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# **Union Council**

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| **Date:**  | 16.01.25 |
| **Time:** | 5.00pm |
| **Location:** | S3.02 and Online |

## **Minutes**

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| 1.0 | 1.1 | **Present:** Will Deeley, Lucy Ryan, Amy Pile, Harry Tomlinson, Wren Sell, Bethany Jackson, Kelly Wiles, Jessica Hughes, Tristan Tipping, Sarah Jackson, Natasha Neal, Erin Cook, Vivian Owobu, Mushtag Kahin, Joanna Zalewska-Jarvis, Adaeze Ubah, Afolayan Oduntan,Alana De Capua, Aliyah Rashid, Asad Anfishi, Chisom Muomah, Debbie Cunningham, Diana Medrano, Docia Essel, Donna Langston, Duarte Basto De Lima, Emily Cox, Gloria Penu, Gurman Singh, Hannah Middleton, Harry Knowles, Jack Vince, Jilna James, Matthew Osborne, Mirjam Moscovici, Nadia Foquim, Rose Anyaegbu, Ryley Shanahan,Sadie Stratford, Sarah Jackson, Sarah Squirrell, Stephanie Rodriquez, Thomas Carpenter,Theo Richens, Georgia Haynes, Tara-Lee Hollander, Ben Turnball, Isham Constance, Madhav Jayalal, Ratu Nailatikau, Dee Whyte, Shannon Vale, Sachin Davis, Danyal Mehmood, Lily Wood, Thomas Broadbent, Emily Perry, Anish Khuttan, Vytautas Kravcenka, Michael Wilcox, Miles Elliot Aiden Wilder, Phoebe Leonardi, Hugo ChaponLauren Milne, Ellie Lee, Diya Doshi, Mamta Gautam, Jones Goodacre, John Heatley, Sam Fernandez, Con Macadam, Erin Cook, Malavika Sreekumar, Jacob Afedi, Lewis Mceneaney |  |
|  | 1.2 | **In attendance:** Sarah Nawaz |  |
|  | 1.3 | **Apologies for Absence (Union Officers only):**  |  |
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| 2.0 |  | **Opening and Key Dates** | **EC** |
|  |  | * Big Bucks Meal (Tuesday/Thursday/Sunday at 5.30pm in the Lounge)
* More than a Bar 2025
* OMB! Hacker the Dog: Wednesday 22nd Jan from 10pm
* Weekly Mental Health Group sessions: Thursday at 10.15 – 11.45am (sign up is essential)
* Rag Week: 27th to 31st Jan
* Boycott your Bed: Sat 1st Feb from 7pm in the Events hall
* Wilkinson: Friday 7th Feb from 10pm
* Elections nominations close: Friday 14th Feb at 12pm
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| 3.0 |  | **Elected Officer Updates** |  |
|  |  | HT (VPEW HW)* Care Leaver Campaign: provided Support for Care Leaver students over the holidays via the winter activities. This includes Chocolate bomb making, Card making, a Winter walk and Boxing Day dinner. Looking to put on events over Easter and Summer holidays.
* Created promotional material for Harold’s Hydration (Posters, Leaflets, social media) and looking to expand the campaign during Varsity and Refresher’s
* New Laptop lockers have been installed in library; Helping reduce digital poverty. Should be ready to go from the week of 13/01/25.

AP (President)* Umbrella of Safety is now Safety Net: the aim is to ensure students feel safe and supported by having resources available in one place. Currently putting together a spreadsheet with all the available resources and support. The student hub and dean of students are involved.
* University Council Away Day: takes place next month during which students have an opportunity to speak about their experiences at university with Council members. A plan for the day was circulated via email and currently have 5 students interested in taking part
* The Big Sleep Out for Wycombe Homeless Connection: will be doing this with HT and it takes place at Adam’s Park.

BJ (VPEW for UXB and AYLS)* Kitting Out Wellbeing
	+ Wellbeing kits launched 18th Dec
	+ Students can collect these boxes from the SU offices of the campus
	+ Boxes contain resources for self-help techniques and strategies, as well as signposting to support services. The boxes are plain to encourage you to design your wellbeing kit to make it completely unique to you. It is also bigger so you can add your own items to it too.
* Welcome week
	+ Induction week for Jan 25 cohorts – telling students about the Students’ Union
	+ Students returning after break
	+ Range of activities available for students to take part in across both Uxbridge and Aylesbury
	+ Attending refreshers events
* Uxbridge
	+ Campus Link – additional trip from HW/Uxb. Lobbied for a service during the day to support students. Has been in place since 13th Jan.
		- If there are any concerns, please do let us know
	+ Chairs – park room chairs are being actioned.
		- Been speaking to various stakeholders within the university about the seating.
		- At this stage the university are waiting for the order to be processed and delivered.
		- There is not date for delivery yet
* Boycott your Bed
	+ 1st Feb
	+ 12 hours of swapping your bed for the events hall floor
	+ Raising money for Wycombe Homelessness connection. Charity in Wycombe who support individuals with homelessness.
	+ Event starts at 7pm on the Saturday and will finish at 7am on the Sunday
	+ We’ll be doing activities in the evening
	+ Must be signed up on the What's on Page.
	+ Fundraising page is embedded on the page/article.
	+ Please share and sign up

WS (VPAB)* Varsity
* 9th and 12th March 2025
* 15th Feb 2025 – Bucks Dance Comp, separate ticket required
* 22nd Feb 2025 – Reading Dance Comp, Varsity Point
* Tickets on sale NOW - £15
	+ Includes t-shirt, programme, packed lunch, wristband & travel if required – deadline 2nd March
* Varsity Captains announced last night – Will & Daisy
* Looking for videographers – if interested, email Wren.Sell@bnu.ac.uk with your showreel or examples of your work. You buy your ticket and it’ll be refunded – rewarded role of £50 after the days
* <https://www.bucksstudentsunion.org/ents/event/10224/>

Student Trustee Update - Dee Whyte:* Board meeting held this Tuesday
* Updates received from elected officers and CEO
* Spoke about the incoming vice chancellor and his relationship with the students’ union
* Policies were discussed and approved
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| 4.0 |  | **Strive** | **JH** |
|  |  | * Takes place 24th to 28th February
* Strive is the annual employability festival
* It is a week of workshops, guest speakers and skills sessions to boost your employability
* It will begin with a networking event with multiple employers attending from various professions
* There will be sessions held throughout the week on topics such as public speaking, time management, using social media, leading a team
* These sessions would benefit anyone who is thinking of running for a role in the upcoming elections
* Will be aiming to record the sessions so they are available to view for those who cannot attend
* All information and sign up is on the What’s On page
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| 5.0 |  | **Elections** | **EC** |
|  |  | * Congratulations to the Varsity captains for this year
* Elected Officer and Student Trustee Roles: nominations close 14th Feb with voting opening on the 3rd March
* Student Reps:
* Jan cohort nominations close 24th Jan with voting opening on 27th Jan
* Sept 25/26 cohort nominations close 14th Feb with voting opening 3rd March.
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| 6.0 |  | **Could You Be a Leader?** | **LR** |
|  |  | * Why do we talk about leadership roles so much?
* Being in one of these roles can help during and after your time as a student
* In these roles you can gain skills that will be transferable to your chosen profession
* Skills include communication, problem solving, teamwork, negotiation
* Having these skills gives you an advantage in the employment market
* Have created a quiz to see which leadership role you are
* QR code shared and attendees were given the opportunity to take the quiz
* The aim of the quiz is to show all the different roles available and the end answer may be a role you had not thought of
* Examples were given of previous students who were in these roles and what it led them to
* If interested in any of these roles, come and speak to the representation team.
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| 7.0 |  | **Elected Officer Hot Seat** |  |
|  |  | Who’s going to win varsity?* All: We are!

Rugby at Varsity: this year will be playing mixed touch rugby, is it worth taking part as it will be a friendly and doesn’t count towards the main result?* WS: Not sure why this year rugby will not be played for a point but it is still worth taking part to still experience varsity

What does everyone’s role entail?* WS: In the VPAB role, you work with sports and societies as well as committee members and the activities team to ensure they have everything they need. Also help with volunteering and green initiatives, Varsity, you sit on the EDI committee and make sure everyone feels welcome
* HT: all four roles represent the student voice and look to amplify your needs and deliver messages to those higher up. He is VPEW for HW and BJ is VPEW for the other campuses. In the role you work with the representation team and school officers, receiving feedback and taking it to those higher up. The aim is to enhance the educational experience. Also run welfare campaigns.
* AP: as president you would aim to ensure the student voice reaches all platforms. There is the opportunity to make the role your own. If you would like more details, come and speak to them
* BJ: Same as HT but work in Uxbridge and Aylesbury. Those campuses have different needs and require a different approach

What are your plans for the upcoming cultural events?WS: Currently planning for Chinese new year including OMB! Night. Feb is also LGBTQIA+ history month so planning events to mark this. If there are any events that need celebrating let her know.What measures do you have in place to ensure transparency in your decisions and accountability to the student body?* HT: union council is one forum that students can hold the officers and the union to account
* AP: the union has a trustee board that will review decisions and strategic plans the union makes. Also make sure that students can voice any feedback they have

Can you please explain what the trustee part of an elected officer role is?* AP: a trustee works with to hold the union to account, ensuring the correct decisions are made. An important part of the role will be to review policies, strategic plans and decisions

How do you think the events as refreshers have gone?* HT: has gone amazingly, Dick and Dom event went well
* AP: refreshers fair was well attended
* BJ: It has been great meeting students at these events and being seen outside of the office. Seems everyone had a good time. Was able to speak to students and gain ideas for Uxbridge and Aylesbury

Why should I run for a sabb role? It sounds like a lot of stress and meetings?* WS: sounds like a lot of meetings but isn’t. It is a lot more student facing and you can gain lots of experience like planning events, reading and writing reports etc It is so much more than job description and difficult to put into words.
* AP: It is 50/50 helping support students as well as gaining skills yourself. I have gained skills in public speaking as part of role which will help in my future career as nurse. I enjoy coming to work which is really important
* BJ: It is what you make it and is a varied role
* AP: the union is also a friendly and supportive place to work

What are your plans to support students who aren’t on typical academic years (Jan cohort) through the summer? We can’t play sports or join societies – how can we get the same university experience?* WS: you can still join societies and sports clubs throughout the year
* HT: planning to put on events during the summer as part of care leavers campaign but these will be open to all students
* AP: it is a good question. Times are changing where university is open all year round and this is something the union will have to discuss
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| 8.0 |  | **Prize Draw and Any Other Business** |  |
|  |  | * All those who attend union council (in person and online) are entered into a draw to win supermarket food voucher
* Attendees must stay to the end to be in a chance of winning
* A second spin of the wheel was done as the first winner had left the meeting
* Winner: Madhav Jayalal
* Next meeting in Feb will be the hustings for the elected officer roles.
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| 9.0 |  | **Date and time of subsequent meetings:**  |  |
|  |  | Thursday 27th February 2025 at 5.00pm Room S3.02 and Online |  |