



UNION ASSEMBLY

Union Assembly Minutes

Agenda for the meeting held: **TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2024, 3PM – 6PM**

Agenda Item 1|Introductions

Minutes of meeting 06/0223: [Union Assembly Minutes 06.02.24.docx](#)

In attendance: Sam Hedges, Santi Siabato, Matthew Lamb, Molly O'Reilly-Kime, Mirutha, Sowmya Chandupatla, Madison Lardner, Luke Owen, Rory O'Ceallaigh, Rebecca Spiers, Adam Bucknall, Jack Watson, Maciej Marcinkiewicz, Cerys Evans, Harrison Stewart, Hannah Bywood, Frankie Lynch-Brown.

A change was approved to the minutes where Rory O'Ceallaigh had been misquoted. Minutes of the meeting 06/02/24 were approved.

Agenda Item 2 |For Discussion | Full-Time Officer Reports

President: [Union Assembly FTO Report - President 12.03.24.docx](#)

Cerys Evans presented their report, updated the meeting on the Cost of Living campaign, and meetings with external organisations.

Rory O'Ceallaigh – people have found it unfair that Full-Time Officers running for re-election can take time off during the election campaign. The rules should be looked at.

Cerys Evans – we are required to take annual leave. We understand it is hard for students running in elections, we are looking at extensions for elections candidates. I am happy to pick this up with the elections team to understand how we can make things more fair.

Rory O'Ceallaigh – LUSU is in a state of limbo during elections, it is difficult for JCR Presidents to talk to anyone.

Luke Owen – it would be wrong to work and campaign. It is the lesser of two evils.

Sam Hedges – the University is adamant in trying to grant extensions to students who take part in events such as Roses.

Adam Bucknall – candidates this year were saying things in their manifestos and campaigns. It has been mentioned about bringing back LUSU Fact Check. So people aren't running of false statements.

Luke Owen – specific guidance needed on terminology so it is easier to scrutinise.

Harrison Stewart – it is difficult from a candidate's perspective when other candidates are talking about things that are impossible for them to do during their term.

VP Education: [Union Assembly FTO Report - VP Education 12.03.24.docx](#)

Sam Hedges presented their report, discussed the Rep Re-Engagement Project and future developments to the Student Academic Rep system. Sam updated on his work around self-certifications and timetables for the coming exam period.

Madison Lardner – the Department doesn't want to change from terms to semesters as they have recently changed their curriculum so are just not interested in it.

Sam Hedges – CTP can change exams to be more holistic. Changing the minimum credit size of modules so modules are bigger and have more time in timetables. They have promised Wednesday afternoons free, whole semester timetables, and reading weeks, this is why we are supporting it. My duties lie with students, but I am happy to speak to the department.

Frankie Lynch-Brown – finding it hard when I raise things as a Faculty Rep and I'm told "Oh we'll put that in CTP, it'll get done in a few years". Students are still going to have to put up with that in the meantime.

Hannah Bywood – Deadlines are a problem now with planning in the run-up to Roses

Luke Owen – When the plan for CTP is given to us can we have a relatively urgent UA meeting to discuss it and reaffirm that as students it works for us. Important that we reaffirm that UA is in support of it when it is released.

Cerys Evans – this body won't get it in the next 3 months, though we'd like to bring it the University may not release due to confidentiality.

Sam Hedges – we could have an emergency meeting, but it may fall outside of this term.

VP Societies & Media: [Union Assembly FTO Report - VP Societies & Media 12.03.24.docx](#)

Santi Siabato presented their report, updated attendees on Refreshers Fair, recent funding rounds for societies, and updated on the progress with Society Awards.

No questions.

VP Sport: [Union Assembly FTO Report - VP Sport 12.03.24.docx](#)

Jack Watson presented their report, updated on planning and policies for Roses 2024.

Maciej Marcinkiewicz – can you explain the delay in the Access Fund?

Jack Watson – we had 300 applications for a limited pot of money. It takes time to support as many students as possible, there are lots of details we don't know.

Maciej Marcinkiewicz – Are you expecting more delays?

Jack Watson – I am working with finance team to ensure everything is done properly, full Access Fund should be available from September. Current applications should be processed by Week 20.

VP Union Development: [Union Assembly FTO Report - VP Union Development 12.03.24.docx](#)

Harrison Stewart presented their report, gave a shout-out for Democracy Committee for their work on elections, explained the reasons for the absence of elections donuts, and thanked the Full-Time Officers for advertising the roles.

No questions.

VP Welfare: [Union Assembly FTO Report - VP Welfare 12.03.24.docx](#)

Josh Newsham presented their report, wished everyone a happy Women's History Month, provided an update on Supper Club and Pantry funding, and congratulated LGBTQ+ Forum on their work.

No questions.

Agenda Item 3 |For Discussion | Liberation & Campaigns Officer Reports

LGBTQ+ Officer: [Union Assembly LCO Report - LGBTQ+ Officer 12.03.24.docx](#)

Thomas Cross presented their report, detailed activities for LGBTQ+ History Month, updated on rainbow laces and the inclusion pledge, and the success of the playlist at LGBTQ+ Night.

Harrison Stewart – well done for showing up when other LCOs do not come to UA
Josh Newsham – The LGBTQ+ Forum is doing an amazing job and benefiting those groups, thank you.

Agenda Item 4 |For Discussion | Cost of Living

Josh Newsham, VP Welfare

Presentation: [Update to Union Assembly: Cost of Living](#)

Josh Newsham presented their slides as an update on the Cost of Living campaign, shared an update on funding requests to the University, shared feedback from Supper Club, and highlighted the need for the Students' Union to fund the Gender Expression Fund.

Molly O'Reilly-Kime – I was told as a postgraduate student I could not apply for LOAF support. They told me to apply for a loan instead.

Josh Newsham – UCU have sent an open letter to the University on cost of living. This will be brought to UA to discuss later.

Rory O'Ceallaigh – community cupboards are told they cannot freely give out food and need to question students to ensure the food is being given out to those in need. This is a barrier.

Madison Lardner – Lonsdale College don't do anything. They used to do free food events and now they can't because they don't have any money.

Josh Newsham – it is approved by a separate group with no student representation. The best thing you can do is keep speaking to students and feeding into the SCR.

Rory O'Ceallaigh – I hate the phrase “students abusing the system”, should be funding it more

Josh Newsham – This is not the culture we should have and we should have a compassionate culture

Cerys Evans – Happy to update on hot college food events privately, every College does it differently. Colleges are reliant on alumni funding, the University want to look holistically at where food is available. There is a need for this to exist independently and commuter students are not going down to Lonsdale every day. We need to keep this conversation going.

Rory O'Ceallaigh – Supper Club vs WTF funding

Josh Newsham – WTF events happened alongside Supper Club so the University would not have defunded WTF in order to fund Supper Club. It is not a trade-off. If SCRs can't communicate with students, there is a problem.

Cerys Evans – We don't know what was happening in different cycles. There was no guidance on events and if the money should be event-based or based off length.

Josh Newsham – we want more long-term commitments from the University. Uplift to the Lancaster Bursary threshold. £30,000 threshold is very easy to hit if someone has two working parents.

Harrison Stewart – the FTOs put their blood, sweat and tears to ensure the support works.

Agenda Item 5 | For Approval | Societies Committee Terms of Reference

Santi Siabato, VP Societies & Media

Terms of Reference with Tracked Changes: [Agenda Item 5 - Societies Committee Terms of Reference.docx](#)

Santi Siabato presented the proposed Terms of Reference and explained the changes to the membership and appointment of committee members.

Jack Watson – how will appointments happen?

Santi Siabato – You will be following this up as Activities Officer next year. Everyone can vote for a spot on the committee.

Jack Watson – change position's name to Activities Officer

Vote:

FOR 19

AGAINST 0

ABSTAIN 0

Societies Committee Terms of Reference approved by Union Assembly.

Agenda Item 8 | Any Other Business

Sam Hedges – action for Full-Time Officer team and Harrison regarding Union Assembly Delegates

Josh Newsham – UA voted to not have delegates and that we would later confirm dates and to bring this back to Union Assembly.

Molly O'Reilly-Kime – Upset regarding Harrison Stewart's comment on LCO commitment

Harrison Stewart – it was made to commend Thomas Cross' work

Cerys Evans – asks members to be respectful

Thomas Cross – it is not unrealistic to make comments on LCO attendance

Molly O'Reilly-Kime – people are not showing up because it is a 3 hour meeting in teaching time