

Student Council minutes 26th March

Welcome

Please note that the meeting was not quorate.

Victoria welcomed students to the meeting and invited them to register their attendance for accreditation points. Victoria introduced the agenda for the day, which included: a proposal to promote inclusivity and support students with disabilities, a proposal for inclusive facilities, a proposal on no more weekend exams, policy renewals, the Executive Elections review, scrutiny reports, climate cafes, and upcoming events.

Proposals

Victoria highlighted that all proposals will be voted on indicatively today. She clarified that these are not binding but they do give insight into student support for the proposals.

The first proposal was brought by Mia Johnson from the Ideas System. Her proposal was regarding not having exams on Saturdays. Mia notes that:

- Mia conducted research in a focus group with students across different years at the university to gain student feedback
- The idea on the Ideas System reached 138 thumbs up in favour which is the highest number of upvotes for an idea this year
- There are many issues associated with having exams on weekend, including mental health, conflict with the day of sabbath for Jews, it interferes students with kids as typically no childcare is available, and students who work at weekends might face issues

Students were invited to vote on the proposal. The proposal received 65 votes for and 1 against. The indicative vote passes, though this is not binding.

Policy renewals

Victoria explained that the next proposals are policies that were already in place but need renewing to be in place for another three years. No proposer came forward to do a speech for Free Education, but students were invited to vote on the proposal. The proposal received 11 votes for and 1 against. The indicative vote passes, though this is not binding.

Next, Victoria invited Alex Burt to deliver their speech about declaring a climate emergency for two minutes. Alex notes:

- The current situation of the planet is disastrous
- The current climate projections show that we are over the 1.5 °C limit
- This is our future and the Students' Union should ensure that they and the University are working on becoming more sustainable
- There is no education on a dying planet

Students were invited to vote on the proposal. The proposal received 10 votes for, 2 for abstain, and 1 vote against. The indicative vote passes, though this is not binding.

Finally, Haleigh Gregory was invited to speak about the policy to maintain the Children Friendly Room for two minutes. Haleigh notes that the space for students with children in the Students' Union should be maintained so there is a space on campus for students.

An attendant said that there could be more promotion about the space, but promoting the space is challenging due to safeguarding issues, so this approach needs to be strategic. One attendant stated that students who register at the university should be told before they arrive. Students were invited to vote on the proposal. The proposal received 12 votes for and 1 against. The indicative vote passes, though this is not binding.

Scrutiny

Victoria explained that Scrutiny had to come to a conclusion for Jade's report before the next scrutiny process, which is ongoing, and she explained the outcome of her report. Victoria stated that the Scrutiny Committee have been looking at the work that the Part-Time Officers have done since they were elected. Victoria read out each Part-Time Officer's summary reports, and gave a summary of their performance overall. The full reports can be found on the [Scrutiny](#) webpage. Victoria explained that the next Executive Officer scrutiny reports will be finalised next term. Ask students who might have questions about scrutiny to email su-voice@le.ac.uk.

Executive Elections review

Next, Victoria explained that the Executive Elections happened last week, and that there was a record turnout. The meeting was not quorate so Victoria could not read out the IRO report.

Victoria invited the officers that were recently elected to come to the front to give a very brief introduction if present. The following text from the officers below were read out:

- Natalie Hayward (Distance Learning Officer): "Hi everyone. My name's Natalie and I'm currently a third-year undergraduate. I've been school rep for a few months now and look forward to expanding out into the DL officer role. I hope I can implement some things to improve all distance-learning students experience!"
- Dhriti Bardhan (International Officer): "Hi everyone, I am Dhriti, elected as the International Students' Officer for 2024/25. I am looking forward to this role and the changes I'd make to benefit the international students at the university. I hope to learn a lot along the way and host interesting events for all to participate. Have a good evening. Thank you."

Victoria read out the election stats: there were 3569 votes, a 20.9% turnout and 49 candidates in this year's elections. The full results of the Elections can be found on the Elections webpage and students who have questions about the elections to reach out to the Elections team at su-elections@le.ac.uk

Climate cafe

Victoria mentioned that the Activities and Sustainability Team have been working on creating climate cafes at the university, and they are looking for students who are interested in being

trained to facilitate their own climate cafes. This experience would build their CV and boost their employability. Students can sign up on the [Climate Café](#) webpage.

Upcoming events

Finally, Victoria let students know that the SU Awards are ongoing, and that nominations are now open until 18th April. Students and staff can submit nominations for a wide range of categories so that students can be recognised for the work that they do. The Awards event will be in May.

Close

Victoria closed the meeting, thanked everyone for coming and explained that the minutes will be sent to attendees.

Minutes compiled by Amelia Jones on 27th March 2024. If you have any issues with these minutes, you can email su-voice@le.ac.uk.