

Student Council Agenda – February 2026



Facilitator (s): Ahmar Razzaq, Iptiaz Rashid (Democratic Procedures Officers)

Secretary: Em Harvey (she/her, Representation Manager)

Minute Secretary: Han Morgan (they/them, Representation Coordinator)

Location: 4X112 (Frenchay Campus, X Block) and [Online](#)

Date: 19 February 2026

Time: 17:30 – 20:00

1) Welcome, Apologies & Housekeeping (5 mins)

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

Elections reminder: campaigning is not open, so please do not discuss anything related to a campaign, including that you're a potential candidate. Anyone who does this may be removed from the meeting.

External Trustees: Thank you for participating in the voting on ratification. 17 Student Council members cast their vote, and each trustee received 14 votes to accept their appointment. This meets the threshold for a simple majority as required by the [bye-laws \(Bye Law 6, 1.3.6\)](#), so they have been ratified.

Please note, other Student Council Members joined the meeting after Welcome Apologies and Housekeeping

Present

Henry Thorner

Oumaima Moussabbir

Athan Kelly

Dylan Wallek

Jenna Kerrigan

Evan Marshall

Sezen Kahya

Arisa Syahwira

Hannah Bain

Amin Alhawary

Umar Shehu

Ismail Shaffi

Representation Team

Em Harvey

Han Morgan

Finlay Stevenson

Becca Mosley

Observers

2) Introductions and Quoracy Check (5 mins)

Quorum is set to 75% of elected members. 12 members present, this means

3) Accountability Session (1 hour 20 mins approximately)

Presidents will be invited to give a report to the meeting, followed by questions from members and attendees.

Khadiza Hossain- VP Education

Spoke with Deputy Registrar about Block Teaching, needs to gain Vice Chancellor's approval before work can begin, if passed will likely begin Academic year after next.

Graduate Employability addressed with the careers fair. Thanks expressed to Fin (Representation Coordinator) for his help with the project. Consulted with Lead School Reps to shortlist companies that don't invest in oil, gas or arms. Invited 1200 employers, poor response rate, but still filled stalls with good employers, NGOs, and recruitment agencies relevant to the schools. 320 students attended, 31 stalls. Joined Graduate Outcome Survey Group, one meeting so far, will give more updates at next meeting. This year has introduced a new structure for PGR students. Now working with head of Degree Apprenticeships to address these students' experiences.

Question: Block Teaching, will this impact the ability of professors to schedule their work?

Not mapped out right now, early in the process, the University is planning it. If Khadiza is invited to further consultation she'll update Student Council.

Questions: Timetables improved this semester, but the timeframe to change classes is too short, can Khadiza raise it?

Raised with the Deputy Registrar, raises everything that comes out of NSS. Timetabling and feedback are interlinked and already being worked on. Thank you for raising.

Questions: How will block teaching affect module choices?

Will be planned in a way that doesn't hamper students, but Khadiza will raise this specifically with the Deputy Registrar, so Student Voice is part of that planning.

Thanks expressed regarding career fair, thanks for reflecting students' desire for careers fair to be free from companies investing in arms.

Did anyone go to the distress zones in the library?

Thought it was positive but didn't personally use it.

Anya Brentnall- VP Sports and Health

Sports Executive is successful, members are taking an active lead in sport, participation and inclusion. Promoting MOVE programme, member working with the Centre For Sport (CFS) to bridge the gap between CFS and Students' Union promotion, encouraging use of free MOVE classes. Communications officer leading a monthly "round up" of highlights and best bits to share on Instagram. Engaging students in passive participation of sport, and showcasing TeamUWE achievements. Community officer lead a World Cancer Day campaign.

Monthly feedback form being used, useful to see what club members value as well as committees, got 77 responses. Reviewing these at Sports Executive meetings, feedback guides the committee.

Livestreaming remains positive, sports media appreciated by clubs and members, encouraged volunteer photographers to attend fixtures. Trying to improve coverage.

Students' art on varsity t-shirt and promo material, bridging the gap between creative courses, arts students and sport.

At last Student Council, received requests for more give it a go and taster sessions, responded with pick

and play. Aimed at January starters, and those who didn't join sport in September. Noticed interest low despite marketing efforts. Need to find out the best time for placing an event like that next time.

Question: Pick and Play, could surveys help to schedule the events, see what teaching schedules allow.
No such thing as a perfect time, but having events all in one location was beneficial. Satisfied with the pilot and those who attended enjoyed it. Room for improvement.

Suggestion: Pick and play was scheduled too early, committee not back from Winter Break.
Need to work on balancing January starters vs placement students vs facilitators. Good to know and gain feedback for next time. Work towards more success next year.

Suggestion: Thought 8 varsity competition entries was low, entries open for longer could be a solution
Focused on creative disciplines, Bower Ashton students and staff. Thank you for suggestion.

Response: Maybe students were busy with their own work

Pilot scheme, working within University of South Wales's timelines too. Satisfied but will build on that for VP Sport 2026-27

Asad Zarif Awan- SU President.

Thanks expressed for coming, using democratic voice, holding leaders accountable, offering warm welcome. Took Annual Leave in January, returned to work 9 February.

After last council meeting attended NUS conference in November. Engaged in policy debates on Cost of Living, National Campaigns, many Students' Unions collaborating to amplify collective student voice.

Objective to increase engagement with democratic process, demonstrated by turnout at by-elections. Now working with Representation team for March elections, commitment to both Full Time Sabbatical Officer and Part Time Officer roles.

Careers fair: thanks expressed to Khadiza and Fin for their hard work.

Discounts from local businesses, progressing but encountered barriers. Agreement with Dominos has stopped advertising other pizza businesses on SU website, but no impact on deals with non-pizza restaurants.

Attending meetings with stakeholders. International students facing withdrawal due to non-payment, lobbied credit departments to give more time and reinstate them.

Addressing postgraduate supervision, currently don't have a robust enough complaints process for students complaining against supervisors; reasons might include non-attendance, non-engagement, delayed feedback.

Compassionate approach with bad news, national conversation about student in Scotland who died by suicide after an error in marking and feedback. UWE effort to communicate bad news with care, in person or on the phone where possible, accompanied by a wellbeing message and resources.

Question: Supervisors unsuitable, waiting too long for allocation. Couldn't get an extension.

- That's an example of why we're doing this work. Working with WONKHE and their policies too, but working to make our own process better and more robust.

Question: What are the terms of the Dominos agreement?

- Good question, doesn't have the details but can share that Dominos are our main sponsor, 50% discount for students, more than £1000 of pizza given out at Welcome Fair. Feels it's overall better to be with Dominos, more substantial discount is passed onto students.

ACTION: Share details of Dominos agreement with Student Council.

Question: AI training and workshops are on your manifesto, national news about students using AI to support their mental health, having negative consequences. Wants to raise awareness with Presidents, AI training should include information on how to use it safely/accompany with a wellbeing message.

- As part of the AI steering group, will raise student mental health at the next meeting.

ACTION: Raise student mental health at AI steering group.

4) Affiliation with NUS (30 mins)

Amira Campbell (NUS UK President) joined online.

NUS (National Union of Students) is a national organisation representing students, membership over 400 SUs in the UK. Sixth form and college students represented as well as universities. Team of VPs as well as Nation presidents. Primary role is lobbying student rights at a national level

- Student loans, lobbying for new terms on repayment thresholds.
- Work on housing, lobbying for maintenance grants, the Renters Rights Bill. Preventing landlords from exploiting low-income and international students with guarantor policies and charging rent upfront
- Lobbying against international student levy.
- Working to reject anti-trans legislation, rally to push Labour MPs in support of trans rights. Supported 50 SUs with their responses to the EHRC consultation.
- Support Palestinian students to access their education in the UK. Palestinian Ambassador came to opening plenary, meetings ongoing, excited by progress.

Question: A 2016 NUS motion said gay men don't face oppression, is that still the stance?

- Didn't know that, NUS has a history of standing for queer rights, so she's surprised. NUS stands in solidarity with queer people, and understands the oppression that gay men experience.

Question: Is NUS an affiliate of the Labour party, do you fund any other political parties?

- Goes to the conference of the party in power, also goes to others sometimes. Lobbying change with Labour because they're currently the MPs capable of change. This year particularly focusing on trans rights because of the laws impacting trans people under the Labour government.

Question: What will the average student benefit financially from the return of maintenance grants or other Cost of Living lobbying, and when will that be implemented?

- Government has provisionally said £2000 in 1st and 2nd year of study, and £1000 in 3rd year, don't have full projections, but the NUS is in the task group. Decision pending on who will be eligible for maintenance grants. Previously that mapping depended on money raised from the international student levy. Concerned about that because it's not equitable. Student Finance model isn't designed for those who need it. Amira can't currently provide clear numbers for the average student, because the Government is undecided, but NUS is in the room and able to influence the outcome.

Question: What is meant by "countering the far-right"?

- Growing presence of the far-right, especially noticeable with international student rights. Far-right countering is likely to be one of the upcoming priorities for NUS' year. Action planned for late March and again in May. Facilitating conversations on far-right ideas, encourage critical engagement, reflection, conversations of hope. More direct work: monitoring the rise of Reform societies, logging and awareness of incidents, conversations with students experiencing harm and concern. Forward Action, interested in digital space, far-right organising online. Exploring how NUS could fund and support an online resource countering misinformation and the far-right pipeline. Feeding the

algorithm with accurate information, challenging far-right narratives.

Question: far-right riots, does NUS offer support to affected students?

- On a local level, NUS supports the SU that supports you. Focus is on National Changemaking rather than local but does have resources and signposting on NUS website for staff. Most support is around best practice and resources for your Union, training and equipping SUs to support their own students.

Question: Why did Cambridge and LSE leave NUS?

- Would encourage students to read the statements on these SU websites. Believes that Cambridge and LSE cited NUS' lack of action around Palestine. Referendums are part of the democratic process, and students should be encouraged to do that if they want. Would warmly welcome these SUs back if they decide to return in future, has recently welcomed Hull back to NUS after 10 years.

Question: How does NUS define Zionism, NUS call themselves Antizionist.

- Can't give a singular NUS- approved definition, because there are different definitions across culture and experience. That's why NUS says "here is what we believe" rather than adopting a specific term which means different things to different people. NUS believes in recognising and naming genocide. NUS believes the Government fails to do enough to stop genocide. NUS advocates for the recognition of the Palestinian state.

Question: what definition specifically does NUS use for Zionism/Antizionism

- Not sure she understands the question. NUS hasn't chosen to identify itself with Zionism or Antizionism but has separately outlined what they stand for. Haven't adopted labels or picked a specific definition. NUS is neither a Zionist or an Antizionist organisation.
- In Amira's definition, for some people Zionism is affinity or connection with Israel, but the same word can also reference an incredibly racist ideology. In some ways Antizionism is the rejection of the actions of the Israeli state, for some people it's rejection of the idea of a Jewish state based on it being Jewish.

Student Council member believes Amira has not answered the question.

DPO requests that the conversation moves on.

Student Council Member- in favour of Disaffiliating from NUS.

- SU at UWE should disaffiliate
- Seems like NUS is living off South Africa. (*Referencing NUS history of speaking out against Apartheid*)
- Doesn't represent students, including international students, saying it's not their role. What's the point. They (*The Student's Union at UWE*) rely on the benefits of NUS charity, not NUS UK.
- NUS UK is political, it's a registered company, but they don't represent us.
- They don't represent UWE students. Used to send 12 reps from UWE to NUS conference but now send barely anyone. (*The Students' Union at UWE has 5 allocated places, 4 were taken up for NUS conference 2025. UWE has a greater number of allocated places than other Students' Unions, due to the number of students represented by our SU*)
- NUS Muslim member was targeted because of her stance. (*Referencing Shaima Dallali, dismissed as President of NUS following allegations of antisemitism. Ended her legal action against her dismissal following a settlement.*)
- NUS chased sabbatical officers regarding stance on Palestine.
- NUS say they stand for this and that, and NUS is oppressive. Palestine statement, took them 2 years to do something.

- Cambridge and LSE have disaffiliated.
- Never had any representation to begin with.

Reminder that due to 12 Student Council Members being present we are not a quorate meeting (quorum is 75% of elected members, 15 members).

Can bring a motion to the next meeting, providing it is quorate.

Suggestion

- *Asynchronous participation in Student Council, option to record for next time? Some ways of online hosting for members to vote after the discussion.*

Question to member suggesting disaffiliation, what are the alternatives for NUS.

- *Don't have to be in NUS to have influence. His aunt could get in touch with an MP. SU shop is supported by NUS charity, don't have to disaffiliate with the charity, just NUS UK. We would be fine. Jewish student mentioned that NUS prevents him from speaking up against antisemitism.*

Question: can we email student council members and ask them to come to the meeting, then we will be quorate and can vote.

- Those members who aren't here haven't heard from Amira, haven't been part of the discussion. They wouldn't be casting an informed vote.

Question: If there's people who don't show up for two Student Council meetings in a row, can we fill the roles another way

- Representation team can action this. Unengaged members will be contacted and warned about removal, potential for byelection at the next Sport and Society conferences.

Raising motion to vote for referendum on affiliation with NUS UK.

- Meeting now quorate, but student council members weren't present during discussion.

Motion failed due to abstentions

Request to raise failed motions again at the next meeting.

5) Defense Statement (30 mins)

Discursive session, gathering ideas. Reminder from the DPOs to speak with respect and refrain from talking over others. Sharing the draft statement. Defence industrial strategy law passed recently, UK using tax money and increasing it. Getting opinions and ideas specifically on the **statement**.

Comment: Careers fair didn't invite defence industries. Statement doesn't represent the values of the SU.

- Careers fair was Students' Union led.

Comment: Statement suggests a disconnect between SU, UWE and student feeling. Have students been meaningfully consulted.

- Statement went to Student Rep Conference. UWE Darren Reynolds, this statement wasn't brought by SU presidents.

Statement went to Ethics Committee, discussed thoroughly including student feedback from conference. Strong opinions, agreement and dissatisfaction. Statement has been revised, will go to Academic Board next week. Understanding is that UWE will work in this sector anyway, they're trying to consult on the

statement. More student consultation needed.

Comment: Incongruence between UWE and SU, is could be better for the SU to release their own statement in disagreement.

Comment: UWE can't stop students working in defence after graduation, or stop research being used for defence applications. Whether we like it or not, we're involved in the defence industry regardless of the statement.

Comment: UWE Frenchay campus is positioned across from Ministry Of Defence. SU and UWE have opinions on defence. If there isn't a student mandate for boycott, are we closing doors of opportunity to students?

- Careers fair invited comparable companies from relevant industries, scale and background of companies. Can't force students to avoid arms work, but can show them all the options that are available; UWE doesn't want to ban anything.

Comment: this statement entails partnership with UWE and defence companies, goes into projects that UWE benefits from, but students don't benefit from. Moral obligation not to deal with companies who create weapons used in Gaza.

Question: Are we quorate now

Student Council Members who just arrived weren't able to hear or participate in the debate, would not recommend raising a motion as their vote would be uninformed.

- *Raises a motion to lobby against any kind of cooperation between UWE and the defence industries.*

Comment: Hard to vote on a future statement, would like to read revised version

Academic Board agenda papers have been released; Khadiza will request to share them. Wouldn't need to adopt a lobbying position.

New Motion, replacing previous motion: Reject current defence statement and revised versions that might be produced.

Motion failed due to abstentions

6) Any Other Business (5 mins)

Members invited to raise Any Other Business (AOB) for the meeting to consider.

No AOB in meeting

Message to Student Council Members from Elections Team:

Thank you to everyone for attending Student Council, and thank you for being so observant of the rules we have around elections (not discussing candidacy outside of the campaigning period!) We'd like to remind all Student Council members that running in the elections and holding a role as an elected student leader is another fantastic way to represent student voice, as you all demonstrate in our meetings. Student Council members especially have the skills to run for Democratic Procedures Officer

roles, due to the experience you build as a Student Council Member. The current Democratic Procedures Officers are Ahmar Razzaq and Iptiaz Rashid, 4 positions will be available in the March Elections. The Democratic Procedures Officers are responsible for

- ensuring The Students' Union's democratic systems are engaging and inclusive.
- Ensure democratic processes are conducted in accordance with the bye-laws
- Proposing changes to democratic systems based on student feedback.

For those interested in running, or who want to find out more:

[Nominate yourself on the Students' Union Website](#)

[Recommend another person for the role](#)

[Read the full role description](#)

7) Date of next meeting

Next Student Council will be Monday 27 April 2026, 17:00

*Please note that the timings for each item of business are only illustrative and are not binding on the meeting.
It is up to the Facilitator to determine how long is appropriate for discussion of a specific item.*