

The Students' Union Executive Committee

Minutes Monday 19 January 2026



Chair: Anya Brentnall (VP Sports and Health)
Secretary: Em Harvey (Representation Manager)
Minute Secretary: Han Morgan (Representation Coordinator)

Location: Meeting Room 2
Date: Monday 19 January 2026
Time: 17:30

1) Welcome, Apologies & Housekeeping

Present

- Anya Brentnall (VP Sports and Health)
- Khadiza Hossain (VP Education)
- Umar Abbasi (VP Societies and Communications)
- Logan Smith (International Students Officer) *online*
- Zarabel Turgut-Cox (Women's Welfare Officer) *online*
- Celina Tomas (Disabled Students' Officer) *online*
- Jack Priestley (Sustainability Officer)
- Mo Ebengho (BME Officer)
- Bonnie Evergreen (LGBT Officer)

Apologies

- Saliha Sadaf (Postgraduate Officer)
- Asad Zarif Awan (SU President)
- Swizel Afonso (Glenside Campus Officer)
- Jason Budd (City Campus Officer)

Absent

- Harper Leigh (Trans Welfare Officer)

Welcome everyone, Anya chairing today due to Asad being on leave.

2) Actions from Previous Meeting

Actions arising at November meeting:

- Khadiza Hossain raise timetabling again at Academic Board – *Brought up in UQSSC and LTSEC, didn't need to be brought up again at Academic Board because she got updates at these meetings. UWE looking into long term change with block teaching, would resolve some major timetabling issues. Unconfirmed until approved by VC.*
- Zarabel Turgut-Cox tell Umar Abbasi what is planned for Women's History Month- *Disrupted by winter break and annual leave. Umar still interested in participation of societies.*

Actions carried over from previous meetings:

- Jack Priestley: arrange meeting with Toby Blewett (Student Sustainability Engagement Worker) and Paul Dingley (Commercial Director)- *successful meetings with Toby and Paul*

- Jack Priestley: Explore Repair Shop- *closing action, didn't seem that there was a lot to contribute here, flourishing on its own. Could explore student blogging to improve communications but that would be the only area.*

3) Presidents Updates

Anya Brentnall:

- Sports Board meeting scheduled for February, looking to review and develop sports strategy. Align with other UWE and SU strategies.
- Varsity in the diary, also the warm-up series for sports that don't usually compete, building excitement for varsity.
- Ran logo competition, chose winning design last week, drawn by an illustration student and hockey player.
- Women's History Month, had a meeting with stakeholder group. Planning panel event on women in sport with external speakers. One speaker already interested, recently spoke at graduation. Mo suggesting a contact. Supporting attendance through a bigger event, "girl's night in" in Union 2. Sports bra company with a breast health focus, supporting students to check their chests and wear their correct size.
- **Action: Mo to send Anya personal trainer contact.**
- Sports Executive Committee- meeting 20/01 to go through club feedback.

Mo: Pride of Women, students pitched for funding from alumni. Panel discussion on women in entrepreneurship, might be useful to combine.

Khadiza Hossain:

- Career fair- invited 1000+ employers, low response rate but secured some big employers, NHS, Adobe. Now got 22 stalls booked excluding UWE stalls. CV writing workshops, professional headshot service, AI and disability in the workplace specialists. Free pizza.
- Trying to get in contact with UWE ventures, please can Mo support on this.

Action: Mo direct email to UWE ventures, call Natalie at BSW.

- New PGR Lead School Rep- Pujan. Restructure of the PGR representation. Going to Doctoral Academy Sub-Committee and Research Knowledge Exchange Committee meetings.
- In December, went to see the Bangladesh High Commission and asked to speak. Connected with Bangladeshi Sabbatical Officers, working together when appropriate.
- Exam distress from 26th January, zone on campuses with free food and tea, mindful activities.

Umar Abbasi:

- Societies Conference: Monday 26 at 17:00. Updating on manifesto, also giving a session on running a successful society with external speakers, dealing with interpersonal conflict.
- Top of the Socs: recognising societies that are succeeding in the month, promoting them on SU socials. Discussion with Marketing, making reels in "career ladder" style. Finalising mid-February to begin at the end of February.
- Diversity week:
 - 16th Feb: Cultural podcast with Hub Radio
 - 17th Feb: Taste of Culture Day, stalls in U1, wearing cultural attire. Offering free meals from different cultures. Free Red Bull. Performances from No More Silence. Recording a video of students speaking in their additional language/s, posting on International Mother Language Day

- 18th Feb: Lunar New Year, including as part of Diversity week
- 19th Feb: BSL and Bristol Ballroom running activities and workshops.

A UWE alumnus who won Entrepreneur Future Awards with Cacto Drink- if there was a budget this could be a good business to support.

Please do join in with Diversity Week, encourage others to participate.

Mo shared the participation form with the Research External Engagement department, resharing now that we're back from winter break.

4) PTO Updates

The Part Time Officers will give an update on their projects.

Bonnie Evergreen:

- Database of SUs in the UK, mapping LGBTQ+ officers. Hoping for more engagement after examinations finish and teaching begins again across the UK.
- Meeting with Han, plans for Pride Month, allies in queer history: research and science-y. Message that LGBTQ+ people have existed through history, stories of resilience. Looking through overlooked figures from queer history. Wants to have a wide lens, not just US or Eurocentric.
- Wanting to showcase individuals on social media/website, biographies and sharing their importance/impacts.
- Fatima and Sorrell from LGBT staff network could be good contacts.

Mo Ebengho:

- Cultural Masquerade event didn't go ahead due to capacity, hoping to reschedule for the end of the year.
- Students wanting a music society for students of colour, wanting to participate but existing music societies don't reflect their music. Discussion of working with CFM to make a society for students of colour. Umar is happy to support in making a new society.
- Mo working with Race Equity for BME students who've had adverse experiences including discrimination and bullying. In contact with correct people including the Advice Centre. Looping in Reps team and VP Education.
- Suggestion from Han that Mo is mindful of their capacity at this busy time, ask Executive peers for support and don't overextend themselves.

Action: Reps team discusses election rules and approved campaigning locations with UWE Security.

Action: Han and Khadiza speak to Em and Rachel about Race Equity cases.

Jack Priestley:

- Sustainability Committee up and running, discussed focus: community garden. State of disrepair after grounds staff were reduced. Cat Corbett is interested in wassailing – marking end of winter period, associated with hot cider. Wanting to host event in the community garden.
- Fairtrade fortnight- organising events. Provisional date in February, documentary screening to kick off.

Logan Smith:

- Meetings before break: Umar and diversity week, met with Global students.
- Received an email from student support officer regarding international students' mental health: Advice centre manager also attending. Areas for discussion: Language barriers, Identifying mental health struggles in selves, Cultural differences with mental health.
- Emails from students with concerns about visas, directing appropriately. US students now receiving their loans after US government shutdown.

Anya is interested in outcomes from that meeting: considering International students in sport too.

Mo had feedback from an International Student about the cost of sport; international students are not always able to participate due to balancing finances.

Zarabel Turgut-Cox:

- Unfiltered women's voices session coming up: bracelet making at Bower. 29/1 or 5/2
- Planning women's history month, focusing on online campaign. Each week represent a woman in a different area: Arts, sports, STEM, healthcare. Having difficulty selecting, would appreciate support.

Action: Han and Zarabel have a meeting to select

- Art sale of women's art at Bower
- Glenside: maybe a table tennis competition

Action: Anya and Zarabel talk about table tennis competition

Umar asks is Zarabel planning anything for diversity week on Glenside? If so please let him know so they can coordinate.

Action: Zarabel and Umar talk about Women's History Month/Diversity week and Glenside.**Celina Tomas:**

- Upcoming filming to advertise the Disability Survey. Disability consultant coming to the careers fair, video to advertise. Filming those on Wednesday. Survey will be sent out to students self-identifying as disabled. Disability consultant speaking about access to work.

5) March Elections

Nominations opening on 26 January; members who want to continue as either at PTO or a Sabbatical Officer will need to re-run in this election, including those elected in October.

Request to be encouraging of all potential candidates, including those interested in “your” role. Impartiality, not withholding information from potential candidates. Any questions about elections feel free to ask the Representation Team.

Question: Can PTOs run for Full Time Sabbatical positions?

Yes, the 2-year maximum term is for positions that are both elected and paid. Part Time Officers are elected but unpaid, so time in a PTO role doesn’t count towards the 2-year cap.

6) AOB

City Campus Role

Shared that Jason is stepping down from his role as City Campus Officer due to his health, he won’t be rejoining the Executive Committee for the remainder of the academic year.

Members communicating thanks and best wishes to Jason.

UWE has a draft statement on involvement with defense industries, asked to bring to conference to collect views.

Sharing statement, read aloud and circulated with minutes. Inviting feedback.

Action: All send feedback on defense industry draft statement to Khadiza.

7) Date of the next meeting

The Chairs will confirm to members the dates of the next meetings:

- Executive Committee – 10 February