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| Assembly Meeting 4: Setting Priorities | **Date:** | 16/04/2024 |
| **Time:** | 11am – 5pm |
| **Location:** | ELG01 |
| **Chair:** | Alan Clark Gutierrez |

P – Present; AP – Apologies; AB – Absent

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| **Members:** | **P** | **AP** | **AB** |
| Bhavika Agarwal |  |  |  |
| Shiraz Sidhu |  |  |  |
| Zeeshan Nauman Raees |  |  |  |
| William Tagg |  |  |  |
| Chirag Gupta |  |  |  |
| Ammar Laghari |  |  |  |
| Hifsa Khan |  |  |  |
| Sudenaz Top |  |  |  |
| Karlee Hutchins |  |  |  |
| Olly Drye |  |  |  |
| Jack Croft |  |  |  |
| Amandeep Chan |  |  |  |
| Annavi Sachdev |  |  |  |
| Uliana Gnipova |  |  |  |
| Hannah Curtis |  |  |  |
| Asma Aktar |  |  |  |
| Rajiv Dhanasar |  |  |  |
| Ifeyinwa Odukwe |  |  |  |
| Franklin Oparaji |  |  |  |
| Liza Ahemd |  |  |  |
| Yacine Sedour |  |  |  |
| Leo Salem |  |  |  |
| Safia Mohiuddin |  |  |  |
| Alan Clark Gutierrez |  |  |  |
| Rayann El Kachtoul |  |  |  |
| Pip Foster |  |  |  |
| Junaid Katon |  |  |  |
| Bansari Sangvi |  |  |  |
| Roinee Banerjee |  |  |  |

1. Registration and Networking

2. Welcome and introductions

Assembly members were introduced to each other, met the Representation and Democracy staff and Policy Assistants.

New assembly members received induction presentation on the role of the assembly.

3. Induction for new assembly members

\*\* Lunch \*\*

4. Election of 2024/25 Assembly Speaker

The following candidates stood for Speaker, previously occupied by Richard Graham

* Hifsa Khan, Assembly Member for the City Law School
* Alan Clark Gutierrez, Assembly Member for the School of Science and Technology

The Assembly Speaker was voted by the new assembly members via secret ballot. The election was supervised and counted by Angelo Weekes.

Alan Clark Gutierrez was elected as Assembly Speaker for 2024/25

5. Students’ Union Officer Q&A and Updates

The following Sabbatical Officers were present, and each gave a 5 minute update on their

progress. Questions from the Assembly were asked verbally or taken via online poll and asked by the speaker.

Akanksha Kumar, President

20k given to fund nap pods, Additional 30k for student communities. Ensuring cultural events are added permanently to the calendar e.g. lunar new year, south Asian heritage week.

Yavuz Kafadar, Deputy President

cost of living – microwaves in Bayes and Law School buildings. £50 start up fund for societies. Catering – working to negotiate lunch prices but university won’t budge on this. Bidet project – estates board coming up in half an hour. Gym prices down to £60 a year – university want to increase it but argued for it to stay the same.

Jackson He, Deputy President

lunar new year festival was a huge success. Student handbook. APP Seed Fund – 10k hardship fund for muslim students. VR Wellbeing Fair.

Fortune Sampson, Deputy President

laptop loan for PG students as well as UG. Hate crime reporting centre work is still ongoing. Turnit in. calculator loan scheme been very successful.

Answered some questions from;

Question: What will the new gym membership be?

Answer: It won’t be £220 gain but it will be higher than the £60 currently. Officer team has criticised the decision to increase as the higher prices exclude students taking part.

Question: What are the biggest structural issues at the university and the biggest barriers?

Answer: YK: it’s so hard to change things and it becoming harder to engage and mobilise students.

Question: How are you ensuring FOS act is not endangering students?

Answer: AK: Receiving support from Com Manager and CEO

Lack of guidance from the government around where the line is drawn. Consult with safeguarding officer and coo from the uni. If it’s not breaking the law and not hurting anyone then its allowed.

Question: Sports: underfunded. Is it possible to get more funding for the sports teams? E.g Kits. St George’s pay less and get more/better this

Answer: We’re working on a new structure for the teams and looking to give more discretion to the captains when purchasing things like kits. Coaches and equipment. Merger with St George’s is making us do a sorts of review, perfect opportunity to see where to improve.

Question: Why does the uni keep taking in more students (get from online).

Answer: Space and timetabling have been a hot topic. Timetabling policy – ensuring that all students have a seat accounted for. Pushed for hybrid options to be considered more and creating a hybrid model. Contingency for having to show up before the class starts.

Question: St. Georges. Question - How can students be protected when there are already timetabling constraints

Answer: For students – increases the potential for SHPS as 2 courses overlap. Biggest impact will be for SHPS. Tooting will be its own campus – it is not expected that anyone will have to travel from sites. Statement transfer xyz thing – all staff have their pre-existing jobs and benefits (lock). Degree certificates – they can choose to retain the name for current students. 2024 onwards will be the new name. there might be more op

Question: How will the SUs merge – especially with regards to commercial, will we have another rebranding.

We will have staff on both sites. Rebranding will be after the merger – it will be minor as it was taken into consideration in the initial rebrand.

Question: Will it affect the leadership of the SU?

Answer: There will be a staff restructure.

Question: Do you have any plans to better fund societies and student groups next academic year?

Question is more suited to the next set of officers. The SU depends on the block grant from the university.

To Jackson: as the officer leading on EDI. JK Rowling comments on GHC. Transphobic comments on the platform that have not been actioned. Why has it taken so long for the officers to make a decision on this?

It’s a really big topic and sensitive. External advice is needed. Officers aren’t equipped with enough information and knowledge to make a decision but do have the power to help lobby the university.

Officers are not experts in the area and so need that external support and advice.

Aisha, our student voice coordinator, delivered a presentation about student feedback on our GetHeard@City platform. She also showed the assembly members the most spoke about priorities from elections.

6. 2023/24 Priority Progress Overview

The policy assistants gave a 10 minute presentation on each of the priorities, presenting their

research an progress on each of the action points of the priorities. Recommendations were given

to the Assembly on further steps to conclude the implementation of the 2023/24 priorities’

objectives.

Members also asked questions to policy assistants for further advice or to consult on their area of

research.

7. Priority Setting – School Based

Assembly members discussed the priorities at a school level, using feedback from the induction

presentation, Unitu public feedback, and their own ideas from their campaign manifesto.

A record of individual school priorities was not kept/voted on, but was used to inform the

following agenda point.

Paper presented by Yacine Sedour

No Assembly Members for SCC were present at this point in the meeting. Only one from SHPS.

School of Science and Technology:

Education and Academic Priorities

* M:F ratio – women in stem mentorship programme, conferences events, enabling students to connect with professionals and alumni
* Tutorials – lack of engagement. Have them recorded and released so that students can learn from the solutions. Provides more opportunities to clarify on topics that weren’t understood.

Student Communities and Events

* More support especially for academic societies.
* Collaborating more with the careers department.

Careers and Employability

* Broader range of internship opportunities for students.
* Centralised location/emails to promote all internship opportunities to all students.

Libraries and Academic Resources

* Revise layout of the financial suite – make it accessible to everyone.

School Policy and Global Affairs:

Student Communities & Events

* A common room for SPGA students
* Establish greater links between departments and the academic societies.
* Course-specific field trips.

Education and Academic Priorities

* PASS (peer-assisted study sessions) – helps break the single-year group bubbles and build student community.
* Cross-school collaborations

Mental Health, Wellbeing and Student Support

* More therapists, shorter waiting times, better signposting, support plans

Cost of Living Crisis

* SU to take over the catering services on campus.
* In the future, have University-own accommodation.

School of Health Psychological Sciences:

Mental Health, Wellbeing and Student Support

IT and Learning Technology

* Moodle forums are not being used effectively; students still have difficulty using it.
* More tutorials

Fees and Funding

* Reimbursing placement

Libraries and Academic Resources

* Essay writing support

City Law School:

Education and Academic Priorities

* Access to recorded tutorials, improving the quality of them too.
* Module evaluation during the term e.g. reading week,
* More interactions with faculty.

Student Communities and Events

* Lack of communication from the SU when societies book events.
* Improve the response times from the team.
* SU events – quality over quantity.

Catering and University Services on Campus

* Cafes and catering outlets to open until later.

Fees and Funding

* Greater exposure of bursaries.
* Making eligibility criteria more inclusive.

Bayes Business School:

Student Communities and Events

* End of term party

Education and Academic Priorities

Cost of Living Crisis

Mental Health, Wellbeing and Student Support

8. Final Setting of Priorities – Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze – by all Assembly Members

The following vote only provides advice for a draft, as fewer than 38 members were present.

The quoracy is for all assembly members (31 old + 33 new).

The vote was held by online, in-person anonymous poll. Results were counted automatically and displayed to members on a screen.

Student Communities and Events

* More events
* Make it easier for students to host.
* Simplifying events form and risk assessment
* Reducing restrictions in CityBar
* Replying to groups on time
* Departmental ball – EOY events
* Agreement with proposal
* More funding for events and societies
* Cultural events
* Suggested slogans “Quality over quantity” “Quality and Quantity” “Do more stuff” “navigate, connect, thrive” “cultivating communities” “student-led, well-funded events”

Education and Academic Priorities

* Course-specific trips
* Attendance support – need to tap in and tap out
* Tackle behaviour
* Enforcing the courses and academic societies partnerships, and with industry
* Peer-assisted study sessions
* Cross-collegiate collaborations
* Recording tutorials and access to solutions
* Improve quality of tutorials
* Roundtables with faculty staff to monitor quality assurance
* Recording of seminars
* More availability of resources online
* Module evaluations mid-term to see changes
* Suggested slogans “enhancing education” “more than a degree” “elevating education and fostering futures”

Cost of Living Crisis

* Reduce food costs
* Gym prices freeze
* Reduce coffee prices
* Standardise coffee sizes
* Income diversification and commercialisation: SU taking over services on campus
* Introduce meal deals on campus (watch out Sainsbury’s) and include soup meal deal (Pret who?)
* Uni to invest in accommodation bursary
* Cheaper breakfast option e.g. toast, porridge
* Fees instalment
* Suggested slogans “cheap and cheerful” “hope for the hopeless” “collaborating with your budget” “equal chance for everyone”

Careers and Employability

* Women in stem leadership programme
* More promotion and earlier
* Partner with small business and local companies is Islington
* Review the employability modules – department to work with the societies instead. Reinforce the course and society relationship.
* Work more directly with (law) firms and industry partners; more interactive partnerships
* Promote more internship opportunities over the summer
* Guest speaker events
* Centralised locations to find opportunities for all the departments
* Centralised comms for events, jobshop, internship
* Hub for all information
* More business related/entrepreneurship competitions
* Careers social media
* Slogan suggestions “get hired, get happy” “real opportunities for everyone” “the sky is the limit” “transitioning into industry” “bridging academia and employability” “building bridges”