

The Students' Union Executive Committee

Agenda Wednesday 22 April

Chair: Asad Zarif Awan (SU President)

Secretary: Em Harvey (Representation Manager)

Minute Secretary: Han Morgan (Representation Coordinator)

Location: Meeting Room 2

Date: Wednesday 22 April

Time: 16:00



1) **Welcome, Apologies & Housekeeping**

The Chair will welcome members to the meeting, make apologies from any members who are not present, and go through any necessary housekeeping for the meeting.

Apologies Received:

- Khadiza Hossain, Vice President Education
- Zarabel Turgut-Cox, Women's Welfare Officer
- Swizel Afonso, Glenside Campus Officer

Present

- Asad Zarif Awan, Students' Union President
- Umar Abbasi, Vice President Societies and Communications
- Anya Brentnall, Vice President Sports and Health
- Bonnie Evergreen, LGBT Officer
- Mo Ebengho, BME Officer
- Saliha Sadaf, Postgraduate Officer
- Celina Tomas, Disabled Students' Officer

Absent

- Logan Smith, International Students' Officer
- Harper Leigh, Trans Welfare Officer
- Jack Priestley, Sustainability Officer

2) **Elections Results and statistics**

Thank you to everyone for your efforts during the elections, and congratulations to everyone who will be an officer of the Students' Union in 2026/2027!

Voting statistics:

Individual votes cast: 30043

Voters: 4712

Handover document created by the Representation team, this will be sent out to members with the minutes. Please complete this. Doesn't apply to Full Time Officers as they have a handover week.

3) **Reykjavik trip**

Asad and Umar to discuss their trip to Iceland

It was fantastic, but poor weather! Asad and Umar visited various universities and met with student leaders. Stand out moment: their Student Representation system is very different. Sabbatical officers are affiliated with political parties. Different from own experiences in Pakistan or the UK, Icelandic system has political affiliation but without conflict. Vice Chancellors are called Rectors; they're elected not selected. Sitting cabinet started a referendum motion to remove VC. WONKHE mentioned a university that went online during Covid-19 and stayed online. Students on campus for in-person teaching for 4/5 days only, live on campus but apart from that it's fully online. Successful, student recruitment numbers got higher, appreciate the

work/life balance.

Met a trade union: Viska. Unions strong, 92% of the workforce are in a union. The national minimum wage is decided by the unions. Visited 4/5 organisations, majority of leaders were women, feminism is strong and gender equality is evident. Met with president of NUS Iceland, discussed unifying student voices, working on student fronts, changing laws. Before this year, there was no fee for non-EU students, but planning to implement. Still no tuition fees for EU students.

4) **Presidents Updates**

The Presidents will give an update on their projects. (5 minutes for each President)

Asad Zarif Awan - Students' Union President:

- Approximately 50 students who've failed their resits. Will need to attempt again but after their visas are due to expire. Asked to return to home countries and reapply for their visas from there, this has a financial impact. Working with advice and senior leadership at UWE to find a resolution.
- Working on Postgraduate supervision with Dr Cathy Minett-Smith (Dean of Learning and Teaching) and Dr Emmanuel Adukwu (Dean for Students.)
- Working again with Dr Emmanuel Adukwu, issue of alumni students unable to get references for further study and employment.
- 3 more local businesses have agreed to a discount for UWE students, details coming soon, actioned with IT.

Anya Brentnall - VP Sports and Health

- UWE won Varsity for the fourth consecutive year! 11–1 overall win against the University of South Wales.
- Most engaged Varsity to date, growth in scale, visibility and student involvement.
- Varsity branding was delivered through a student logo competition, won by Meg Fry (Women's Hockey 1s Captain & Illustration student)
- Over 135 t-shirts sold and worn across the day.
- Spectator tickets sold out, club-led social media engagement was strong, and Anya hosted a pre-Varsity sign-making event to build hype
- For the first time, a structured Varsity livestream schedule. Four fixtures were shown in The Students' Union and on campus screens, by our Sports Media Assistant.
- Student photographers were invited to capture content, and halftime performances from UWE Dance and Cheerleading enhanced the overall spectator experience.
- Girls Night In event: 200 students at an inclusive, multi-activity event focused on women's health, sport, activism and leadership.
- Featured live illustration by arts students, dance performances and a panel discussion hosted by incoming President, Mo Ebengho, with external guest speakers Sabrina Pace-Humphreys (social justice advocate) and Stacey Olika (UWE Alumni and Channel 4 Creative Equity Manager).
- The Sports Executive Committee also delivered an interactive quiz with prizes!
- Supporting the Netball committee to deliver a Rounders tournament in May, designed as a low-pressure, social participation opportunity and charity fundraiser.

Umar Abbasi - VP Societies and Communications

- Diversity week. Thanks to everyone who helped.
- Final Societies Conference was really positive. Great to work with committee members.
- Applications for new societies are higher. Second term had 114 society activities.
- Working on handover documents and preparing for Student Council (Monday 27 April)

5) **PTO Updates**

Bonnie Evergreen- LGBT Officer

- Preparing for media video to support awareness of Pride month and events.
- Preparing for meeting regarding harm reduction for transgender people who DIY their hormones. Bristol Drugs Project have recently started a similar programme, can test 12 individuals a month. May consult/support them to get more tests if funding allows.
- Looking at getting alternative funding to get initial batch of tests to determine viability of not needing phlebotomists.

Swizel Afonso- Glenside Campus Officer

- Working on organising my upcoming events and have started promoting them, including circulating posters.
- Following previous update about the meeting with Laura Foster regarding career provisions on Glenside, continuing to work together on ways to strengthen the Careers presence on campus for the next academic year (2026/27). At present, there is one monthly drop-in session, which has not been well attended. Therefore exploring ways to increase this to at least two drop-in sessions per month to improve consistency and engagement.

Mo Ebengho- BME Officer

- Girls' night in, successful. Won the quiz.
- Working with Race Equity and African Caribbean Society for event, some stumbling blocks. EDI and Equity teams had intended to support with the money; have now heard they can't give the money after all. Staff input didn't give a solution. Secured £200 so far, SU space booked, need to find an alternative date. Looking at 10 May.
- Mo's been working with a Nursing student this year, her case has now gone to stage 3, 1 May for stage 3 meeting.
- Frustrating but a senior nurse from one of the student's previous placements has sent message of support and stated she believes the student is neurodivergent which could compound some of the issues- interpretation of rudeness. Gathering evidence for this meeting, prepping.

Celina Tomas- Disabled Students' Officer

- Focus groups with disabled students- general themes are they're not happy with disability services, reaching out but don't get a response, cases being closed or timing out, having to explain themselves multiple times, not getting support they need.
- Feedback that academic staff supportive but disability services are not, but sometimes the feedback is the other way around. Noticing a lot of disparity.
- Had a meeting with head of disability services
- 10,000 disabled students and only 7 disability advisors.
- Planning to make a video about what key messages disability services have for disabled students, planning to film with colleague from the disability service.
- Working on updating the website for disability service, blackboard has accessibility options, can we do the same on the disability services website.
- Su marketing also contacted, looking at the SU website's accessibility with new tender.
- Election, nobody ran for Disabled Students' Officer for next year, knows about by-elections in October, planning to do a video explaining about her role to support candidate generation.
- Katie Carson (project manager for Disabled Students' Commitment) involved, meeting with SU, identifying barriers for disabled students going for the role.
- Requests for better signage on campus, Northavon house example.

Saliha Sadaf- Postgraduate Officer

- No significant updates, has been away from Bristol

6) AOB

No AOB raised

7) Date of the next meeting

Final meeting of the academic year, thanks expressed for a positive and constructive year of meetings, looking for ways to make Executive meetings more effective with the Democracy and Governance review.