



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

14 December 2021
11am - 1pm

Chair: Hisham Pryce-Parchment

Agenda

1. Officer Check In
2. Get Vocal
3. Refreshers
4. Term 2 Planning
5. AOB

Apologies:

In attendance: Hisham Pryce-Parchment, Arianna Simonetta, Alfie Makepeace, Ankunda, Ella Spencer, Rbeeza Mobeen, Ellora Singh, Maxine Mallon

1. Officer Check In

Arianna: I've sent out emails to all PT students, and have received emails in response. There's confusion about mitigating circumstances and deferrals. I'll be making a document to answer some of these questions so students can find out the answers to some of these common questions. I'm hoping to get this done before the beginning of the Christmas break. In January I'm hoping to do a survey to find available dates to have an online meet up of part-time students. PT students tend to complain about a lack of support between years. Some students also want to know if they can have temporary dissertation supervisors in their first year to help them process their dissertation topic better and to feel more supported.

Discussions had around the support needed to achieve the above. Potential of utilising the mentoring / buddy schemes for PT students.

Ella: Last week we mainly recovered from the strike action the previous week. Strike action went well, and we did some planning around the strike action that might happen in term 2 with staff union leaders. We visited the Goldsmiths picket and met with the sabbatical officers there. I attended training for Welfare Contacts which was valuable. We started planning for Term 2 and Refreshers also, which we'll talk about in a bit.

Ellora: Working on assignments and exam revision mostly. Looking at planning events for term 2.

Maxine: Recovering from strikes, and debriefed with the strikes student group to discuss how it went. Running a working class students assembly tonight at 6pm in B104. Working class students might not feel as engaged with the strike, so I'm hoping to try and bridge that gap.

Khadijah: I did the audio for an event in the SU on Friday. I'm planning this week's late licence with help from the Disabled Students Society. I'm also making plans for Term 2.

Rbeeza: Lots of university work right now. Trying to plan with Ellora term 2 activities and thinking about the spaces where we can host different events.

Alfie: Met with Spectra yesterday, a charity who offer counselling for trans students. They've had very few referrals from trans students and want to know how to engage better with the trans students body, so we're hosting a meeting tomorrow with trans students so they can ask questions. Spectra wants to come in and have a stand in term 2 so people know who they are and that they exist.

2. Get Vocal

Hisham: Get Vocal would be an accountability measure for the Union, with Exec attending on rotation too so students can meet them and they can talk more about their work. We need to decide how often to run Get Vocal, if Exec would like to be a part of the meetings, etc so we can plan for the meetings. Plan is to hold Get Vocal in person but we may have to hold them online due to restrictions.

*Discussions were held around how often to hold the meetings, with **twice per term** decided as the most effective frequency. First meeting to be scheduled during Refreshers.*

Hisham: Were there any ways officers wanted to engage with students in these meetings? (e.g. just updates and questions?)

Ellora: It would be good to ask for input and feedback on what should the SU do to help students have a better experience (e.g. what events do students want).

Jack: From previous experience students enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the different SOAS boards and committees that officers sit on, so they know what they can raise and to where. Students also enjoy being able to comment on work of the officers and raise their thoughts - not necessarily asking what do students want, but saying that you're doing x or y, what do you think?

Maxine: I think we should hold this towards the end of Refreshers so they have the week to think about things they'd like to raise and can raise them at the end of the week in the meeting.

Arianna: Do you think we should be assigned to specific departments for Get Vocal or just represent general queries and support?

Hisham: In the past they've been run more generally around the SU. There's probably space for that specificity if we want it though.

Maxine: In terms of how it runs, would it go officer by officer and you'd take questions per officer?

Hisham: It's flexible about how we'll run it - however we all feel will be the most beneficial for students to interact!

3. Refreshers

Khadijah: First week of term 2 (10th - 14th). It's a good time to get re-engagement with the SU. I want to screen Everything Must Fall and link it to the upcoming strikes, as students are asking for more political education for students around strikes earlier. Would appreciate meetups to be run online/in-person during that week. I'm sending out something to sports and societies this week too to see what they want to host. I'm asking for form handins by Tuesday 4th January so there's time to make a Refreshers site on the SU website.

Hisham: Did we also want to do a Campaigns refreshers?

Ella: I was thinking about hosting some kind of Super Forum for campaigns to come together to chat. It's thinking about if we want a campaigns strategising space or a recruitment space.

Jack: SEER has offered to run a Freshers Fayre for us in PWW. They'd set up the space and have Ambassadors to ensure a 1 way system and covid restrictions are abided by. Do we want to take them up on this offer, or given that we may be online is it worth potentially asking societies to take part when it might not happen?

General support for the idea of a Fayre. Jack will connect SEER and the Sabbatical Officers.

A discussion was had about how to make sure Exec are able to hold recurring liberation spaces throughout the year after ReFreshers.

4. Term 2 Planning

Hisham: This is a space to raise if there's anything you'd like to do in term 2, so we can start thinking and planning. In the New Year I'm going to try and think about how we can fundraise for the SU as we're pretty limited by finances. We've got LGBTQ+ History Month in February and Womxns History Month in March.

Arianna: PT students often struggle with motivation. I'd like to record an interview with a PT alum to help motivate students with tips on how to get through education as a PT student.

Hisham to put Arianna in contact with the school's alumni team.

Maxine: It might be good to use Refreshers and regular meeting spaces as a way to engage students who use liberation months to know what they want from them.

Alife: LGBTQ+ History Month - it's Halaocaust Remembrance day on Jan 25th and we could link something about the persecution of gay people under the Nazi regime.

Ella: There might be strikes in late February / early March, so we need to be prepared to hold events online.

Maxine: Holding events during these liberation months focussed on different intersections would be good.

Ella: In the past we've organised liberation months using collective google docs, which we can use again from January to organise these.

Hisham: Would also be useful to create working groups to focus on each month to help stick to deadlines etc in the planning of each.

Jack: Does anyone have any ideas of what we could do to engage students in the election more? To run and to vote. Let me know!

5. AOB

N/A