



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes - (03.02.2026)

Time: 17:30

Date: 4th December 2025

Chair: Bianca Holland

Lily Pead-Williams	BA (Hons) Sound and Music Production
Ellie Piper	BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography
Alexander Richards	BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science
Aida Hashemzadeh	BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography
Zainab Yusuf Abdul-Raheem	Professional MA by Research Communications, PR and the Media
Louis Barrett	BA (Hons) Performing Arts
Izzy Cordwell	BSc Mental Health Nursing (Sept 24)
Eunice Omolere	MSc Human Resource Management
Nathan Welham	BSc (Hons) Zoology
Samuel Stevens	BSc (Hons) Zoology
Leah Doughty	BA (Hons) Architecture
Zahoor-Fatima Mahmood	BA (Hons) Education
Ben Jordan	BSc (Hons) Computer Games Programming
Annabel Tindal	LLB (Hons) Law
Izzy Giles	BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation Biology
Catriona Brown	BSc (Hons) Geography
Sydnee Hodges	BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation Biology

Ruby Goldthorpe	BA (Hons) Sport Business Management
Kareem Fahmy	MSc Sports Therapy
Rebekka Tozer	BA (Hons) International Hospitality & Tourism Management
Noah Earey	BA (Hons) Drama and Performance Practice
Sam Havard	BA (Hons) Music Business
Anna Gilkerson	BA (Hons) Education, Inclusion and Special Educational Needs
George Hewett	BSc (Hons) Computer Science
Isabella Moody	BA (Hons) Human Geography
Pearlgin Goba	BSc (Hons) Urban Planning
Lois Walley	BSc (Hons) Clinical & Health Psychology
Amelia Ainsley	Professional Policing (Level 5)
Dominick Vine	BA (Hons) Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics
Molly Checchia	BEd (Hons) Primary Education with QTS
Maisie Chelu-Walmsley	BSc (Hons) Criminology & Psychology
Moss Hughes	BA (Hons) Animation
Maddie Davis	BSc (Hons) Computer Games Design
Finley Davies	BA (Hons) English Literature & Creative Writing
Rebecca Honeyborne	BA (Hons) Sound and Music Production

Jessica Oppenheim	BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation Biology
Chris Lamb	BSc (Hons) Wildlife Conservation Biology
Charlotte Mantle	BA (Hons) Sport Business Management
Kieran Kristian	BSc (Hons) Computer Games Programming
Roarke Conybear	BA (Hons) Business and Management
Tudur Sinderby	BSc (Hons) Clinical & Health Psychology
Sharmon Pearson	BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance
Joseph Atton	BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance
Yasir Khan	MSc Data Science
Grace Holloway	PGCE Primary Education (KS1/KS2)
Daniel Neate	BSc (Hons) Zoology
Poppy Mulford	MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration)
Wendy Meester	BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography
Finley Durham	BA (Hons) Human Geography
Pharrell Johnson	BSc (Hons) Accounting & Business Management
Tom Neal	BA (Hons) Geography
Sumaya Amin Reya	Professional MSc by Research International Business
Ellie Bayliffe	BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology

James Wade	BSc Adult Nursing (Sept 25)
Nina Connell	BA (Hons) Journalism
Regina Adebajo	Professional MSc by Research Education
Bianca Holland	Education and Community Officer (Chair)
Drew Humphry	Student Voice and Campaigns Coordinator (Support Staff)

Officer Update

BH opened the meeting by noting that her written update had already been circulated and could be taken as read, as most significant items were already on the agenda. She highlighted her new blog post covering Course Rep Accreditation in full detail, including guidance for reps on placement or those unable to physically attend campus, ensuring they still have accessible ways to complete accreditation tasks. BH reminded everyone she would send a follow-up email with all links and key information after the meeting.

FCH Campus Discussion

The first major agenda item was the future of the FCH campus. BH shared concerns from the recent FCH drop-in session, noting the space felt uninformative due to poor communication. She proposed forming an FCH-focused working group to compile student-approved acceptable outcomes and prepare a formal list of questions for the university. Members debated whether the group should be FCH-only or open to all affected students; the consensus was to create a group open to FCH reps while allowing interested course reps from other campuses to join given the wider impacts.

She explained potential consequences if discounting is removed nationally: fewer firsts/2:1s, a drop from TEF Silver to Bronze, reduced recruitment, financial losses, and eventual course closures - harmful not only to current students but future graduates whose degrees lose value. BH urged everyone to complete and share the survey to build a strong evidence set.

She also announced a partnership with Sabbs from other universities including Winchester, Bath Spa, Hartpury, and ESU to draft a sector-wide response highlighting how the OFS failed to consult sabbatical officers about Teaching Excellence Framework changes. Post-92 universities - like UoG - would be disproportionately harmed. NUS is supporting the campaign and organising a roundtable between UoG students and the OFS; all interested course reps were invited to join.

University Council also reported that Chairs from other university councils nationwide are now preparing joint action, which BH celebrated as a direct outcome of the policy passed at the previous Student Council meeting.

Local Engagement – Cheltenham & Gloucester

BH provided updates on her work with both Cheltenham and Gloucester councils. She explained that she established the first Gloucester Student Forum to ensure student representation in city decision-making. She invited students living in Gloucester to join the next meeting, which includes major stakeholders such as City Council, County Council, Police, Stagecoach, and Gloucester BID.

For Cheltenham, BH is working with Park Ward and St Paul's councillors, who are eager for student involvement but reported disappointingly low engagement - partly due to a perception that students "don't vote because they won't live here in two years." She stressed the need for student advocacy, particularly after councillors revealed that they learned about the potential sale of FCH from the news rather than from the university. BH is planning a "Meet Your Councillors" session at FCH and will try to make it hybrid for Gloucester students.

Several students shared how vital FCH is to them. NE explained that even non-FCH courses rely on FCH resources like drama props and the library's play collections. It was shared that a rep uses FCH daily for work, finding it more accessible and less crowded than Park. He highlighted concerns about study spaces, computer access, and disability support, all heavily used at FCH. FD raised concerns about the chapel and the chaplaincy team, who provide key welfare support, and BH noted a leaflet showing that 70% of students access mental health, wellbeing, disability or chaplaincy services at FCH, underlining its importance.

A member raised concerns about accommodation, especially Pitville's distance from Park if courses move, and questioned why the university would keep Pitville if FCH is sold. BH confirmed this had been raised at the drop-in. She added that the university had even tried to list empty Pitville rooms on Booking.com before removing them due to safeguarding risks. FD noted that the Seal building is already rented to National Star College, and reps added that FCH houses specialist laboratories used both for teaching and external contracted research, including carbon dating labs relied on by multiple departments nation-wide. Losing these facilities would damage course accreditation - especially for Biomed courses requiring IBMS standards - and waste recent investment.

The group agreed the university's communication had been confusing and contradictory. BH confirmed she raised this at University Council and that communications would be reviewed. The group will move forward with an FCH Working Group to prepare student-led recommendations and demands.

OFS / Discounting Campaign Updates

BH recapped the situation with the Office for Students' proposed removal of discounting, stressing that discounting protects disabled students, carers, parents, and others who cannot always perform at their peak. She confirmed that UoG has formally decided not to remove discounting and will defend this position to the OFS. A draft university letter is being strengthened with student perspectives gathered through surveys and case studies.

Members raised concerns about race week, particularly antisocial behaviour near Pitville, lack of security presence, and threats to safety for disabled and queer students. BH confirmed she would take these issues to Park Ward councillors and welcomed further feedback. Additional concerns included bus ticket costs, lack of subsidised travel, and the need for better safe-travel options at night. BH committed to raising these with Stagecoach and the university.

Parking difficulties in Cheltenham were also raised, especially around Collegiate properties where landlords receive only two council-tax-linked permits for large buildings with many students. DH explained how the permit system ties to council tax, and BH agreed to take this to councillors and explore it further.

Course Rep Accreditation

BH invited feedback on improving the accreditation system. Some placement students felt the requirements were inaccessible, and BH has now expanded options to ensure off-campus reps can complete tasks. Students asked for more notice for events and meetings; DH explained that while SU events perform better with shorter promotion windows, sub-council dates can be scheduled in advance. BH agreed to consider duplicate skills sessions (e.g., Monday and Friday options) to support students with heavy early-week timetables.

Questions were raised about lecture recording policies. BH clarified that recording is encouraged but not mandatory unless required under a RAP, though students may record audio privately as long as no faces are captured. She agreed to push for clearer Moodle guidance and more detailed content where recordings are absent.

Appeals, complaint routes, and RAP responsibilities were also discussed, with BH reiterating that she is pushing for lecturers - not students - to initiate RAP meetings under the upcoming disability policy review.

Course Rep Feedback and Issues Raised

Students shared several issues from their courses and campuses:

- A member reported ongoing problems with loud talking and lecturers being unable to manage behaviour. BH confirmed lecturers have full authority to remove disruptive students and offered to raise this with relevant staff.
- Concerns about noise, food smells, and inappropriate use were raised. BH will discuss with Estates whether the space can be designated for study only.
- Multiple students reported food being eaten in the library, causing odours, allergens, and damage to books. BH agreed this must be enforced more consistently.
- Students strongly supported creating a permanent quiet room for decompressing - not studying - on all campuses. BH will discuss space options with Estates.
- Drama students raised concerns about heavy non-automatic doors and malfunctioning sensors. BH will escalate this directly to Estates leadership.
- FD highlighted rent increases in Pittville - rising to £199 per week - despite declining quality and half-empty occupancy. Students noted that this prices many out of university accommodation and has even led to homelessness. BH will raise this with Accommodation Services.

MyGlos Redesign Feedback

DN has been invited to a focus group on improving the MyGlos platform and asked reps to email him their thoughts about layout, usability, and how to encourage student engagement. BH encouraged everyone to contribute.

- RT: Hospitality and events students face assessment bunching and unclear guidance on assignments. Personal tutor access is limited.
- BJ: Computer games programming students struggle with timetable changes, unclear expectations, and insufficient support for complex projects. Assignments are bunched together, and students lack clarity on what help lecturers can provide.
- MB: Business and finance students struggle with unclear module delivery and lack of pre-reading guidance. Some students have dropped courses due to poor communication.

Actions:

- BH to explore ways to improve SU visibility and communication.
- Raise concerns about study space availability and international student support with university leadership.
- Address assessment bunching and teaching quality issues with relevant ACLs.
- Investigate clearer guidelines for module delivery and pre-reading requirements.

Closing Remarks

BH confirmed that all feedback will be minuted and published within five working days. She will email attendees with a summary of actions and next steps. Members were encouraged to email further concerns or suggestions and attend the next sub council meeting in February.