

# STUDENT FORUM MINUTES

7 February 24

## Participants

- SU participants:
  - Alyshia Jack (Communities Officer and Forum Chair)
  - Martin Dodd (Deputy CEO – Membership)
  - Minna Ellis (CSM College Officer)
  - Sophia Nasif-Whitstone (LCC College Officer)
  - Katwamba Mutale (LCF College Officer)
  - Lexa Barbulescu (CCW College Officer)
- 20 UAL students in attendance

Item	Presenter	Notes
<b>Welcome to Student Forum</b>	Alyshia Jack (Forum Chair)	<p>The chair welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the meeting and general guidelines.</p> <p>To note: some ideas on the original agenda have been omitted because the student presenter couldn't attend.</p>
<b>SU Trustee Board, Affiliations, and Finances Update, and questions</b>	Martin Dodd, Deputy CEO – Membership	<p>Overview provided of SU finances, highlighting trend in increase of income and expenditures. To note, the largest increase was to support free memberships to clubs and societies.</p> <p>Overview provided of the Arts SU Trustee Board, which includes: six sabbatical officers, 3 external trustees, and 3 student trustees.</p> <p>Trustee Board Updates provided, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arts SU Strategy through 2027</li><li>• Investors in People accreditation</li><li>• Renovation of core spaces including Darkroom Bar</li><li>• New office spaces (LCC, Chelsea, Camberwell)</li><li>• Minimising financial risk (closure of CSM and Blueprint cafes)</li><li>• Free access to student sports clubs and societies</li><li>• Increased investment in supporting students from minority groups</li></ul> <p>Overview of SU Affiliations provided, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Union of Students (NUS)</li><li>• British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS)</li><li>• Advice UK</li><li>• National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)</li><li>• Association of College Unions International (ACUI)</li></ul>

<p><b>Idea Submission 'Gender Affirming Care Fund'</b></p>	<p>Minna Ellis, CSM Officer</p>	<p><b>Idea Presentation:</b> Minna shared that she proposed this idea on behalf of a former UAL student. Minna provided an overview of the idea, based on research of funds at other universities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund for students per academic year</li> <li>• Up to £100 per students for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Money for their own transitions</li> <li>○ Gender affirming underwear and binders</li> <li>○ Wigs, make up, and clothing</li> <li>○ Travel money to get to gender identity clinics</li> <li>○ Non-means tested, available for all students</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Minna suggested that UCL's model may be good to follow, as a similarly sized University with a fund already in place.</p> <p>Minna shared that in the future, she would like to pass off this project onto a trans student or students to better represent the issue.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> A student advocated for the name 'Gender Expression Fund' as opposed to 'Gender Affirmation Fund' to make it clear that the University can't provide healthcare. Minna shared that the name could be changed in the future.</p> <p><b>Vote:</b> Yes: 13 No: 2 Abstain: 0</p> <p><b>Result:</b> The idea passes.</p>
<p><b>Idea Submission 'Petition for full-time students to be able to claim means-tested benefits'</b></p>	<p>Sophia Nasif-Whitestone, LCC Officer</p>	<p><b>Idea Presentation:</b> Sophia provided an overview of the idea for full-time students to be able to claim means-tested benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be a review for student eligibility for benefits that is based on circumstances.</li> <li>• Students should no longer have their loans counted towards their means-testing.</li> <li>• Arts SU to lobby for this change to be made government policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b> No questions or comments were made.</p> <p><b>Vote:</b> Yes: 16 No: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p><b>Results:</b> The idea passes.</p>
<p><b>Any Other Business (A.O.B)</b></p>	<p>Alyshia Jack</p>	<p>No additional items were raised.</p>

<b>Dates for your diary &amp; close of meeting</b>	Alyshia Jack	Dates were shared to student participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signing up to Student Focus groups by 19 February.</li><li>• Elections standing open until 12pm 13 February.</li></ul> Meeting was adjourned.
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