online dropping Fabyeon has discovered some problems that the university has surrounding students with disabilities. Have worked with Equality and Diversity Manager to tackle this and make the university aware. Also has created a student disability forum collaborated with Sam Piker to have a space to talk about adjustments to support students. There are difficulties for targeting students with disabilities. Has assisted the university to conduct a survey for person with disabilities surrounding mental health issues, sexism, racism etc. Creating a safe space where an environment is created to tackle these issues. Aims to engage more with the student union and the students. Furthermore, promoted an upcoming round talk discussion with BAME Officer. Also participated in a question and answer and is open to other ideas and suggestions to aid the students.

6) Student Matters

Disabled Students Officer – one of the things that student union has anyone been removed or disciplined for lack of attendance or for that nature?

CL – Yes, we have removed some students from student assembly due to lack of attendance and we have done the same for trustees as well. This is recorded.

VP CEDPS – any other student matters?

Disabled Students Officer – there is a new role that was recently created the community living officer. While I know why they have not active yet can we make any suggestions to them.

CL – absolutely our new officer is here and I'm sure they will be happy to have a conversation about what the role will hopefully fulfil. This is something we want to encourage, and we encourage all of you to visit the offices and talk to officers and members of staff. The student assembly is not just here to scrutinise and hold officers accountable but also to support and encourage them. These conversations can occur at any point not just in the assembly.

SA member – during the Christmas break there was no recreational activities during Christmas break, there was no pool. We also want to enhance the quality of pool tables.

CL – We can easily fix the pool tables so that is an easily fix. The staff are contracted to have a Christmas break so if we plan to do something differently, we will need to have conversations and meetings, this can be done and we can have some limited openings, I'm sure we can look at doing something due to this year we had more than 700 students still living on campus over the break.

EU Officer - I think that we stop locos at around the 17th and also, we have a break a three week break at easter for Locos.

CL – let me double check this and this is not our normal practices as we normally don't close for three weeks, I will talk with Andy.

Disabled Students Officer – this is related to the Wik to sex Brunel camping could free pregnancy tests be also available for students.

CL – I think that this period at Brunel campaign was to aid student who are in period poverty and to tackle this. From our perspective this was to help students to have access to this necessity.

Disabled Students Officer – an acknowledgement for Charles and the Union for updating the social media and it is better than other universities, and it has been acknowledged.

7) Elections Update:

The report was read, and an overview was provided by Suraj and CL. A full breakdown of the report can be seen in Appendix 8 online. The new officers were also congratulated.

8) Quality Student Union Accreditation.

CL- I just wanted to quickly introduce you all to the Quality Student Union Accreditation. It has been bubbling around in the background for a few years due to the complex nature of the Union. The NUS proposed an accreditation scheme to evaluate Union. This was the first time we had put ourselves forward for the accreditation. We completed the first part which is where the union meets the minimum standards for organisation for good health.

Then we had an audit visit from two people who spoke with students, staff, and trustees to gather information and test whether the information we presented was correct. Just after Christmas we received the accreditation back. We have scoured good against every accreditation. There were a couple areas that we were rewarded with very good. There is an improvement plan to be able to be accredited as very good for 50% of the criteria and 2 for excellent when we are reassessed in 2024.

We have also identified that we need to put more effort into LEDI as we have struggled to gather specific evidence for these criteria. If anymore is interested in discussing the accreditation and its criteria, then please contact CL.

Before the next student assembly CL recommends reading the quality accreditation so we can discuss what the Unions priorities should be. We would love to hear from our Student Assembly Members as they represent the students and should have an input on what goes into next year's planning.

SA member – how will we access this report?

CL – I will share the criteria with all student assembly members this week (week starting the 27th March).

9) Urgent Business.

No urgent business was reported.

DRAFT