



# STUDENT COUNCIL

## Minutes - (19.05.2026)

**Time: 17:30**

**Date: 19th May 2026**

**Chair: Erika Messineo**

### **Present**

Erika Messineo (EM) - School Rep (BCSS) and Vice Chair of Council

Bianca Holland (BH) – Education & Community Officer

Freya Rowley (FR) – Activities & Opportunities Officer

Iffat Jahan (IJ) - Welfare & Diversity Officer

Daniel Neate (DN) – Society Rep (Biosciences)

Karina Whelan (KW) – LGBTQIA+ Welfare Rep

Luke Hillier (LH) – Mature Students Welfare Rep

Joshua Roden-Crabtree (JRC) – Societies Rep (Law and Mooting)

Finley Durham (FD) – School Rep (ACE)

Connie Jordan (CJ) – Sport Rep (Women's Rugby)

Victor Bannan (VB) – Black, Asian and ME+ Welfare Rep

Azeez Mustapha (AzM) – School Rep (BCSS)

Noah Earey (NE) - Mental Health Rep

Maz Bamford (MB) - Societies Rep (Table Top)

Drew Humphry (DH) - Student Voice and Campaigns Coordinator and Clerk to the Chair

## **Welcome and Opening of Meeting**

The Chair (EM) opened the meeting at 17:40. It was noted that recording commenced shortly after the start.

The Chair confirmed that quorum had not been met. Under the Students' Union Bye-Laws, 15 voting members are required for quorum, and this threshold was not reached.

The Chair noted that, as there were no voting items scheduled, the meeting would proceed for updates and discussion only. All contributions were therefore informal and non-binding.

## **Officer Updates and Reports**

### **Education & Communities Update (BH)**

BH provided an update from the Education & Communities Sub-Council:

- A fuller written update would be circulated to course representatives via official communications.
- Ongoing work includes accreditation being issued on a case-by-case basis, with continued monitoring.
- Concerns have been raised within academic communities regarding:
  - Communication Issues on Courses
  - Impact of Staff Workload on Students
- These issues have been fed into relevant committees, with further updates to follow through course rep channels.
- Updates on actions from the Education & Communities Sub-Council were noted.
- No substantive progress was reported on research-related activity at this stage.

### **Activities & Opportunities / Sub Council Update (FR)**

FR provided an update on cost-of-living and community-focused work:

- Engagement with the Trussell Trust to develop a larger campaign highlighting student food poverty.



## **Diversity & Inclusion Officer Update (IJ)**

IJ highlighted key activities:

- Attendance at the City Campus opening, including engagement with Princess Anne.
- Collection of student feedback for International Education Day.
- Engagement with the Bangladesh High Commission, raising student issues.
- Organisation of events including the Art of Holi celebration.
- Advocacy with the local MP regarding limited part-time job opportunities for students.
- Representation in the International Student Experience Group, raising:
  - Attendance monitoring concerns
  - Need for improved wellbeing support
  - Tuition fee instalment flexibility
- Promotion of the Diversity Pop-Up Village event (11 June, 18:00–21:00).

## **Discussion Items**

### **Update on AGM Motions**

BH provided an update on motions passed at the Students' Union AGM:

- Support for UNISON Strike Action
  - SU to engage with University leadership regarding staff concerns.
  - Officers may choose individually whether to participate in picket lines.
- Postgraduate Assessment Transparency
  - Aim to improve clarity in assessment requirements and marking processes, particularly for postgraduate and international students.

### **Questions from Members**

- DN asked about progress on welfare training for sports clubs and societies.
  - FR confirmed this remains a priority but noted scheduling challenges due to committee transitions. Development will continue over the summer.

- NE requested clarification on deadlines for submitting resources to the welfare hub.
  - Indicative deadline agreed as the third week of June, with flexibility.
  - DH confirmed the hub is under development and will undergo professional review before a planned September launch.
- A question (via chat) was raised regarding SU Awards feedback forms.
  - FR confirmed this would be circulated, noting staffing pressures and recent workload.

## **Any Other Business**

### **Student Council Format and Engagement**

Discussion explored future delivery models for Student Council meetings:

- Broad interest in introducing in-person elements to meetings.
- Key considerations included:
  - Accessibility concerns, including travel between campuses and disability requirements (NE, MB).
  - Benefits of face-to-face engagement for relationship-building (FR, DN).
  - Strong support for a hybrid model to balance accessibility and engagement (NE, FD, BH).
  - Suggestion that the first meeting of the year could be in-person, with hybrid or online meetings thereafter.
- Indicative feedback showed general support for exploring hybrid delivery approaches, subject to accessibility principles.
- FR proposed increased Student Council involvement in community-based activities, including:
  - Volunteering or attending local food bank and community lunch initiatives.
  - This was positively received, with interest expressed by members (DN).

## Councillor Experience Feedback

- DN commended the SU for strong support throughout the year, particularly for societies and events.
- NE noted improved opportunities for student influence, particularly through accreditation and course revalidation processes.
- DN highlighted challenges balancing Student Council responsibilities with society commitments and other obligations.
- FR acknowledged this and suggested reviewing how engagement opportunities are structured in future.

Action	Owner	Deadline
Develop welfare training offer for sports clubs and societies	FR	Summer 2026
Submit resources for Welfare Hub	Welfare Reps	Third week of June 2026
Finalise and review Welfare Hub content (including external review)	DH / SU Staff	Before September 2026 launch
Circulate SU Awards feedback form	FR / SU Staff	As soon as feasible