



# Leicester 100 Meeting Minutes

*Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December*

Meeting started 18:25

## Introduction

Siya Bhatt, the Students' Union Chair, opened the meeting thanking everyone for attending the meeting and outlined the agenda.

Siya explained that quorum for this Leicester 100 meeting is 75. The meeting had 78 people in attendance at the time of starting, so the meeting was quorate.

## Agenda Item 1 - Updates from Last Meeting

As part of the Students' Union's governance structures, the Membership and Governance Sub-Committee oversees Union policy and, as part of this, reviews all policies that have been either approved or recommended for referendum. This sub-committee met following the last Leicester 100 meeting and reviewed all relevant decisions made.

### Update 1: Ethical Banking Proposal

- This has been ratified and passed to our Finance and Audit Committee to oversee the progression of the proposal.

### Update 2: Demilitarising the University of Leicester

- The Leicester 100 recommendation for the referendum was ratified by the Membership and Governance Sub-Committee. The referendum will be held early next term, with voting taking place at the end of January 2026.

### Update 3: Strike Action Proposal - Recommendation for Referendum

- The committee considered that the strategic review and strike action were ongoing and likely to see student opinion evolving quickly.
- Following review, the Membership and Governance Sub-Committee did not feel that a referendum would be reasonable on a neutral stance, in light of any outcome being unlikely to progress Union activity. There was currently no suggestion from Leicester 100 that there was a significant desire to see a Yes/No decision on a particular position.
- The sub-committee noted that there was a majority vote for neutrality alongside a number of abstentions, indicating no appetite to take a Yes/No vote on a particular position.

- The Students' Union has been gathering feedback from students on the Strategic Review and the strike action since the start of term. Feedback from this and the initial findings from early responses to LeicsChat show no consensus from students to suggest that the Union should take a particular stance.
- However, there is a current submission on the Ideas System requesting the SU to hold a referendum to support the strike action. This is currently live, and students are able to vote on the idea.

#### **Update 4: Elections Proposal**

The majority of the recommendations from Leicester 100 were ratified, which means that neutrality in elections, eligibility criteria, and the relevant By-Laws were approved by our Trustee Board on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Therefore, the changes will be introduced subject to final approval by University Council.

There were two areas where the committee felt further action was required:

#### **1. Changing the Roles of DRO and IRO**

- Current practice is that the IRO makes the initial decisions on any complaints or incidents, including what penalties, if any, to impose. Where a penalty has been imposed, the candidate can submit an appeal against this decision – this is currently also considered by the IRO. This can create circumstances where candidates may need to submit an appeal to the same person who disqualified them from the elections.
- Following a review by the committee, and noting student feedback, the sub-committee identified significant risks associated with the current practice in relation to duties placed upon them by the Education Act, the principles of natural justice, and potential reputational risk.
- As a result, the Board of Trustees decided that these changes will be introduced, resulting in the DRO making the initial rulings and the IRO considering and ruling on any appeals.
- The relevant Election Standing Order changes were recommended for approval by the Board of Trustees, which met and approved these on 19 November. They will therefore be introduced subject to final approval by University Council.

#### **2. Electronic Voting at Ballot Stations**

- In line with the recommendations of the IRO last year, and taking into account the significant concern expressed by students regarding the voting process, the sub-committee recommended that the Union provides Leicester 100 with a range of options that aim to secure a free and fair election process that does not unduly disadvantage voters.
- When presenting the options, greater detail of the challenges, including relevant complaints data, should be provided.

- Following this, there is an agenda item at this Leicester 100 meeting for discussion and voting on the different options available.

Students with any questions were encouraged to email [SU-Voice@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:SU-Voice@leicester.ac.uk).

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## **Agenda Item 2 – Elections Voting**

Siya passed over to Aishwarya to discuss elections voting options.

### Main points included:

- The overwhelming student feedback from last year was that the elections were not a positive experience, primarily due to the way candidates had been approaching them and harassing them to vote against their will.
- The elections team received a record level of complaints (85), with the majority relating to students feeling harassed to vote against their will, often reporting that devices were being taken from them for candidates and their campaign teams to vote on their behalf.
- Approximately one-third of complaints were upheld, resulting in or contributing to the IRO taking relevant actions. This culminated in the disqualification of 16 candidates from the election.
- The Membership and Governance Sub-Committee have provided three approaches for the Leicester 100 to vote on:
  - Approach 1: Keep electronic voting as it is
  - Approach 2: Electronic voting maintained, but students must visit an Election Area/Ballot Station to vote
  - Approach 3: A combination of Approaches 1 and 2, with students able to vote electronically on their own devices for set periods each day

Siya invited members of the Leicester 100 to vote. The approach that receives the most votes will be implemented for the next set of elections.

**Approach 3 received the most votes at 46% so will be implemented.**

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## **Agenda Item 3 - Proposal 1: Sustainability of Elections**

Siya invited Mohammed to introduce his proposal. It was noted that this proposal comprised of one initial action that will be voted on, and a contingency action if action 1 does not pass.

### Main points included:

- During the 2024/25 election cycle, candidates collectively produced 10,405 printed campaign items.
- Using standard UK emissions factors for paper printing, these materials generated an estimated 52 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e.
- Printed materials frequently appear in excessive quantities across campus, contributing to visual pollution and creating an overwhelming environment especially for students who experience sensory overload, including many neurodivergent students.

Siya invited the room, and those online, to discuss the idea.

Key feedback points included:

- Some students don't use social media so the elections won't be as visible
- Volume of candidates being shown on screens around campus – could pose a difficulty
- Most students don't pay attention to emails so may not realise what's happening until too late to engage
- Most of the members in the room were for the idea of digitising campaign materials
- Majority of students have access to the SU website and social media
- Some students in the room were more in favour of the contingency plan (action 2) as this felt like a progressive move in the right direction without a full ban which felt drastic
- Students agreed that it would be more sustainable to use digital-first campaigning.
- Candidates being given the opportunity to design and create their own flyers is part of the experience of elections, and allows them to express their creativity and show people what matters to them as they campaign.
- Some alternative solutions that were suggested were maybe putting a cap on how many flyers/leaflets can be printed and distributed to avoid too much clutter and/or waste.
- Another suggestion was to use recyclable materials so as to address the sustainability aspect.

Members were invited to vote on Action 1 of the proposal.

60% of members voted for the proposal. The threshold to pass was 67% so members were then invited to vote on Action 2 from the proposal. **82% of members voted in favour of this action, therefore Action 2 was passed.**

Siya invited the room to discuss implementation of the proposal.

Key ideas raised were:

- Asking one body to do all the printing for candidates to ensure fairness and monitoring
- Limiting where posters can be placed on campus
- Making candidates aware of digital campaigning tools and how to use them
- Set printing limit for each candidate
- Set penalty if printed over the limit
- Dedicated printing area within LSU
- Mandatory campus clean-up after elections for candidates/campaign teams

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#### **Agenda Item 4 – Policy Lapse 2024-25**

Siya informed the room that we have a number of policies that were up for renewal at the end of last academic year. As the last meeting of the previous academic year wasn't quorate, we will need to vote on whether we want to renew these policies for a further three years today.

Siya invited Aishwarya to discuss the proposals that were up for renewal.

##### Main points included:

- Wasted Food: Principle of the idea is good but is outdated and, in many ways, has already been achieved. Food Rescue Volunteers & Community Kitchen are in operation
- Black Role Models: Principal is good and the SU has carried this out since. Some of the policy's language is outdated and needs updating
- Workers' Rights Consortium: Policy is asking us to join a Consortium targeted in North America. Recommendation: Vote not to renew
- Leafleting during Elections: Recommendation: Vote to renew - consider what option you voted on for the Sustainability of Elections Proposal
- To make exams fairer for all by implementing an "exams48" policy: Principal is fine - this is still a problem. Recommendation: Either vote to renew or not based on interest as policy can be reallocated to the most relevant officers.
- Digitising All Required and Suggested Readings: Ongoing, no progress has been made on this.
- Listing the full ingredients on all products in the Library Cafe and Delicious: Campaign has mostly been achieved. Much of the policy is outdated. Recommendation: Ask the Sustainability Council to bring an up-to-date policy back next year or voting not to renew
- Lobby City Council to Rename De Montfort Hall: No progress has been made on this.
- Support Student Sex Workers: Principal is fine but some of the information is almost a decade old.

Students were invited to discuss the policies.

Siya invited the room to vote on the renewal of all proposals.

**All policies were renewed apart from Support Student Sex Workers and Leafleting During Elections.**

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#### **Agenda Item 5 – Summary and Close**

Siya thanked everyone for their time and positive contributions.

*Meeting adjourned 19:42*

Attendance:

First Name	Surname
Abdullah	Abdullah
Mutiat	Afolabi
Anushka	Agarwalla
Sodiq	Agbabiaka
Steven	Ajayi
Ahmad	Al-Khateeb
Alina	Anand
Zohran	Arif
Samuel	Awe
Shreyas	Bhagania
Georgie	Birkin
Ella	Chadwick
Aimee	Childs
Otis	Chiomba
Chido	Chitepo
Yash	Chourasia
Charlie	collard
Joel	Degboe
Rama	Dhanda
Amrit	Dhot
Seyi	Dosunmu
Esme	Drislane
Emma-Louise	Ellis
Tobi	Folorunso
Charlotte	Gifford
Jay	Gill
Sean	Gjoka
Annie	Griffiths
Charlie	Halford
Shabab	Hoque
Abimbola	Ibitoye
Megan	Ivea
Manav	Jhandey
Tyler	Jones
Ripan	Judge
Anshika	Kapadia
Jasmine	Knight

Tanush	Kwatra
Ruby	Lane
Leon	Lehal
Hei Nga Naomi	Li
Ewelina	Lukasik
esha	mahmood ramzan
Kavya	Mallela Ramanareddy
Nimi	Manku
Jerein	Meyiwa-Obels
Lilavati Shivaji	Mhaske
Jean	Mirembe
Colleen	Mohabeer
Zakariya	Mohamed
Ella	Moursel
Victoria	Musial
Abhishek	Naik
Nicholas	Nobbee
Gia	Odiana
Abirami	Paramasivam
Caled	Parry
Esha	Patel
Nauman	Patel
Muhammad	Patel
Matt	Poole
Mahnoor	Raja
Tom	Ricolleau-Flack
Finley	Robbins
Umamah	Saleem
Huzaifa	Saqib
Isabel	Savill
Jakob	Scholpp
Riya	Shah
RADHA	SHUKLA
Mohammed	Siddiqui
Jignesh	Sisodiya
Koby	Som
Sabeel	Suleiman
Faith	Taku
Kavya	Tirumani
Abied	Ullah

Olivia	Veitch
Vanshika	Vekaria
Nasar	Yamin
Olivia	Yesilada
Seher	Zainab

Minutes compiled by Chloe Oliver, Senior Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator.