

Draft Minutes of UCL Union Council

**Tuesday 27 January 2009 at 6pm
in the Pearson Lecture Theatre
Pearson Building**

Present

See attached attendance list

The Chair opened the meeting at 18:03 and provided some housekeeping announcements.

UC08/04/1 Apologies

UC08/04/1.1 Apologies were noted as per the attached attendance list.

Zoe Samer arrived (18:05)

James Streetley arrived (18:06)

UC08/04/2 Announcements

UC08/04/2.1 Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 3 February 2009.

NOTED

UC08/04/2.2 Motions to Annual General Meeting to be submitted by 27 January.
Further information available from <http://www.uclunion.org/student-union/gm>

NOTED

UC08/04/2.3 UCLU Elections - nominations are open until 5pm on Thursday 29th January. More information available on www.uclunion.org/elections

NOTED

UC08/04/2.4 Student Campaigns 2009/10 - Student Affairs Committee has announced the opening of bids for campaigns. Giving you the opportunity to get your voice heard on the issues that mean most to you. Deadline for bids: 20 March 2009. Find out more at: <http://www.uclunion.org/campaigns>

NOTED

UC08/04/3 Data Protection Act

UC08/04/3.1 There was one further objection noted for their name and initials being published on the internet.

UC08/04/4 Minutes of the last meeting

UC08/04/4.1 The minutes of the meeting dated 9 December 2008 were projected.

Members reviewed the minutes and the meeting moved to a vote to approve the minutes.

Following the vote, the Chair declared that there was a clear majority and the minutes dated 9 December 2008 were

APPROVED

as a true and accurate record.

UC08/04/5 Matters Arising

UC08/04/5.1 Term 2 & 3: Revisions to Committee Schedule

Members reviewed the revisions to the Committee Schedule for terms 2 and 3.

Following a vote, the Chair declared that there was a clear majority and the revisions to the Committee Schedule were

APPROVED.

The Finance & Democracy Officer proposed to suspend section 9. IV.A of the Standing Orders which related to the agenda order for the Annual General Meeting. He clarified that his proposal is to suspend the relevant section for one academic term.

Members discussed what the likely agenda order would be for the Annual General Meeting. The Finance & Democracy Officer advised that the changes would reflect similar changes to the current agenda for Union Council.

Dan Swerdlow arrived (18:10)

Luna Irshaid Al Taher arrived (18:10)

Marcus Trotter arrived (18:10)

The Chair moved the meeting to a recorded vote on suspending section 9. IV.A of the Standing Orders for one academic term and the following votes were recorded:

For: 28

Against: 2

Abstentions: 5

The Chair declared that as there was a clear majority, the suspension of the relevant section of the Standing Orders was

CARRIED.

Nathanael Macdonald left (18:12)

UC08/04/6 Acceptance of the Agenda

Following a vote, the Chair declared that there was a clear majority and the agenda was

ACCEPTED

as circulated.

UC08/04/7 Union Executive Minutes

UC08/04/7.1 Union Executive minutes dated 11 November 2008

Members

RECEIVED

the minutes of the Union Executive dated 11 November 2008.

UC08/04/7.2 Union Executive minutes dated 25 November 2008

Members

RECEIVED

the minutes of the Union Executive dated 25 November 2008.

UC08/04/7.3 Union Executive minutes dated 2 December 2008

Members

RECEIVED

the minutes of the Union Executive dated 2 December 2008.

UC08/04/8 Elections to Union Standing Committees

UC08/04/8.1 2 postgraduate representatives to Postgraduate Association Executive Committee

As there were no nominations from the floor, the election of representatives to the Postgraduate Association Executive Committee was

DEFERRED.

UC08/04/9 Election to College Committees

UC08/04/9.1 Part-time student representative to Joint Staff Student Committee (1 Rep)

As there were no part-time students present, the election of a part-time student representative to the UCL Joint Staff Student Committee was

DEFERRED.

The Chair resolved that he would email all members of Union Council for nominations to vacant seats on the UCL Joint Staff Student Committee and UCLU Postgraduate Association Executive Committee. And should he not receive any interest, these two items would be removed from the agenda and remain vacant for this session.

The Welfare Officer suggested that members could put forward any known part-time students for the UCL Joint Staff Student Committee should they wish to join this Committee.

UC08/04/10 Committee Reports

The RUMS Clinical Vice President (Hampstead) asked about a resolution made by Activities Board with relation to the affiliation of the Liberal Democrats Society and the minimum membership requirements.

The Student Activities Officer responded that she would investigate this after the meeting.

Roumteen Keshe arrived (18:14)

UC08/04/10.1 Activities Board Minutes of 13 November 2008

Members

RECEIVED

the minutes of Activities Board dated 13 November 2008.

UC08/04/10.2 Elections Committee Minutes of 31 October 2008

Members

RECEIVED

the minutes of Elections Committee dated 31 October 2008.

UC08/04/10.3 Elections Committee Minutes of 14 November 2008

Members

RECEIVED

the minutes of Elections Committee dated 14 November 2008.

UC08/04/10.4 Student Affairs Committee Minutes of 24 November 2008

Members

RECEIVED

the minutes of Student Affairs Committee dated of 24 November 2008.

UC08/04/11 Motions to Union Council

UC08/04/11.1 Motion to the UCL Union Council: UCL Union should allow minor stakes in Poker Tournaments on UCL Union Premises.

As legal advice was still pending. The Chair advised that the motion be

DEFERRED

to the next meeting of Union Council pending legal advice.

UC08/04/12 Special Resolutions to Union Council

UC08/04/12.1 Special Resolution on Interest Group Officers – Second Reading

The Welfare Officer provided a speech proposing the second reading of the Special Resolution.

There was no speech against.

There were no drafting amendments.

The Chair moved the meeting to a recorded vote on the Special Resolution and the following votes were recorded:

For: 29

Against: 2

Abstentions: 3

The Chair declared that as there was a clear two-thirds majority, the Special Resolution on Interest Group Officers was

CARRIED.

Special Resolution on Interest Group Officers

This Union Notes:

1. *That the NUS currently operate 4 “liberation” officers, of which 3 are represented on UCL Union’s council.*
2. *That whilst there is no Anti-racism, Anti-fascism Officer (hereby referred to as ARAF) at NUS, there is a separate ARAF committee and conference.*
3. *That in recent elections the British National Party gained a seat on the Greater London Assembly this year.*
4. *That the NUS have changed their students with disabilities officer to disabled students’ officer.*
5. *That we currently have a campaigns and equal opportunities officer (CEO) who is an executive officer.*
6. *That the Union put on its first one world week this year with the aims to promote the diversity of our student body.*

This Union Believes:

1. *That the union should try to meet the needs of its black and minority ethnic students.*
2. *That Racism and Fascism are real threats affecting our students.*
3. *That the union should fight racism and fascism.*
4. *That fascists seek to remove diversity from this country and hence this university and union, principles on which we were founded.*
5. *That students can be disabled by society.*
6. *That the CEO should be an extra voice to that of the Education and Welfare Officers on the executive, highlighting the needs of student interest groups.*

This Union resolves:

1. *To amend that responsibilities of the CEO to include the line:
“6. Will represent the needs of student interests groups by meeting the womens, disabled, BME, LGBT, mature and International Students Officers along with the Education and Welfare at least on a termly basis.*

AND HENCE READ:

C. Responsibilities:

1. *To co-ordinate all campaigns relating to the welfare of students at UCL;*
2. *To ensure that UCL Union operates at all times in a manner consistent with its Statement of Equal Opportunities;*
3. *To liaise with the relevant Executive Officers to ensure that the publicity for campaigns and other welfare issues is sufficient and is displayed at all sites;*
4. *To represent the interests of students facing potential discrimination within the Union;*
5. *To meet at least fortnightly with the Education and Welfare Officers*
6. *Will represent the needs of student interests groups by meeting the womens, disabled, BME, LGBT, mature and International Students Officers along with the Education and Welfare officers at least on a termly basis*

2. *To amend the aims of the CEO to include the line:*

“They will represent the needs of student Interest groups on the executive committee along with the Education and Welfare Officers”

AND HENCE READ

A. The Aims of the officer are:

1. *To be responsible for representing the views of students on welfare issues, both individually and collectively. They will take the leading role in all welfare campaigns in the Union and ensure that UCL Union provides equal opportunity for all students. They will represent the needs of student Interest groups on the executive committee along with the Education and Welfare Officers*

3. *To amend the post of Students with Disabilities Officer to Disabled Students Officer and amend the line:*

B. shall self define as having a disability

To:

B. shall self define being disabled

AND HENCE READ

XXX. Disabled Students’ Officer

A. shall be a non-executive officer;

B. shall self define as being disabled;

C. shall attend Student Affairs Committee and be responsible for bringing any matters or campaigns relating to Disbaled Students to the attention of this committee;

D. shall represent interests of disabled students within the Union;

E. Shall attend the College Committee for People with Disabilities.

F. shall attend Union Council and Social Colours Committee.

G. shall be ex-officio delegate on behalf of UCL Union to NUS Disabled Students’ Conference.

H. shall liaise on behalf of UCL Union with the NUS Disabilities campaign.

4. *To amend all references to students with disabilities in the standing orders to disabled students.*

5. *To amend the numbering of officers in the Standing Orders and union committee membership accordingly*

6. *To change the Anti-racism officer to Black and Minority Ethnic Students’ Officer with the following portfolio:*

Section 6 – Job Descriptions

XXII. Black and Minority Ethnic Students’ Officer

A. shall be a non-executive officer;

B. shall self-define as black and/or minority ethnic (BME) student;

C. shall attend Student Affairs Committee and be responsible for bringing any matters or campaigns relating BME students to the attention of this committee.

D. shall represent the interests of students facing potential racial discrimination within the Union;

E. shall attend Union Council and Social Colours Committee.

F. shall liaise where appropriate with the NUS Black Students’ Campaign.

G. shall be ex-officio delegate on behalf of UCL Union to NUS Black Students’ Conference and NUS Anti-Racism, Anti-Fascism Conference.

7. *To add the following line to Non-Executive Officers:*

“B. Student Interest groups will be: BME Students, Disabled Students, International Students, LGBT students and Mature Students.”

Proposer:

Kate Rowley Archaeology, afil. 40668255

Seconders:

Edward Steward History, afil. 40135268

Jennifer Currigan Medicine, afil. 20266356

Charlie Clinton Laws, afil. 50082506

Billy Street SSEES, afil. 52200900

Daniel Sommer Medicine, 3 60045661

Alex Nesbitt Medicine, 2 700808

Avni Hindocha Medicine, 2 702737

James Streetley Life Sciences, 3 60407854

Nathanael Macdonald Life Sciences, afil. 51885911

Jonathan Cornell Medicine, 3 50147562

UC08/04/13 Officer Reports

UC08/04/13.1 Education Officer

Members

RECEIVED

an oral report from the Education Officer, which included changes proposed with regards to ULU Senate, attending meetings of the Aldwych Group, investigating catering facilities during the extended library opening hours and consolidation of library services to further extend opening hours.

Nathanael Macdonald returned (18:21)

He further reported that he had led the delegation to the NUS Extraordinary Conference which ratified the reforms to the governance of NUS, working with the Student Campaign on student fees, arrangements for the Higher Education Funding Debate, low attendance at meetings of Student Affairs Committee, and submission of the UCLU Student Written Submission to the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education's Institutional Audit of UCL.

Amanda Smith left (18:24)

UC08/04/13.2 Communication & Services Officer

Members

RECEIVED

an oral report from the Communication & Services Officer, which included preparations for Union Colours and the Summer Ball, Sound Impact accreditation, developing an environmental policy, the provision of baked potatoes and vending machines, RareFM playing in the Union premises, and establishing a critical friend group on facebook.

Amanda Smith returned (18:27)

UC08/04/13.3 Finance & Democracy Officer

Members

RECEIVED

an oral report from the Finance & Democracy Officer, which included preparations for the Annual General Meeting and current elections.

UC08/04/13.4 Medical & Postgraduate Students' Officer

Members

RECEIVED

the Medical & Postgraduate Students' Officer's report as provided on the Union Notice Board.

UC08/04/13.5 Student Activities Officer

Members

RECEIVED

the Student Activities Officer's report as provided on the Union Notice Board.

UC08/04/13.6 Welfare Officer

Members

RECEIVED

the report from the Welfare Officer's report as provided on the Union Notice Board.

UC08/04/13.7 General Secretary

Members

RECEIVED

an oral report from the General Secretary, which included preparations for the Annual General Meeting.

UC08/04/13.8 Academic Affairs Officer

Members

RECEIVED

an oral report from the Academic Affairs Officer, which included development of StARs, looking to meet with the new Dean of Students (Academic), and the provision of a quiet contemplation room.

UC08/04/13.9 Clubs & Societies Officer

Members

RECEIVED

an oral report from the Clubs & Societies Officer, which included preparations for the One World Week and the clubs and societies constitutional review.

UC08/04/13.10 Campaigns & Equal Opportunities Officer

Members

DEFERRED

the report from the Campaigns & Equal Opportunities Officer as he was absent from the meeting.

UC08/04/13.11 Environment & Ethics Officer

Members

RECEIVED

an oral report from the Environment & Ethics Officer, which included the provision of recycling facilities on Union premises and working with the Communications & Services Officer on developing an environmental policy.

UC08/04/13.12 Promotions & Entertainments Officer

Members

RECEIVED

an oral report from the Promotions & Entertainments Officer, which included the successful re-launch of VodPop.

UC08/04/13.13 Postgraduate Association President

Members

DEFERRED

the report from the Postgraduate Association President as he was absent from the meeting.

UC08/04/13.14 Pre-Clinical President

Members

RECEIVED

an oral report from the Pre-Clinical President, which included work on integration of the first and second years and issues around those on an intercalating year abroad.

UC08/04/13.15 Clinical President

Members

RECEIVED

an oral report from the Clinical President, which included the redevelopment of welfare provision in the Medical School, conducting a harassment and bullying audit, the appointment of a new Dean for the Medical School and dealing with general queries raised by medical students.

UC08/04/13.16 SSEES Site President

Members

DEFERRED

the report from the SSEES Site President as he was absent from the meeting.

UC08/04/13.17 Any other reports from Union Council Members

No other reports were provided.

UC08/04/14 Questions to Officers

The RUMS Pre-Clinical Vice President asked whether VodPop would be reintroduced as a weekly event.

The Promotions & Entertainments Officer responded that there were no firm plans to do as yet and the event would remain monthly for the foreseeable future.

The Faculty Representative for Arts & Humanities (IH) asked whether the closure of the bar in the Kriss Akabusi Pleasure Lounge when the baked potatoes were being served and whether extra staffing would be considered.

The Communications & Services Officer responded that he will look into this.

The Pre-Clinical President asked whether VodPop would remain at the *Pacha* venue permanently.

The Promotion & Entertainments Officer responded that that was the plan.

The Faculty Representative for Laws (MR) asked whether other hot food options were being considered.

The Communications & Services Officer responded that he was looking into this and the likely demand for such a facility.

The Halls Representative for James Lighthill House asked about the lack of pricing information in Bare Necessities.

The Communications & Services Officer responded that he would investigate this.

The Halls Representative for James Lighthill House asked about the pricing for the Print Room Cafe.

The Communications & Services Officer responded that the pricing is reflective of the standard of facilities. He advised that the Print Room Cafe was comparably of a higher standard; therefore a premium has been reflected in its pricing.

The Faculty Representative for Arts & Humanities (MT) asked whether requests for setting up new societies had been responded to.

The Student Activities Officer responded that all requests made have now been responded to.

The Faculty Representative for Arts & Humanities (IH) asked about the name for the new baked potatoes facility.

The Communications & Services Officer responded that it was known as *The Hot Potato*.

The Faculty Representative for Arts & Humanities (IH) requested confirmation on ULU signing a five year lease for the Malet Street Building.

The Finance & Democracy Officer responded that this was true and that there would be a review after three years. He further reported that UCL Union was now looking at refurbishing its current facilities.

The Faculty Representative for Arts & Humanities (IH) asked whether funds from UCL could be investigated, as suggested for the Malet Street Building redevelopment.

The Medical & Postgraduate Students' Officer responded that we would negotiate with UCL about funding for refurbishments.

UC08/04/15 Any other business

UC08/04/15.1 Lapsing Policy

The Chair advised that two of the policies lapsing last term were no longer relevant, these were:

1. Motion to Union Council Election of Sports, Arts and Societies Officers
2. Emergency Motion to UCL Union Council on March Elections

The Chair projected one further policy which lapsed last term, which was the *Ethical Investment Motion*. He asked whether any members of the floor, would like to propose to renew this lapsed policy.

The Welfare Officer proposed to renew the policy.

Jen Currigan left (18:45)

Giovanna Amorosi (18:45)

The Welfare Officer proposed the renewal with the deletion of point 2 of Union resolves.

Following a vote on removal of point 2 of Union resolves, the Chair declared that there was not a majority and point 2 of Union resolves was not removed from the substantive.

The Finance & Democracy Officer proposed to remove point 4 of Union resolves.

Following a vote on removal of point 4 of Union resolves, the Chair declared that there was a clear majority and point 4 of Union resolves was removed from the substantive.

The Finance & Democracy Officer proposed to remove point 5 of Union resolves.

Following a vote on removal of point 5 of Union resolves, the Chair declared that there was a clear majority and point 5 of Union resolves was removed from the substantive.

There was no speech against.

The Chair moved the meeting to a recorded vote on the renewal of the Ethical Investment motion and the following votes were recorded:

For: 18

Against: 8

Abstentions: 4

The Chair declared that as there was a clear majority, lapsed policy named Ethical Investment motion was

RENEWED

for a further six terms.

Ethical Investment Motion

Proposer: *Kate Rowley,*
Passed: *Union Council, 26 February 2007*
Renewed: *Union Council, 27 January 2009*
Lapses: *Autumn 2010*

This union notes:

- 1) *that UCL has £1,591,627 worth of shares in the arms companies Cobham plc (£845,530) and the Smiths Group (£746,097) and that these shares constitute 1.7% of its total investment assets. [source: Mrs R. H. Cummings, UCL Freedom of Information Officer, 9th August 2006]*
- 2) *that both of the above companies profit significantly from the sale of military products such as components for Eurofighter, Joint Strike Fighter, Hawk jets, Apache helicopters and F-16s.*
- 3) *that both of these companies are predominantly exporters of arms which due to the deregulation of the arms trade are sold to regimes without regard to human rights records for example Turkey, Indonesia and Israel.*
- 4) *that UCL has a Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) policy which prohibits investment in tobacco companies*

- 5) *that students at other UK universities such as SOAS, Goldsmiths, and Bangor*
- 6) *have successfully campaigned for divestment of their respective institutions' arms shares and that divestment is an issue of national student interest.*

This union believes:

- 1) *that these investments are damaging to UCL's global reputation and undermine its professed tradition of liberal values and social justice.*
- 2) *that as a major university UCL sets an important precedent for the whole sector and has a moral responsibility to ensure that its investments do not negatively affect society or the environment.*
- 3) *that ethical investment is as financially profitable as investment in arms companies as shown by the examples of Leeds University and the University of East Anglia.*
- 4) *that UCL should divest its shares in these arms companies and extend its SRI policy to preclude investment in arms companies.*

This union resolves:

- 1) *to mandate the sabbatical team to lobby the University to divest its shares in Cobham plc and the Smiths Group and extend UCL's SRI policy to preclude investments in arms companies, and make a detailed public statement regarding their progress at the start of each term.*
- 2) *to actively and openly support the cross-society disarmUCL campaign and allow the union's support to be included in all campaign publicity.*
- 3) *to mandate the Media and Communications officer to request permission to and, if granted, send a specific email to all students making them aware of UCL's investments in arms companies and the disarmUCL campaign, website and petition.*

UC08/04/15.2 AGM Promotion

The Finance & Democracy Officer asked members to take along promotional materials for lecture shouts to promote the Annual General Meeting.

The meeting closed at 18:52.

Approved minutes signed by the Chair:

Chair: Leo Nicholas, General Secretary

Signed:

Date: _____

DRAFT