

# The Students' Union Executive Committee

Minutes Wednesday 29 October 2025



**Chair: Asad Zarif Awan (SU President)**

**Minute Secretary: Han Morgan (Representation Coordinator)**

**Location: MR2, Students' Union Building, Frenchay Campus**

**Date: Wednesday 29 October 2025**

**Time: 17:30-19:30**

## 1) Welcome, Apologies & Housekeeping

### Present:

Asad Zarif Awan – SU President **AA**

Anya Brentnall- VP Sports and Health **AB**

Khadiza Hossein- VP Education **KH**

Bonnie Evergreen- LGBT Student's Officer **BE**

Celina Tomas - Disabled Students' Officer **CT**

Jason Budd- City Campus Officer **JB**

Zarabel Turgut-Cox- Women's Welfare Officer **ZTC**

Logan Smith- International Students' Officer **LS**

Saliha Sadaf- Postgraduate Officer **SS**

Swizel Afonso- Glenside Students' Officer **SA**

### Apologies received:

Umar Abbasi - VP Societies and Communications

### Absent:

Jack Priestley- Sustainability Officer

Harper Leigh- Trans Welfare Officer

Mo Ebengho- BME Officer

## 2) Welcome to new members

AA congratulated new PTOs on their success in the By-Elections, welcomed them to the Executive Committee

Han explained giving apologies, and how minutes are distributed and confirmed for new members.

## 3) Introductions

All present in MR2 and online introduced themselves and their role.

## 4) Thanks for participating in the Democracy focus group.

AA thanking those who participated. Booked 2hrs for this Exec meeting but don't anticipate it taking that long- everyone invited to Union 2 following the meeting for dinner and a non-alcoholic drink.

## 5) Actions from Previous Meeting

*Chair not addressing actions for Umar as he sent apologies but not able to send action updates. UA actions marked as pending and revisited next Exec.*

**ACTION: All Officers to push Black History Hall of Fame nominations- This happened, Black History Month Hall of Fame unveiled on 24 October. Action closed**

**ACTION: JB to contact Society of Musicians once ready to progress the idea- action amended: not Society of Musicians but Centre for Music**

**ACTION: KH put LS and ME in contact with ISSS- Action closed**

**ACTION: JP arrange meeting with Toby Blewett and Paul Dingley (Commercial Director)- pending, JP**

absent.

**ACTION: JP to explore Repair Shop-** *LS already has a working relationship with staff, informed repair café staff that JP will be in contact*

## 6) Presidents Updates

### Khadiza Hossain

- Organising career fair in February
- Employers shortlisted and invited, 30 stalls. Focusing on employers that don't invest in oil gas or arms. LSRs involved in shortlisting and recommendations.
- Timetabling- Joining the steering group when it opens.
- Attending feedback meetings and governance meetings as usual.
- *Question LS: who decided which companies would be contacted for the careers fair?*
- All presidents working together on the careers fair, also with support of Rosa (Community Manager) and Finlay (Rep Coordinator)
- *LS: Arms companies are contentious, ethically understand and agree with disapproval, but thinking about Engineering students- some of the big employers of engineering grads make both planes and weapons- eg Boeing. Is it in the interest of engineering students to not invite that employer?*
- People and Planet attending, focus on ethical careers, it's an additional SU thing rather than replacing an existing UWE thing, LSRs from SENG were part of the discussion.
- *Question JB: LSRs from CATE?*
- LSRs from every school.

### Anya Brentnall

- Sports Executive Committee established: impact within sports community at UWE, more representation and student led stuff outside of clubs, reduced siloing. Opportunity to lead above club level. Other SUs and Sabbatical Officers have had success with this. Chose to recruit because its new for UWE, interviewed and recruited. First meeting is next week: main item is discussion of roles.
- *Question JB: where does committee sit in terms of teams and resources within the SU.*
- Voluntary role that sits under VP sports. Meet monthly, reports into Joint Committee for sport. Operational partnership, anything that needs to be escalated can feed into Sports Board, chaired by William Liew. Governance around sport being worked on, goal for this year. Sports exec is a piece of governance can support with the whole process. Trying to work within Uwes existing strategy and governance.
- Sports media role, sits within opportunities team. Capture content and livestream Wednesday sports. More students watching sport, championing success in match and showcasing student experience.
- Movember, pushing awareness especially through sports clubs, highlighting men's mental health. Part of 11 other Students' Unions campaigning under "more Mo's more impact" Activations coming up including Strava, tache of week, and inside out day.
- *Question LS: regarding the media role, are thry contacting BUCS for filming rights?*
- Within regulations to stream it, not monetizing it, no BUCS branding, we're compliant. Don't need licensing for casual livestreaming on campus.
- *Question ZTC: Are Sports Exec committee members selected*
- yes, Announced at Sports conf
- *ZTC: can we collab?*
- If they have scope to do it, Anya can signpost after the first meeting has happened
- *Question LS: how does TeamUWE vs uwe sport work?*
- SU funding apart from performance athletes. SU is operational behind all the sports club, UWE

gives bonuses and funding only to their own performance athletes and teams. Participation officer will link MOVE to participation.

- *ZTC- Move sessions facilitated by who?*
- UWE Bristol sport, University scheme where the SU has very limited involvement. Trying to work in partnership and still promote UWE initiative.

Asad Awan

- Engage students with their SU: By-elections we had a considerable increase in voter turnout.
- *JB: voter data across campuses?-*
- **Action: Han find out if this can be shared**
- Asad GOAT, successful. NUS carried out a campaign week- UWE managed to come 3<sup>rd</sup>, encouraged petition.
- Incorporate library workshops- IT and AI, met with library staff. Some proficiency courses offered to staff but not to students and could be expanded for students, this said, some problems are more technical and workshops still valuable.
- *JB: it's an improvement but only takes us from 1% to 2%*
- It's also about the number of candidates, compare to General Election. Follows trend of other elections UK Gov elections: General vs Local elections.
- *JB: Can we note against other student unions.*
- *JB: democracy review, when does process close.*
- **Have/will the PTOs been contacted by Jackie- Han to research and bring to next Exec**
- **Jason to email Em Harvey (Representation Manager)**

## 7) PTO Objectives and Updates

Bonnie Evergreen

- Working with Presidents of LGBTQ+ society regarding the Supreme Court and EHRC guidance, how is it affecting UWE's policy. They've retracted policy. Working with UWE to get further explanation. Already in touch and having a meeting. Listening to students and showing face within the society as an SU PTO.

Logan Smith

- Set up meeting with Umar to talk about sobriety socials. Maybe involve Anya re sobriety in sports.
- Contacted Global team, invited to Wednesday Café sessions which he was already attending anyway. Attending in his PTO capacity, welcoming Intl students. Global group said they're too busy on Wednesdays so rebooking time with them. Plan is to work on Lunar New Year.
- Emailed societies that have international students, working with Chinese students to co-create LNY.
- Met with VP Ed to get in contact with more students. Meetings set up. Hoping to bring an action regarding sobriety event requirements
- *JB: had a good convo at welcome with someone from Global- visits to global artists exhibiting around Bristol.*

**Action: Jason and Logan to have a chat about Global team staff and visits to global artists' exhibitions around Bristol**

Saliha Sadaf

- Coming from Bachelors to postgrad transition wasn't smooth.
- Wants to facilitate community for postgrads: place to chat and connect, bring people together, get to know other students. Esp for international students.

- Mental health support for postgrads. Career and dissertation support. Maybe connect with LS for Visa problems.
- Academic support. PAL leader (peer assisted learning) Found that there isn't a comparable offer in masters courses. There should be something for postgraduate students: international students might want to practice study skills.
- *KH: UQSSC (University Quality and Standards Sub Committee) coming up, UWE looking at doing a pre-masters course, comparable to foundation year, support students into their Masters.*
- *LS: Significant overlapping of international students with postgrads, could both connect with Global Centre.*
- **Action: Logan find out more from Global Centre, how can specifically postgrad international students be supported**
- Where to go to get data, view opinions and struggles. Wants to start using LSRs in SOAS to inform.
- LS suggests espresso, partially run by PAL
- **Action: Logan put Saliha in contact with espresso**
- *JB wants to contact Mike Rickets, lead for Spike and Arnolfini to speak to postgrads. Can loop SS into the same conversation.*
- *KH: Larger piece of work going on in PGR, if anyone's interested especially SS, KH can involve her in this area. Thank you for joining PGR fair.*

Jason Budd

- Inter-course collaboration
- pop up banner for each of their roles, could designate them as student leaders when they're out and about.
- Student been in contact with JB, wants to research into unions in general.
- Jason would like this student to do the pop up banners
- Using creative practice courses to generate material for the students union. Agency called new wave- creative agency for UWE. They do more external opportunities
- *AB- New wave hires students for streaming etc content creation.*
- Can we use these students for internal purposes, maybe find out.
- Student life- difference between student life and student union. What's their governance structure, what does for students by students mean, where does the funding come from.

**Action: Han research Student Life and bring this to next executive meeting.**

**Action: Jason arrange meeting with Paul Dingley (Commercial Services Director) about satellite bar at Bower Ashton.**

- Feeding into Democracy review; thinking about Mature Students' Officer.
- Within internal policies there's not references to 'city campus', makes the PTO role difficult because there's not really a connection between the city campus sites, they have their own identities. Would advocate for there being separate officers for the separate sites. Thinks this could be successful because there's strong campus sense of community on each site
- Start society for collaboration- meeting with Umar. Intercurricular and extracurricular.
- Wanting to use the theatre space in Arnolfini more.
- *KH: are you in contact with LSRs*
- No but would like to be
- *KH: They can raise their feedback through academic channels too, SBOS (School Board of Studies) and LTSEC (Learning Teaching Student Experience Committee), if students strongly feel this way about their campuses that's a facilities issue as well as something students want.*

*Suggesting that contacting LSRs is a good way to get more student feedback in building this case.*

**Action: Jason to speak with LSRs and strategic office faculty**

Zarabel Turgut-Cox

- Unfiltered women's wellbeing chats- meetup where we discuss topics and support each other. First one Monday didn't go very well, Imogen from Sister Courage came who teaches self defense, not very good attendance. Maybe an external facilitator was too scary for the first session. Chiller next time- art supplies and maybe during lunchtime.
- Supporting White Ribbon Day- Stall in OneZone, white ribbon banner, pens. Men can sign it or stick post its. Highlights men and holds them accountable. Starting on that day is 16 days of activism, highlighting gender-based violence. Eliminating violence against women, participating with something every day either online or in person. External partners coming in including MJ, (UWE's Anti-Sexual Violence advisor). Don't want to overshadow Movember, but both campaigns happening at the end of November. Women's history month in March, celebrating women in sport. Online campaign about who they are and what they do. Increase gender diversity in sports clubs and societies, pick out a club and a society to test drive. Advertise an inclusive event specifically.
- *JB: suggest film society*
- There was a similar event in a previous year with the Chess society, disparity between women and men in chess. Session where you could chat and were taught chess, beginner welcome event.
- *LS: easy access to students*
- *JB: Suggest event jointly run with photography society*
- *LS: Can we make sure events go on the whiteboard? Whiteboard down in the lobby is especially valuable to international students who aren't using the website or social media.*
- **Action: Han talk to Lara (Reception Team) about whiteboard**
- MOVE sessions for only women, climbing for example has a scary reputation. Don't want to do their sport in front of men. MOVE can be hard to work with and they don't always have capacity. Maybe work through AB VP Sport and Sarah Dickenson.
- *LS: mentioning Yoga, previous president is a friend, they identified an issue where gender of the class leader impacted turnout. May also affect kpop dance, dance in general, pole. Students feeling that they're not secure or safe to do what they want to do.*
- Hoping to test-drive with a small number of clubs and societies (1 or 2) then eventually expand to be a long term solution.
- *AB: hoping to do a pledge artwork for the walls in the Centre For Sport. Can do this together with ZTC.*
- **Action: Jason and Swizel to have a conversation about their collaboration in their roles**

Celina Tomas

- *(Note: pasted from Celina's messages in the chat of the teams call)* I was going to say that my buddy has been changed as she has to step down so I'm currently planning to film a video with the marketing team about when my office hour is and disability history month is coming up. Also looking at putting signs on lifts both in the SU and on campus prioritising those with disabilities My new buddy said they'd reach about to me in a couple weeks, the marketing team haven't got back to me regarding the video I hope they will soon! *(Note: Assistant*

*Marketing Manager responded on 8 October 2025.)*

- **Action: Jason to connect with Celina about video**
- **Action: Han to connect Saliha with LSRS in SOAS**
- Swizel Afonso
- *(note: network was poor on the day of the meeting, not all of Swizel's words were heard. Emailed following the meeting to contribute)*
- Increasing activities and involvement opportunities at Glenside, ensuring students there enjoy the same experiences and access to events as those on other campuses.
- Promote equal access to employability events by introducing a hybrid format, offering both in-person sessions for those able to attend, and online options for Glenside students who face challenges commuting to Frenchay for short sessions, especially on non-teaching days.

## **8) AOB**

- AB thoughts on collaborations: in convo with University South Wales (varsity) where creative students making the t shirts for student athletes to wear, could be an engagement piece for creative students.
- SS: was part of a conference where a speaker came, professor at Bath, talked about bringing sports kits for Muslim women onto campus. Surrey also have sport headscarves available in their uniform, athletes can focus on their performance not on staying modest.

**Action: Anya talk to Saliha about this. Han to send over info from Asics Undropped Kit.**

- PEBE- sports bra company, offer a 2 day service with pop-up changing rooms.

**Action: Anya talk to marketing about potential activation.**

## **9) Date of the next meeting**

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

- Executive Committee – 26 November