

Kim

- Because we haven't reached 100 we won't be doing any official voting, but will have a discussion about the work of the SU, please share with your friends
- SU represents students
- Hold annual members meeting every year

Yemi

- Chief civil servant
- Been in post 6 years
- Job to make sure union is financially secure and well run
- Affiliations report
  - o orgs we have a voting interest in
  - o Can vote on trustees in those orgs and representatives who go to conferences
- Finances
  - o Income:
    - Largest proportion comes from UAL
    - Also gets grants from other organisations
    - Trading income: our commercial enterprises including cafes, bars, and merchandise
    - Clubs and societies is specifically for clubs & societies, unlike other funding sources which can be used for anything
    - Other: ticket sales from freshers fair, interest from our bank accounts
  - o Expenditure:
    - Student engagement: course reps, surveys, etc.
    - Student support: advice services
    - Student activities: sports clubs, societies, volunteering, give it a go
    - Events and entertainment: example: Diwali event, freshers and welcome activities
    - Marketing & communications
    - Special projects: specific projects we've received funding for
    - Commercial activities: buying product to sell products
  - o 2018 – 2020 --> saw rises in our income
  - o 2021 saw a fall in our income
  - o Beginning to rise back up in 2022
  - o 2020: make most money in beginning of the year, so had earned money and then couldn't put on events at the end of year. So spent less than we made.
  - o Expenditure now beginning to rebound to better match the income.
- Trustee board:
  - o 6 sabbatical officers, 3 external trustees, 3 student trustees
  - o Have two sub committees: staffing and audit and finance
  - o Last year, introduced 3 new trustees. Increased number of external trustees from the year before due to Democracy Review.
  - o Focusing on how we recover from COVID. How we generate money and also how we spend that money.

- Need 3 student trustees for the board:
  - Looking to learn how the union runs
  - Gain employability skills

#### Officer Priorities

- Not an exhaustive list of everything officers do.
- Students can always suggest other activities and ideas.
- Overview:
  - Cost of living
  - Inclusivity and accessibility in education
  - Sustainability, mental health
- Cost of Living Crisis
  - Survey on the Cost of Living Survey & Report – over 1400 responses
  - Looking at ways to support students with Cost of Study
  - Keeping in conversation with UAL on how they are keeping the cost of students in mind
  - Free period products across all UAL colleges
    - All campuses will get a dispenser that's accessible for all students
    - In public places
    - Eco-friendly and ethical company : Grace and Green
      - Tampons and sanitary pads
    - Been slow to implement, but UAL has been working steadily on it and should be available in January
    - Will be looking to get feedback on the project
  - Food parcels:
    - Giving out food parcels and offering a hot meal on Monday
    - Spots available for Monday's event
    - Have also got university to give out food vouchers for student who've had bank accounts shut down due to international crises in Iran and Ukraine (for example)
      - If students have to pay to get to the college to get the hot meal, it's not really free
- Sustainability:
  - Keen to level out efforts among the different colleges
  - Some colleges have better systems than others
  - Looking to improve material recycling schemes
    - For ex: swap shop at CSM which is student run
    - Surplus materials from shops
    - Doesn't need to be students donating to other students, but more about creating a circular economy in the college, saving materials from the landfill
  - Secure money for college-based community gardens
    - To grow food and flowers
    - Having green spaces for wellbeing, community building, and the future of the college
    - Would like them to be even more student facing

- Inclusivity and Accessibility in Education
  - Developing communities for minority groups
    - Including PG and FE as minority groups within education
  - Network for disabled students
  - Introduce student researchers
  - Will conduct focus groups
  - Developing work on crits and defining safety in the learning environment
  - Campaigning for housing guarantor scheme for international students
- Mental Health
  - Support students in areas where UaL services are often underfunded or overstretched
  - Advice UAL on ways to deliver clearer information on ISA's (DEFINE), EC's (Extenuating Circumstances)
  - Securing funding for college-based community activities, running onsite workshops and pop-ups to promote wellness and signpost services
    - Example: pop up for world mental health day that included free hot chocolate and manicures/hand massages
  - Mental health and wellbeing support more available and accessible to students
    - Making sure students all know about the services
    - Making it easier for them to access
- Community Building
  - A community more than a place to take classes. The creative world is all about networking.
  - Exploring work with industry partners to advance career opportunities,
  - Facilitating onsite activities for student groups
    - Example: cultural festivities, e.g. Diwali celebration
  - On-campus festivities and getting more students networking
- Q+A
  - Support for British students who don't have parents who can't support them for housing
    - Will discuss with guarantor scheme
  - Is there any way for student to receive advice on energy bills and rights as tenants
    - Advice Team do deal with queries to do with housing
    - UAL has hardship funds in case students can't afford bills
  - CSM is in a hybrid public/private space. We have friendly security everywhere. Why would we need police officers on campus?
    - We have put a no cops on campus policy forward
    - Doesn't have to do with CSM or Kings Cross security
  - There are students who mock/criticize students with religious beliefs:
    - We all have freedom of speech and ability to make topics about different topics
    - If it's about their own experience of leaving a faith, that is their right
    - If their artwork is attacking a religion, then that's xenophobic and can be reported via the university reporting scheme or to your tutor
  - No one has announced to my peers who their reps are, so students don't know they can come to us

- As a course rep or school rep, can introduce yourself to your peers in-person or via other chats
    - Can ask for 5 minutes in next meeting to introduce yourself
- Ideas
  - Food Regeneration:
    - Saw that a lot of UK universities were going plant based and regenerative because of the climate crisis
    - Want to do this at UAL
    - Ecology, biology, community, decolonisation and bringing it all together
    - MA in Biodesign
    - MA Applied Imagination
    - Save animals, doing whatever it takes
    - Looking for support to make this a reality
    - Not for the animals, for making a stand
    - Duty of university to take on data and do something about it
    - People will be coming in to do talks
    - Video: UAL has goal to reach climate zero
      - Emissions from plant-based lower than animal-based
    - Single biggest way to reduce impact on planet is to go plant-based
    - Lobby for at least one day plant based
    -
  - Guarantor Scheme:
    - Renting sucks if you're a student from a working class background
    - If you don't have family or relatives that earn more than 50k a year
    - Personally been turned down for housing
    - Appreciate that it's a problem for international students
    - Has document with resources and statistics that it will be sent over
    - Home students as well who have this issue
    - If UAL wants to be inclusive, they need to include home students
    - Have to be a British resident and a homeowner
    - Price has climbed in recent year
    - Contributes to students feeling they need to drop out
    - Sof: No mention of students in new landlord laws
    - Goldsmiths has a Guarantor Scheme, with a partnership with a private firm
    - Question: If you're not earning over 25k, the likelihood of being a homeowner is also very low. Strongly support the guarantor scheme.
      - Would also suggest housing workshops. Mapping out where the most affordable places to live near campuses. Mapping out transportation costs.
      - London students, compared to others part of the country, aren't able to secure housing until close to the start of the term.
    - Sof: at Kingston, have landlords on their roster who have been vetted and have guarantor scheme. Can add details on how other universities do it to the idea, so that we have that when we take it to the University.

- Bringing students together to form coalitions.
  - If you don't bond with people in your halls,
  - Student: those with allergies, a plant based diet can be very complicated, so would prefer it to be only several days a week
    - Cost of going plant-based?
    - Ethical questions with almond and soy milk. In terms of human labor.
    - Question of social sustainability as well as environmental sustainability.
  - Response: going to the farmers
  - Kim: UAL has ethical sourcing policies. Should look at the policies that both UAL and Baxtor's stories policies
  - Any other thoughts can be left as comments on the idea itself or emailed to the democracy inbox
- Keep Police off UAL Campuses
  - UAL bringing met police in plainclothes on campus for safety workshops
  - Was then cancelled
  - Reached out to student with information
  - Circulated a petition
  - UAL said, ok we won't do it right now, but not a guarantee they will not do it in the future
  - At the time, 3 separate investigations were being conducted on the Met while these safety workshops would be taking place
  - They shouldn't be teaching us safety when typically, their safety workshops are more about victim blaming
  - Staff: Not a new initiative
  - Q: Why do they want to partner?
    - Because the Met offer these workshops
  - Proposing that UAL develop a policy on working with police with student input
    - UAL should not welcome anyone from the police on site
  - Q: who in UAL organises these workshops?
    - Member of the exec board
    - Estates team would have done the organising
- For an idea to become policy it would need to get 100 votes, can vote online on the platform