*Executive Committee*

*Minutes*

*08/03/2024 - F304/Microsoft Teams - 4pm-5pm*

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| **Introduction** |

**Attendees**

Chike Dike (CD) - SU President and Committee Chair

Norah Valerie Deka (NVD) - VP Education

Holly Tyack (HT) - VP Student Opportunities

Fatima Farha (FF) - VP Welfare & Community

Zainab Abdul-Obitayo (ZAO) - Disability, Accessibility & Neuro-Diverse Officer

Julnar Sharif (JS) - Asian, Arab & Ethnic Minority Officer

Gabriel Adelaja (GA) - Black Students Officer

Charlie Lavender (CL) – Trans, Non-Binary, Intersex & Gender Identity + Officer

Zach Braid (ZB) - Democracy & Campaigns Coordinator and Committee Secretary

Sarah Corder (SC) – Student Voice & Policy Manager

Jane de Vekey (JdV) – Head of Student Voice and Policy

Alice Guy – Guest Speaker

**Welcome and apologies**

CD welcomed everyone and noted apologies from BU Business School Officer.

**Minutes Ratification**

CD raised the ratification of previous minutes. Minutes were ratified.

**Officer Updates**

President (CD):

* Noted that since last meeting they conducted the parliamentary candidate debate which went incredibly well, and they have reviewed the process and event in case we do another one.
* There have been some staff changes within SUBU and the CEO has officially left, with an interim CEO stepping in until a permanent replacement is found. The interviews for this will begin to take place in April.
* BU are in the process of finalising the appointment of the new VC, and this will be announced imminently.
* CD’s nature workshop event is taking place next week, students will be taken to chapel gate and have a opportunity to unwind and learn new skills.

VP Education (NVD):

* International buddy scheme social was held recently which went incredibly successful.
* Worked with other SABBs across the UK on an event called Taluwa, which is a conference to bring people of colour together and focus on how to expand opportunities in education and through sustainability.
* Student Owned business fair went incredibly well the other day and are now exploring how to do similar events.

VP Student Opportunities (HT):

* Worked on achieving girls only gym classes, and this will now be included in women’s history month. 4 free classes a week for 3 weeks.
* Has been involved in interviews for the new Student Ops administrator role who starts imminently.
* Additionally took part in the commercial review group for the Trustee board to monitor and manage commercial services to support students and SUBU.

VP Welfare and Community (FF):

* Looking to establish a landlord charity at the university and is working with UNIPOL on this.
* Is working with fellow FTO’s on Fees and establishing a more spread-out fee instalment plan, and a possible fee tab on my hub or Brightspace.
* The Period Product campaign is encountering a few issues, such as students taking too much or the stations moving so FF is working with estates on managing these.

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| **Action Log** |

1. *ACB & FF to meet and discuss student safety against violent and sexual crime campaign* – FF reported that they had met alongside SUBU’s strategic director and commercial director to discuss campaign and also note what is currently in place. **Action closed.**

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| **Upcoming events** |

March – Women’s History Month

* FTO Elections: Candidate Q&A – 8th March, 5th Floor Student Centre, 3-5pm
* FTO Elections: Voting Open – 11th to 15th March
* FTO Elections: Results Night – 19th March, Dylans, 6pm

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| **Items Discussed** |

1. **Reading Week Discussion (NVD)**
   1. NVD noted their speaking with BU about reading weeks, BU’s official stance is that they don’t have reading weeks but wanted the views of exec to understand if they see these as positive things or would rather have no reading weeks.
   2. JS noted their course do not receive a reading week whilst others do and there is a clear discrepancy between courses, they felt they would benefit very strongly from having the additional time around commitments to study.
      1. NVD noted if they would accept optional lectures instead of a full week of and JS agreed this would still be useful.
   3. CL noted they also would like reading weeks but by having them, they have found that lecturers are often put on the back foot and must play catch up to try and get all the content delivered which can be detrimental.
   4. HT noted they made good use of reading weeks, for a break and to have some additional time to study. NVD noted that students are paying large sums of money for their time at uni and may be seen as unfair to reduce amount of time required and not the amount of money it costs.
   5. FF noted it would be best not to have reading weeks due to students paying so much and getting the most for their money. Additionally, students can often feel isolated during these times, particularly international students as they are limited in what they can do and don’t have the ability to engage on campus.
   6. ZB noted that the students use of these weeks’ matters, some just go home and don’t study whilst some do. Recommended that instead of closing uni for a week, lectures and seminars are replaced with study sessions where students still come to campus and meet lecturers, but no content is delivered but students can use this time to study. Which means they make use of their money, don’t feel isolated and still engage on campus. Delivered in a tutorial style manner.
2. **Warden Party Postcard (Alice Guy)**
   1. Alice Guy from SUBU’s community wardens joined the Executive Committee to present a proposal for a project they are working on and wanted input from the committee to help shape the project.
   2. Recently recognised an issue that exists due to a lack of communication between students and their neighbours, which can present issues on both sides when students wish to put on events that are potentially disruptive.
   3. Developed idea of having a postcard students can provide their neighbours that indicate they wish to hold a party and the details and allows the neighbour to respond with any concerns or something.
   4. Survey results have shown that 100% of people polled like the idea and 68.5% would use it and the wardens are looking to get feedback from residents on this as well.
   5. HT noted they really liked the concept and how it will be used but felt that the image used on the front was very young and gave more children’s party connotations rather than student party.
   6. CD questioned what guidance is given if the neighbours say they have issues. Alice Guy responded saying the neighbours cannot legally stop them having the party and that section is more to provide information between students and neighbours.
   7. NVD noted they have previously given feedback but they like the concept.
   8. NVD notes the ‘heads up’ section needs to be more visible and gets lost behind the ‘we’re planning a party’ section which makes it feel like a party invitation on first glance.

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| **Items Decided** |

*No Items were decided upon.*

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| **Items Noted** |

*No Items were noted.*

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| **Standing Items** |

**Any other business**

* JdV noted that the Office for Students (OfS) are doing a consultation on freedom of speech and how this is upheld by student unions and universities. There are two live consultations, one on the complaint scheme and the second is around how student unions are regulated on this. The deadline for the first is Sunday 10th and the second is Sunday 17th. There will be two document sent around that contains what SUBU’s response to this first consultation is and the second document includes wider context with responses from NUS and WonkHE that helped inform SUBU’s position. JdV asked that they would like exec feedback on anything, and whilst there were no questions at the time, ZB noted they will be able to send this via email once they have read the documents.
* GA raised concern with ZB that he and other students have about the current FTO election being ran undemocratically as they were aware of the list of candidates released during a closed candidate briefing and recognise that a name has since appeared on that list, indicating they would have been added after the close of nominations. ZB responded that this student was at the time considering withdrawing and we had not included their name on the list until they made their final decision, there were a few students in similar positions who ultimately withdrew but this student opted to proceed hence why their name appeared in future candidate lists. ZB encouraged GA and any other students to email D&C with any further concerns.
* CL noted they followed up with AUBSU based off their agenda meeting from a long time ago, and the focus of that joint meeting will be more on socialising between each group.
* FF notedBU are organising a meeting to discuss student experience and are meeting on the 11th of and want any liberation officers to reach out so they can get this organised.

**Details of next meeting**

* 20th March – 4-5pm – F304/Teams