



Date: 25/01/2021
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
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	✓		
Yaning Wu, Population Health Sciences Undergraduate Faculty 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 attending. The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

The Chair reported back on the actions from the previous meeting, noting all were completed.

2. Announcement: Leadership Race 2021

The Chair informed members that nominations for the Spring elections will open on February 1st and gave them information about the new roles that are available for students to run for.

3. Announcement: No Detriment Policy

The Chair provided an update about the work being done currently on introducing a No Detriment Policy at UCL. They also reported that a policy had been passed at Union Executive in support of a No Detriment Policy and that this is now a Union policy.

4. Announcement: Provost's To-Do List

The Chair notified members that a session had taken place with the new Provost whereby the Union had presented a to-do list and details about issues that students are currently facing. Another session is to take place soon to continue these discussions further.

5. Matter for Discussion: Extended PhD Funding

Discussions revolved around UKRI, the concerns of self-funded research students, access to facilities and, the Financial Assistance Fund and non-fee paying extensions to finish writing research.

6. Matter for Discussion: Moodle Material Uploads

Members agreed they want Moodle to be more accessible and easy to use. Discussions revolved around whether or not it would be possible to have notifications on Moodle but all agreed that this would be helpful. It was agreed that there should be departmental guidance for lecturers on how to make Moodle accessible for students.

7. Matter for Discussion: Postgraduate Fee Reduction

Members agreed that there should be a focus on international postgraduate students and that international PGR students pay significantly higher fees than home students. Discussions focused on efforts being made in UCL and on a national basis.

ACTION: Postgraduate Students' Officer to seek information about why there is such a large gap between the fees that international and home research students pay.

8. Matter for Discussion: On Campus Activity During Term 3

The Chair started the discussion, asking members what their thoughts were on the balance of on campus activity and remote activity on campus during term three. There was differing opinions amongst students regarding face to face activity, with some wanting to return to campus in term 3 and others feeling that it would make students who couldn't be there feel more isolated. Discussions also focused on whether or not teaching staff would feel comfortable returning to campus, including PGTAs. The discussion ended agreeing that currently it is uncertain what the situation will look like by term 3 but that it is important to consider the needs of all relevant stakeholders.

9. Policy Proposal: Improvements to the foreign language provision for research students

The proposer introduced the proposal noting that they would like the Union to lobby UCL to offer research students free language courses. Discussions focused on the current funding in place and how many students receive it. Members also discussed what similar initiatives are in place in other universities.

The proposal went to a vote.

For	11
Against	1
Abstain	4

DECISION: The policy was passed and will go to Union Executive for ratification.

ACTION: The Chair is to report back at the next meeting what percentage of students who apply for the funding receive it.

10. Policy Proposal: Reduction of International Student Tuition Fees

The Chair introduced the policy proposal noting that the proposer would like the Union to lobby the university to reduce international student tuition fees. There were no substantive comments about the proposal.

The proposal went to a vote.

For	17
Against	0
Abstain	2

DECISION: The policy was passed and will go to Union Executive for ratification.

11. Matters for Information: Input into/Outcomes from Committees

The Chair and Postgraduate Students' Officer reported back from committees they sit on that recently took place. The Chair noted that at a recent Education Committee they decided to reinstate the EACP to discuss the No Detriment Policy.

The Chair also noted that the Student Priorities for Education Report will be presented at the next Student Experience Committee and a number of issues will be raised at Library Committee, including click and collect, booking library spaces and scan and send.

12. Questions to Officers

There were no questions for the Officers. A member informed students of an online platform that is helpful for studying with peers called On Bindr.

13. AOB

There was no Any Other Business.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Ayman Benmati, Education Officer
Signature:	AB
Date:	27/01/2021