



# Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

14 January 2022  
2pm - 4pm

**Chair:** Hisham Pryce-Parchment

## Agenda

1. Officer Check In
2. SU Funding and Distribution
3. Governance Review
4. LGBT+ History Month
5. Elections
6. AOB

### **Apologies:**

**In attendance:** Ankunda, Lucia Rodriguez Pedroso, Lena Koch, Rbeeza Mobeen, Ellora Singh, Arianna Simonetta, Hisham Pryce-Parchment, Krizzel Mapaye, Anika Chauhan

## 1. Officer Check In

**Lena:** Looking to run events around the upcoming divestment campaign which we might involve People & Planet in

**Rbeeza:** Focussed on university work right now

**Ellora:** Focussed on university work right now too

**Hisham:** Currently planning how to achieve my manifesto aims this term; excited for term 2

**Anika:** Hoping to do more within this role in term 2

**Khadijah:** Also planning how to achieve my manifesto aims this term; also excited for term 2

**Krizzel:** I'm already working with Alfie to plan LGBT History Month!

**Arianna:** I held a Zoom meeting with part-time students yesterday and am looking to organise something in person soon hopefully. I've been keeping up with part-time students' feedback and concerns and will pass these on later in this meeting.

**Lucia:** This term feels like it will be less pressure as I'm more confident with my role now. I'm looking to achieve my manifesto goals and continue my work in the committees and boards I sit on.

## 2. SU Funding and Distribution

**Ankunda:** The SU has funds totalling around £30,000 that need redistributing. We're working out the best way to do this. In our current situation money is tight for students so it doesn't make sense for the SU to just sit on this money. We're thinking that £25,000 of this will be dedicated to welfare and mental health, and we're having discussions about how this could be used (e.g. interpreters for disabled students). We know anxiety is an issue right now, and there's students such as international students or students stuck in halls who may need support, so we're trying to work out how these funds could best be used to support those students. There's also a £15,000 fund for innovation and entrepreneurship, and we need Exec to help us think about what this means and how we can distribute the fund. Conversations about this will have to involve the SU General Manager and Finance Manager.

**Anika:** Who in particular will these funds be allocated to? Is it a case by case basis, who has the power to decide who receives the funds, what happens when the funds run out (will they be replenished), and who will be able to see the details of each students' case?

**Ankunda:** Currently we're looking to get officers involved in this distribution project and we'll make a decision about where to distribute this money. I don't think that everyone in the SU would have to know about what's happening with every student, and students shouldn't have to give too much detail or provide reports about what they've done with the money; we should place trust in our students. I'm not sure what would happen when the money runs out as the money was given to the SU from various organisations and I'm not sure if we can reapply for these or the funding is now given out. The situation now is that we have this money and we need to decide how to distribute this within an amount of time.

**Krizzel:** I'm worried that SOAS might use this fund as a way to displace certain support they already have in place - they may direct students to the SU fund instead of letting them use their resources. Maybe we should open this to a public forum to get the best representation of the student body and its needs, and could help us understand how to spend the money. If we spend all of the money this year does that mean there won't be any left for next year?

**Ankunda:** We don't have to spend all of the money this year; there's only a few months until this academic year ends, but we need to make sure we've planned a format for the distribution of this money that's helpful for the next Exec and that the SU Finance Manager can handle easily without constantly having to involve Exec. In terms of a wider forum, this might complicate the space.

*A discussion was had about how to determine student needs fairly for access to these funds, and who will support Exec in allocating these funds (e.g. Trustees, SU Finance Manager).*

**Krizzel:** I'm worried that a welfare fund might be overloaded with applications...

**Hisham:** We should be thinking about this money focusing on projects that we can deliver to improve things for students, as these will provide benefits to multiple students and we can't get caught up in the logistics of allocating funds to individual students.

*A discussion was had about allocating funds to individuals vs funding community building, longer term projects. A working group was established to carry these conversations forward.*

### 3. Governance Review

**Lucia:** The SU Trustee Board approved the start of a governance review within the SU and I wanted to update everyone on what's been happening with that. Alongside the incoming SU Interim Manager we've decided to focus our governance review on '*SU Decision Making Processes*' and '*Structure of the SU*'. The incoming Interim Manager has a lot of experience working in SUs and will be coming in with research about the governance structures of other SUs and how we align with those. We expect by the end of term 2 / beginning of term 3 we'll have the research prepared to go forward, and the external bodies supporting the review will be reaching out to you to ask about what you think works or doesn't work, etc.

## 4. LGBT+ History Month

*Hisham shared documents to support centralised planning of activities for LGBT+ History Month.*

*Krizzel discussed the ideas that they've been working on with Alfie and the support they'd need from the Union to achieve these.*

*A brief discussion was also led by Rbeeza and Ellora about event planning for Womxn's History Month in March.*

## 5. Elections

**Jack:** The SU Spring Election is coming up; nominations open February 7th and close March 7th. There will then be two weeks of campaigning with voting taking place March 14th - 18th. All of our Sabbatical Officer roles will be up for election as well as most of our Exec Officer roles. Please start thinking about if you'd like to run again, start encouraging other people to run for roles, and be prepared for interested students to ask you questions about your roles. I'll be organising event ideas for the lead up to the election so please keep an eye out for emails if you'd like to be involved, and please let me know from your experience if there's anything else you think the SU could do to encourage people to take part in our election!

## 4. AOB

N/A