

# Annual Members Meeting Minutes

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

## Participants

- Minna Ellis (Chair) – CSM Officer
- Other officer names:
  - Lexa Barbulescu
- 35 UAL Students
  - 17 Students Online
  - 21 Students In person

Item	Presenter	Notes
<b>Welcomes</b> Overview of agenda & count number of attendees	<b>Chair</b>	<p>The chair welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the SU, the AMM, and guidelines for the meeting.</p> <p>The chair shared that as the meeting attendees didn't meet required number for quorum (100 students), that ideas would not be voted on at this meeting.</p>
<b>Affiliations, Finance, and Trustee Board update</b>	<b>CEO</b>	This update did not take place due to not meeting quorum.
<b>Officer Priorities 2023-2024</b>	<b>Sabbatical Officer Team</b>	<p>The chair began by introducing the 23/24 officer team and defining the role of the officer within the SU</p> <p>The chair outlined the 4 key areas the officers are focusing on this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cost of Living Crisis</li> <li>- Equity through representation</li> <li>- Inclusivity and accessibility in education</li> <li>- Community Building</li> </ul>
<b>Q&amp;A with your officers</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<p>Question: How did the university respond to requested changes? Minna: University works at a slower pace, and lots of things slow us down including policies and budgets. Means that long-term changes happen over the course of several years.</p> <p>Question: Have there been changes in terms of materials funding and pricing? Minna: There was research done into cost of study, and as a result the university put into place guidelines on cost of materials. We are finding that students are still letting us know they are having to spend a lot of money on materials and feel they're expected to spend money on materials. Lexa: Research was done 2 years ago, and in that time costs have only increased.</p>

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		<p>Question: How can we move forward these issues?  Minna: If you're a Course Rep, you can bring it to Course Committees, raise with School Rep. If you would like a policy then you can submit an idea on the SU ideas page.</p> <p>Question: How can students get around making things without spending a lot on materials?  Minna: That's the tricky thing about these policies, it's not one size fits all. There are some systems that students can use to find recycled materials. Not the university saying you shouldn't spend any money, but not much money.  Lexa: it's a fine balance as a student between being economical, sustainable and making it look good and getting a good grade. The other side is UAL giving you resources so you can source materials.</p> <p>Question: everyone says 'decolonising UAL' but what does that mean. How will you do that, how long will that take, and where do you expect it to go?  Minna: Alyshia, our Communities Officer, will be taking the lead on this issue. Will be tackling sports at UAL and diversity in sports. Officers review UAL's anti-racism and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion policies. Holding UAL accountable on things they've promised to do, i.e. decolonised reading lists. There's a lot of work that can be done in this area, and trying to include it in our initiatives as much as possible.</p> <p>Question: Sometimes we would like to extend the workshop times, especially before hand-in. Could you help to push this problem further?  Minna: Across UAL, we've been having conversations with technical staff for years about workshop access. At CSM have extended hours at workshops and hired more staff.  Lexa: With workshops, one of the most challenging aspects is that there's not a constant flow of students. There are times when it's empty and times when it's at capacity. First step, I think, would be to extend hours in certain time periods. Usually more achievable to take one step at a time, than going for huge wins.</p> <p>Question: Will there be more possibilities for online events to make sure events are accessible for students.  Minna: First, it was important that we make this meeting hybrid. Increasingly, the university is rolling out online courses, alongside students who would prefer that events take place online due to</p>

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		<p>cost of travel, so we are running more hybrid events. If there are specific events students would like to see, we're happy to explore those options.</p> <p>Question: How can students get in touch with SU when offices are closed?</p> <p>Lexa: It's a LCF issue, but also across UAL. We don't have a offices in every college and the staff are hybrid. Working on having some staff in office spaces. The easiest way to get in touch with anyone at the SU is sending an email.</p> <p>Question: is there a way to find out if the University funds or has relationships with Israeli companies?</p> <p>Minna: We don't know for sure. To our knowledge, we think investment in arms to Israel was disbanded a while ago. But we will be following up on this.</p> <p>Question: There have been many complaints about the food at the canteen. This year have seen not a lot of variety and the prices have increased. Is there anything in the works for a more equal distribution of funding for courses? Some courses seem to get more funding than others.</p> <p>Minna: Canteen prices – the prices are changing all the time, a lot of the time they're increasing. What the University have told us in response, and Baxter Storey who run the campaign, finding that the most popular meals are the most expensive options. They promote their value saving meal options. Now seeing disparities between different pricing at different colleges, so will be following up on that. UAL have told SU that they can lower prices, but it would take money away from teaching. Have pushed back asking why it's one or the other.</p> <p>Course materials – would have to look at that in a wider sense. The course budgets aren't standardised, but can go back and look into. But unlikely that they would go for that option.</p> <p>Question: Is it possible to rent equipment in loan stores across college? And if not, why?</p> <p>Minna: As far as I'm aware, no linking between different colleges. I don't have an exact answer about whether a student can rent from a loan store from another college. I will follow up about that. Likely just has to do with allocation of resources.</p> <p>Question: Why is UAL seperated and compartmentalised?</p> <p>Minna: I would encourage you to take that up with technical resources. It's something that students have been frustrated for a</p>

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		<p>long time. I think it's to do with staffing resources, if they had more staffing than they may be able to support.</p> <p>Martin: each college is individually funded, which has to do with their historically being separate institutions.</p> <p>Question: As a first year Black student at CSM, Black History month didn't feel any different. Is there anything the SU is doing to tackle these problems?</p> <p>Minna: Black History month – we don't work with UAL on their events. At the SU, we planned a full schedule of events across campuses. Would encourage that student to check out that our schedule of events. Access to mental health – the student services has moved at CSM, a lot of services were moved online during that move, but now back in-person. This student should contact the mental health and chaplaincy office.</p> <p>Lexa: for CCW, there are options for in-person and online</p> <p>Martin: we'll share that feedback with the SU officers who led on Black History Month.</p>
<p><b>Idea Update: Keep Holborn Open until 10PM</b></p>	<p><b>Student Proposer</b></p>	<p>Brought forward by students who regularly use our activities spaces in High Holborn. UAL shared that they were going to be changing the opening hours to close at 7pm. University have noted that it was a financial and sustainability decision.</p> <p>While this has passed as policy, the university is not budging on this issues, but UAL has offered to fund external spaces for student groups.</p> <p>Question: would there be an opportunity to use the CSM studios?</p> <p>Minna: We can try, we can advocate for you. The university books the space, but we can try and make the best case for you.</p>
<p><b>Idea Submission: 24hr or extend library hours before hand-in</b></p>	<p><b>Student Proposer</b></p>	<p>Came from a LCF student who noticed that, unlike CSM, the library is not open 24 hours during peak times before hand-in.</p> <p>Please come along to student forum to vote on this issue.</p> <p>Question: was this just for LCF?</p> <p>Minna: this came from an LCF student, and up to them if campaign is extended to other colleges.</p>

<p><b>Any other business</b></p>		<p>Question: is there anything being done to welcome international students and get them set up in London?  Minna: Our LCC officer has been working on a pre-arrival welcome talk for pre-departure students giving them a sense of what London is like, and giving tips about living in London. Students in halls have hall inductions. We also know that there are a lot of students who join us in January. We've been holding welcome mixtures for those students.</p> <p>Question: I think there's limited Latin American students at UAL, and want to see if there is a way to get connected with other students.  Minna: The university can work on their inductions better and help connect students.  Martin: if you drop us an email we will follow up with you.</p> <p>Question: Would be helpful to have some clarity on the SU website on who to talk to for what issues. If students want to do more, and help with campaigns, how can they help?  Lexa: there's a general su email address, which will forward emails directly. Students can get involved by voting or creating ideas on the ideas platform. Can also reach out to your officer.  Minna: can take on board your point about it not being clear about democracy.</p>
<p><b>Dates for your diary &amp; close of meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Chair</b></p>	<p>Upcoming dates (e.g elections)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus groups run by student interns</li> <li>- SU elections: standing opens 15 January</li> </ul> <p>Next steps:</p> <p>all of those who have submitted ideas will be contacted by the Representation &amp; Democracy Team.</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive (Membership) to contact students to follow up on comments in chat and in the room on concerns.</p>