



Date: 03/12/2020
Time: 14:00 – 16:00
Venue: Zoom

**Education Zone
Minutes**

Chair: Ayman Benmati, Education Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Aarushi Menon, Women's Officer	✓		
Aishwarya Shaji, Laws Undergraduate Faculty Rep			
Aleksandra Kaye, Social and Historical Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep (Job share)	✓		
Alisha Dhume, Laws Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep (Job share)	✓		
Anisa Ahmed, Medical Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep			
Anna Romanovska, Social & Historical Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep			
Ayman Benmati, Education Officer, Chair	✓		
Brittany Eldridge, Arts & Humanities Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep (Job share)	✓		
Ecem Ergin, Built Environment Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep	✓		
Erin Simpson, Institute of Education Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep (Job share)	✓		
Espen Bergqvist, Mathematical & Physical Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep	✓		
Fan Wu, Institute of Education Undergraduate Faculty Rep			
Georgia Constantinou, Medical Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep			
Graham Van Goffrier, Mathematical & Physical Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep			
Gunay Karimova, Life Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep	✓		
Hao Zhang, Built Environment Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep (Job share)			
Harlowe Robinson, Arts & Humanities Undergraduate Rep	✓		
Izabella Wodzka, Arts & Humanities Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep (Job share)		✓	
Javier Bautista, Brain Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep	✓		
Jim Onyemenam, Postgraduate Students' Officer	✓		
Johnny Sparkes, Institute of Education Postgraduate Taught ITE Faculty Rep			
Julian Laufs, Engineering Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep		✓	
Kan Yan Chloe Li, Population Health Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep			
Laure Montangerand, Social & Historical Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep	✓		
Lolly Griffiths, Built Environment Undergraduate Faculty Rep	✓		
Maria Ichim, Life Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep			
Melissa Mahmud, Arts & Humanities Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep	✓		
Naheem Yaqub, Life Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep	✓		
Qianyi Deng, Mathematical & Physical Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep	✓		
Ruoning Li, Brain Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep	✓		
Sarah Lasoye, Population Health Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep		✓	
Sera Singh, Laws Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep (Job share)		✓	
Thiara Rupasinghe, Medical Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep	✓		
Valentyna Sydorenko, Engineering Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep	✓		
Veronika Dvorakova, Brain Sciences Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep	✓		
William Stewart, Social and Historical Sciences Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep (Job share)	✓		

Xuanyi Ma, Institute of Education Postgraduate Research Faculty Rep (Job share)	✓		
Viktoria Makai, Institute of Education Postgraduate Taught Rep			
Yanning Yang, Built Environment Postgraduate Taught Faculty Rep (Job share)			
Yolanne Lee, Engineering Sciences Undergraduate Faculty Rep	✓		

In Attendance:
Aimee Connolly, Representation and Democracy Coordinator
Danielle Swanson, Advice and Advocacy Manager
Simon To, Leadership Development and Change Manager
Student Observers

1. Preliminary Matters

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for taking on their role. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chair reported back on the actions from the previous meeting. The Postgraduate Students' Officer updated the Zone on their work on PGTA issues and asked for an update to be given on the action at the next meeting.

2. Officer Portfolio Review

A guest speaker from the consultancy MiraGold joined to speak with members about the ongoing Officer Portfolio Review. A number of questions were put to members to give their feedback on.

3. Announcement: Union Executive Fund

The Chair explained that a new fund is open to all elected Officers to apply for up to £500 in funding for projects or events they wish to run. They noted that more information will be circulated with the minutes.

ACTION: The Representation and Democracy Coordinator is to circulate information regarding the Union Executive Fund following the meeting

4. Announcement: Activities During the Closure Period

The Chair noted that there will be virtual activities available for students to partake in over the Christmas break and that more information will be available on the SU's website.

5. Matter for Discussion: Hybrid Model of Education

The members split up into breakout rooms and discussed their concerns about the hybrid model of education, as well as their ideas for improvement.

Discussions centred around:

- Synchronous and asynchronous teaching
- Socialising
- PGTA workload

- Timing of announcements
- Support for international students
- Mixed feelings across departments
- Complexity of the system
- Face to face teaching

ACTION: Education Officer and Postgraduate Students' Officer to report back items raised during the discussion to relevant UCL committees

6. Matter for Discussion: Improvements to the Foreign Language Provision for Research Students

The Chair introduced the discussion. Members agreed that PGR students should receive funding support for taking language classes or that they should be free. Comparisons were made to what is offered for Doctoral students in other UK universities and a discussion was had around auditing classes.

7. Matter for Information: Outcomes from/Input into Committees

The Chair reported updates from recent meetings, noting that more funding for Academic Reps support was discussed at Education Committee and the student experience was discussed at Student Experience Committee.

8. Questions to Officers

A question was asked about the distinction of pay between PGTA's who only teach and those who also mark papers and do other tasks. It was noted that the pay is at Grade 6 and the spinal point will depend on the experience of the PGTA. Issues were also raised about PGTA contracts.

A PGT Faculty Rep asked a question about being able to change modules in term two. A query was also asked about the child friendly study spaces on campus. A final question was asked about any requirements to use cameras during lectures.

9. AOB

There was one matter raised. A Faculty Rep queried if conference funds can be used for purchasing technical equipment. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and wished them well until the next meeting.

ACTION: The Postgraduate Students' Officer to enquire if conference funds can be used for purchasing technical equipment

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Ayman Benmati, Education Officer
Signature:	AB

Date:	07/12/2021
-------	------------