



# WELFARE & DIVERSITY COUNCIL

## Minutes - (05.12.2025)



**Time: 17:30**

**Date: 5th December 2025**

### **Present**

Iffat Jahan (Welfare and Diversity Officer) (IJ)

Luke Hillier (Mature Students Rep) (LH)

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

Rayya Boccus (Care Leavers Rep) (RB)

Tamara Storer-Rogers (Students with Disabilities Rep) (TSR)

Izzie Orris (Womens + Rep) (IO)

Aisha Noor (International Students Rep) (AN)

Aqsa Abdul Sattar (Parents and Carers Rep) (AAS)

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

### **Officer Update**

IJ welcomed attendees and introduced herself as the Welfare and Diversity Officer. She explained her campaign, Unmasked, which focuses on inclusivity and giving a voice to underrepresented groups. Since starting her role, she has launched the campaign at the Welcome Fair, collecting 247 student wishes to guide welfare priorities. She attended induction events, Pride and Rainbow Café, and relaunched the Wish Tree at the Housing Fair to gather feedback for landlords. In October, she celebrated Black History Month with a story-sharing wall and marked International Students' Day by highlighting challenges and strengths. She also collaborated with the Careers team to deliver confidence-building workshops.

A new event, Chai and Goodbye, is planned for 15th December to bring students together before the Christmas break. Her priorities for the year include developing inclusive events, continuing story-sharing initiatives, encouraging international student involvement in sports and societies, and advocating for better accommodation experiences.

Members appreciated the update and had no immediate questions.

Action: IJ will continue implementing her campaign priorities and share details of the upcoming event with all members.

### **Welfare Rep Updates and Suggestions**

RB shared plans for a coffee event to connect with care leavers, aiming to build trust and provide a point of contact for support. TSR outlined her goal to make societies more inclusive for students with disabilities, noting that many fear rejection. She raised concerns about flickering lights in accommodation and university corridors, which pose risks for students with epilepsy. LH discussed his campaign to engage mature students in university activities and highlighted feedback from his community, including requests for earlier access to timetables for childcare planning and better access to vending machines and refreshments on weekends. AAS raised issues faced by student parents, such as the need for clear information on facilities and a waiting area for partners with children during classes. VB emphasised the importance of visibility and inclusivity, sharing his work on welfare sessions with the American Football team to support mental health.

Members agreed these were important issues relating to accessibility. LH raised concerns about limited disabled parking at the new City Campus. TSR suggested starting conversations with local nightclubs about strobe lighting and accessibility, as many socials are held in venues with stairs and no accessible bathrooms. RB added that smoke effects in clubs also exclude students with asthma.

### **Action:**

- IJ to collect feedback from all reps and support their initiatives.
- DH to escalate accommodation issues to the SU and Estates team, and explore policy options for Student Council.

- DH to arrange meetings:
  - Inclusive sports and societies working group with IJ, FR, and interested reps.
  - Separate meeting with TSR and FR to discuss venue accessibility and strobe lighting concerns with SU team.
- AAS to email detailed concerns about student parents for follow-up.
- LH's catering and vending machine concerns to be raised at the Catering Board.
- TSR's accessibility concerns to be considered for policy development.

### **Future Events**

IJ invited all members to attend Chai and Goodbye on 15th December at Oxstalls SU from 4:00–9:00 PM. The event will bring together societies, including Indian, Bangladeshi, and Islamic groups, to celebrate diversity before the Christmas break.

### **Closing Remarks**

Members thanked IJ for organising the meeting and agreed it was a valuable platform for raising concerns. IJ expressed appreciation for their contributions and encouraged continued collaboration. Meeting concluded with an invitation to the December event.