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# **Union Council**

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| **Date:**  | 05.12.24 |
| **Time:** | 5.00pm |
| **Location:** | S3.01 and Online |

## **Minutes**

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| 1.0 | 1.1 | **Present:** Lucy Ryan, Bethany Jackson, Wren Sell, Natasha Neal, Erin Cook, Will Deeley, Amy Pile, Abi Parker, Afolayan Oduntan, Alana De Capua, Aliyah Rashid, Anish Khuttan, Asad Anfishi, Beel Dedaur, Caoilinn Keanne , Charlotte Owen, Cian Fitzsimons, Con Macadam, Debbie Cunningham, Diana Michel Medrano, Donna Marie-Langston, Duarte Basto De Lima, Ellie Lee, Eugenia Paintsil , Fran Bridges, Florence Sancto, Gloria Penu,Grace Paisley, Gurman Singh, Hasada Ranti, Hammad Qaiser, Harry Knowles,Izzy Eastham, Jacob Afedi, Jake Bartholomew, Jasmine Young, James Oppong-Arthur, Jean Marc Amagoua, Jessica Leach, Joanna Zalewska – Jarvis, Jo Oldach, John Heatley, Kristen Clarke, Laura Eustration, Lucy Thompson, Matthew Osborne, Michael Wilcox, Mirjam Moscovici, Mushtag Kahin, Peter Ashiagbor, Prince Maya, Ritamary Benny, Rose Anyaegbu,Sadie Stratford, Sam Fernandez, Sarah Squirrel, Sophie Lloyd Rossi, Soufriere, Stephanie Rodriquez, Tom Broadbent, Tejal Paige Eccleston Palmer, Tricia Glassburrow, Tyrese Senior, Vivian Owobu, Vinisha Naik, Vytautas Kravenka, Will Brown, Wesley Cooney, Yash Bissessur, Nadia Foquim, Fabian Moore, Jaydon Wheeler, Marcela Nistor, Ragib Hasin, Kosoni Aromire, Sarah Jackson,Baz Adeleye, Dan Charlton, Nash Gorogodo, James Wade, Jack Vince, Erin Cook, Nana Duah Awere, Adriana Karaszova, Emily Perry, Dee Whyte, Ben Turnbull, Lauren Milne, Hana Mahmood-Tauseeque, Malavika Sreekumar |  |
|  | 1.2 | **In attendance:** Sarah Nawaz |  |
|  | 1.3 | **Apologies for Absence (Union Officers only):** Harry Tomlinson |  |
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| 2.0 |  | **Key Dates** | **EC** |
|  |  | * Monthly Monday Meals
* Boxing Day Dinner: Thursday 26th Dec at 2pm – Spindle and Thread
* Christmas Break SU events
* Refresher’s Fair: Thursday 16th January 12-3pm
* RAG Week: Monday 27th – Friday 31st January
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| 3.0 |  | **Elected Officer Updates** |  |
|  |  | Wren Sell (VPAB)* Student Mixers
* Waste Not, Want Not: campaign to ensure that rubbish is recycled correctly. Posters have been put up around campus and accommodation showing the correct bins to use
* Movember: final update: a total £668.18 was raised
* Varsity captain: nominations will open on 6th Jan

Bethany Jackson (VPEW UXB and AYLS)* Volunteer Event – attended a thank you event held by One Can Trust
* Smile Campaign at UXB: handed out Fairtrade products to the community, 58 smiles were received
* Takeovers at UXB: a takeover by the SU activities team was recently held, looking to do another one at the end of January

Amy Pile (President)* Safety Net Campaign: this is the new name for the umbrella of safety campaign she has recently spoken about. An article will be coming out soon with all the information
* University Council: a paper was presented by the SU. One of the main topics discussed was student safety
* Accommodation issues: this was raised a few months ago at union council. The university is now rectifying issues that students raised

Harry Tomlinson (VPEW HW)* Smile Campaign HW: 2000 smiles were received.
* Harold’s Hydration
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| 4.0 |  | **Student Life at BNU**  | **AP and EC** |
|  |  | * Council is a university committee that reviews the running of the university to ensure it is doing the best for students
* The committee includes external members and reviews items such as governance, strategy and decisions made
* There is an opportunity for students to attend the next Council meeting on the 5th of February
* They would like 4 to 6 students to come and speak about their different university experiences
* Council members will then break into groups, given a scenario to discuss and come up with the support they would offer – attending students will help
* This is a chance for students to speak directly to Council members and let them know their experiences at BNU
* If anyone is interested, please let her know.
* As part of the meeting there will a board with student views on their experience at university
* Today, would like to ask attendees for their answers to the following questions which will be put on the board
* Answers can be anonymous or with a name attached
* Attendees were asked to submit their answers via menti or using post it notes for those attending in person.
* The questions were:
* What has been the most positive aspect of your time at university so far and why?
* Are there any challenges or obstacles you’ve faced during your studies and how could the university improve to address these?
* How satisfied are you with the resources and facilities provided by the university (e.g. libraries, study spaces, sports, social spaces)
* Do you feel supported by the university in terms of mental health, academic guidance and career support?
* How would you describe the sense of community at the university? Are there any suggestions you have to improve inclusivity and student engagement?
* What’s one thing you think the university could do to enhance the overall student experience for current and future students?
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| 5.0 |  | **Winter Break** |  |
|  |  | * Support is available for students
* Visit bucks.ac.uk/services-open-our-students for university support services
* The SU email, union@bnu.ac.uk will be monitored
* There are activities for those students who will still be around, including hot chocolate bomb making, quiz, board games, winter social
* Check the What’s On page on the SU website for all the details.
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| 6.0 |  | **Officer Hot Seat** |  |
|  |  | *A few of you mentioned introducing quiet spaces on campus in your election manifestos. Is this something that has been progressed?** BJ: a space at Uxbridge has been identified but need to find out what the university will allow her to do with the space. Still want to hear from students about what they would like.
* WS: Will look into spaces for Wycombe after Christmas

*As you head into the second half of your elected term, what is one thing you would like to achieve for students?** AP: Safety not just in university but in the community – getting better lighting and more CCTV
* WS: will focus on getting disability sport sessions up and running
* BJ: quiet spaces at both campuses, making sure students at Uxbridge and Aylesbury feel involved. Would also look at expanding societies around Aylesbury

*What do you think the new vice chancellor should be implementing as his first priority to improve students educational experience?** AP: there should be consistency in the resources students have. The basics such as library resources, teaching need to be in place so that they can be built on
* WS: ensure the small things are fixed

*Can we improve the prayer room?** AP: would need more information but happy to raise this. Please contact one of the officers

*Wren – how can club and societies opportunities for students at Uxbridge be improved as opportunities are limited?** WS: I understand it is difficult for those campuses to take part but would like to do more. One way would be for societies to hold sessions at Uxbridge as well as Aylesbury.
* BJ: I have been talking to societies about creating a branch at each campus

*What are the student voice officers currently working towards?** AP: Officers have raised a number of campaigns/topics they would like to work on. These include student safety, free haircuts for students, disability awareness, breast cancer awareness

*Can societies and clubs committee rules be less strict? It feels like there is a million rules, meetings you must attend and not be constantly questioned by the SU** WS: the rules are part of the SU constitution and by-laws. They are there for student safety and welfare. Please speak to staff about why you feel they are strict, and they may be able to help.

*How can students propose changes to the SU constitution or university policy?** LR: as we saw at the last union council, the constitution can be changed depending on what it is. Please speak to the Representation team. The SU does not have ownership of university policies, but elected officers can pass on student views.
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| 7.0 |  | **Prize Draw and Any Other Business** |  |
|  |  | * Prize draw: winner was Lucy Thompson, who gets a £20 supermarket voucher
* Campus Closure: 20th Dec to 2nd Jan.
* Dates for library, gym and other specific facilities can be found on the BNU website
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| 8.0 |  | **Date and time of subsequent meetings:**  |  |
|  |  | Thursday 16th January at 5.00pm, Room S3.02 and Online |  |