



**Date:** Wednesday, 10 June 2020  
**Time:** 17:30-18:30  
**Venue:** MS Teams

**Union Executive  
Minutes**

**Chair:** Carol Paige,  
Democracy, Operations and Community Officer

<b>Members:</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>AP</b>	<b>AB</b>
Aatikah Malik, Welfare and International Officer	✓		
Ashley Slanina-Davies, Education Officer	✓		
Carol Paige, Democracy, Operations and Community Officer, Chair	✓		
Clara Baltay/Laura Dell'Antonio, Sports Officer (Job Share), Elected Officer from Activities Zone	✓		
D'Arcy McGuinness, Activities Officer			✓
Jiaqi Guo, Faculty Rep for the Institute of Education (Undergraduate), Elected Officer from Education Zone	✓		
Jim Onyemenam, Postgraduate Students' Officer	✓		
Maë Faugère, Sustainability Officer			✓
Max Tscheltzkoff, Trans Officer			✓
Mihir Gupta, Union Chair			✓
Molly Hartill, Community Relations Officer, Elected Officer from Welfare and Community Zone	✓		
Nilisha Vashist, Women's Officer	✓		
Sandy Ogundele, BME Students' Officer	✓		
Xuyi Wang, LGBTQ+ Students Officer	✓		
Zohar Mendzelevski-Steinberg, Disabled Students' Officer	✓		

<b>In Attendance:</b>
Alex McKee, Head of Student Engagement & Communication
Emer O'Driscoll, Policy Zone Assistant, minutes
Simon To, Leadership Development and Change Manager

**1. Preliminary Matters**

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and noted that, as the meeting would be shorter than normal, they would deal with all non-essential points more quickly than usual so there was time to focus on the policies and amendments to governing documents.

There were no corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting and so they were unanimously approved.

The Chair reported on the outstanding actions from the previous meeting:

- The Head of Student Engagement & Communication reported that the tenancy rights' campaign had been deprioritised due to COVID-19 but is still being worked on
- The Chair reported that they had not been sent any points to add to the Freedom of Speech policy and would look into finalising it soon
- The Women's Officer and the Trans Officer have collaborated on a trans inclusivity policy

which will be discussed later in the meeting

- HLMS will be discussed later in the meeting

The Chair reminded the part-time officers to complete their handover documents by Monday, 15 June.

Due to time constraints, the ‘Officer Reports’, ‘NUS Delegates’ Report’, ‘COVID-19 Update’ and ‘Reports from Zones’ sections were omitted, but members were encouraged to read the reports and contact the sabbatical officers with any questions.

## 2. Policy Proposal: Non-engagement with Prevent

The Welfare & International Officer reported that this policy had been discussed at the Welfare & Community Zone, but as the meeting was inquorate, the vote taken was only advisory. They noted that the Black & Minority Ethnic Students’ Officer had given some background information on Prevent at the meeting but there hadn’t been any further questions or comments.

The Chair explained the policy proposal and asked if there were any questions.

The Postgraduate Students’ Officer noted that the policy mandates officers to not attend meetings with Prevent on the agenda, as opposed to the current policy of officers leaving the room when Prevent is discussed. They worried that this might lead to officers not being involved in major non-Prevent related discussions. The Education Officer noted that the policy stipulates that officers should either not attend or “or ask that [the agenda item] is politely removed”. They noted that perhaps officers could ask that the item is removed, and if it is not then they could attend the meeting and leave when Prevent is discussed.

The Women’s Officer stated that they felt the policy should not be amended. The Chair explained that, as this policy has already been discussed at a Zone meeting, it would not be able to be amended.

The Disabled Students’ Officer asked whether this policy would allow officers to make the case against Prevent, or if it completely disallowed any discussion of Prevent. The Head of Student Engagement & Communication responded that the policy would basically ban any discussion of Prevent. They explained that this is so UCL cannot say they have consulted with students on any element of Prevent when they report back to Camden Council.

There were no further questions or comments. The Chair moved to a vote.

Vote	Number
For	10
Against	1
Abstain	0

DECISION: The policy PASSED and was RATIFIED.

## 3. Policy Proposal: Creation of New Feedback Mechanisms

The Education Officer introduced the policy and noted that it had been discussed at Education Zone and passed a unanimous vote, which was advisory as the meeting was inquorate.

The Chair asked which sabbatical officer would lead on the policy. A general consensus was reached that the Education Officer should be the policy lead.

There were no further questions or comments. The Chair moved to a vote.

Vote	Number
For	9
Against	0
Abstain	1

DECISION: The policy PASSED and was RATIFIED.

#### 4. **Policy Proposal: Paid Teaching Opportunities for Doctoral Students**

The Education Officer introduced the policy. They explained that the original policy wording had been slightly confused and asked the Students' Union to introduce legislating mandating all PhD students to undertake paid teaching. The Education Zone then amended the policy to instead be about supporting equal opportunities for paid teaching for PhD students and passed it in an advisory vote.

There were no further questions or comments. The Chair moved to a vote.

Vote	Number
For	10
Against	0
Abstain	1

DECISION: The policy PASSED and was RATIFIED.

#### 5. **Policy Proposal: SU UCL to be a pro-trans Union**

**The Women's Officer introduced the policy and noted that they had collaborated with the Trans Officer on writing it. The Chair noted that this proposal had not been discussed or voted on at any Policy Zone meetings.**

The Chair asked which sabbatical officers would lead on the policy. The Women's Officer suggested it should be jointly led by the Welfare & International Officer, the DOC Officer, the Activities Officer, and the Women's Officer. There were no objections to this suggestion.

There were no further questions or comments. The Chair moved to a vote.

Vote	Number
------	--------

For	10
Against	0
Abstain	1

DECISION: The policy PASSED and was RATIFIED.

## 6. **AGD: PGTA Representative**

The Postgraduate Students' Officer introduced the proposal, explaining that the issues faced by Postgraduate Teaching Assistants are usually different than those faced by other PGR students. It was also noted that this idea was originally proposed by a PGR Faculty Rep and has been discussed at Education Zone.

The Education Officer noted that there will be a significant increase in the number of PGTA's for next academic year, due to the increased workload as a result of COVID-19.

There were no further questions or comments. The Chair moved to a vote.

Vote	Number
For	11
Against	0
Abstain	0

DECISION: The policy PASSED and was RATIFIED.

## 7. **Matter for Discussion: New Provost**

The Chair introduced the matter for discussion, which had been submitted by a student, about Michael Spence, who is due to take over from Michael Arthur as President & Provost of UCL in January 2021. The student expressed concerns about Spence's stance on LGBT+ rights, citing his tenure as President & Provost of Sydney University, where he did not take a stance in favour of same-sex marriage, and the fact that he is the reverend of a church which donated money to the 'Vote No' campaign. They also reference Spence's advocacy for the right wing organisation 'The Ramsay Centre – For Western Civilisation'.

The Chair reported that Spence has been thoroughly vetted by UCL and that almost all the sabbatical officers were involved in the selection procedure for the new Provost, but that they had signed non-disclosure agreements and so were not at liberty to discuss it. They noted that Spence's connections to the Church do not necessarily reflect a position on LGBT+ rights, and that his advising the University of Sydney not take a position on a political referendum is not unusual.

The Chair stated that outright condemnation of a new Provost would be extremely damaging to the Union's "critical friend" relationship with UCL, but that the handover period would be an excellent time to seek assurances about the Provost's stance on LGBT+ rights and tackling

homophobia. They also noted that the Provost will start his tenure one month before LGBT+ history month, which would be an opportune time for a public statement on UCL's commitment to fighting homophobia and transphobia.

The Community Relations Officer asked if this was submitted by an individual student. The Chair responded that it was. The Community Relations Officer stated that they felt it would not be good to simply ignore the matter and echoed the Chair's suggestion that it would be helpful to secure a statement from the New Provost on his commitment to LGBT+ rights. They noted that this could be tied in with other situations in which UCL is actively pledging to change.

The LGBTQ+ Officer reported that they had spoken with the student who submitted the idea, and they had also discussed it with the incoming LGBTQ+ Officer and the Societies and Media Manager. They had been told that it would be taken to a higher Union committee to make a statement.

The Head of Student Engagement & Communication clarified that Union Executive was the committee responsible. They added that the Union could not ask Spence for a statement on his actions, as no concrete actions had been taken, however they could ask for a pledge on his commitment to liberation at UCL.

The Disabled Students' Officer stated that this would be a good opportunity to have a meeting between Spence and all the liberation officers and begin a partnership with regard to liberation causes. There was general consensus that this was a good idea. The Education Officer added that it might be helpful to involve Michael Arthur in these discussions also.

**Action:** Meeting to be set up between Michael Spence and the liberation officers in January 2021

**Action:** Sabbatical officers to meet with Michael Arthur to discuss the issue

## 8 Any Other Business

UCL Rent Guarantor Scheme:

The Chair noted that an email from the Disabled Students' Officer had been received by all Union Executive members that day regarding UCL's cancellation of the Rent Guarantor scheme.

The Chair reported that they had been made aware of this by UCL in May 2020 and the reasoning was that UCL could not afford to take on that level of financial risk under the current circumstances. They added that they and other sabbatical officers have recently received several emails from students on the subject.

The Postgraduate Students' Officer asked whether students who are currently on the scheme will continue to have UCL as their guarantor. The Chair responded that the scheme will continue until the end of any current contracts, but there will be no renewals and no new students will be able to use UCL as a guarantor.

The item was cut short due to time constraints. The Chair offered to set up a meeting with the

Disabled Students' Officer and anyone else who wished to join to discuss the matter.

Action: Chair to set up a meeting to discuss the UCL Rent Guarantor scheme.

<b>Minutes approved as a true and accurate record</b>	
Chair:	<b>Carol Paige</b> , Democracy Operations and Community Officer
Signature:	
Date:	