



London Met Students' Union

Annual Members Meeting
Thursday 31st March 2022 5.00-7.00pm
TG-30 The Henry Thomas Room, Holloway Campus

Agenda

1. Introduction from the Chair

- Include reminder to fill in our Equality and Diversity Questionnaire (you will be sent to the page after you vote during the meeting)

2. Minutes of previous General Meeting

3. Matters and actions arising from those minutes

4. Formal motions and amendments

- Motion 1: Moving Assessment Deadlines
- Motion 2: Alteration of Student Partnership Agreement to include freedom of expression
- Motion 3: Duvet Days
- Motion 4: LMSU and University Mental Health support provision

5. Receiving the accounts of the Union for the previous financial year

- Accounts attached to agenda as a PDF

6. Approving the list of affiliations of the Union

- See agenda papers for details

7. Receiving reports from the Trustees

8. Any other business

9. Official notices and announcements:

Advice Service Let's Talk About Our Wellbeing Campaign:

<https://www.londonmetsu.org.uk/advice/service/wellbeing/letstalk/>

Margarita & Denise's Link Up Sessions:

<https://www.londonmetsu.org.uk/ents/event/845/>

Societies Showdown (Student Groups only):

<https://www.londonmetsu.org.uk/ents/event/859/>

Notice of student trustees recruitment coming up

Student Awards - nominations are now open

<https://www.londonmetsu.org.uk/awards/>

Student and Officer meeting

10. Close of meeting

Agenda papers

2. Minutes of previous General Meeting

See PDF called LMSU Members Meeting 15th December 2021 - minutes.

4. Formal motions:

Motion 1

Title: Moving assessment deadline

Proposer: Nadine Johnson (Student Rep)

Seconder: Elizabeth Baines (Student Rep)

This meeting notes (facts):

1. Currently the University assignment deadline is set at 3.00pm.

This meeting Believes (opinions):

1. The University has a high percentage of mature students (almost 70%), also working and with Families.
2. A 3pm deadline at school run time should be changed
3. University have webinars starting at 3pm
4. Uni classes don't finish until 5pm
5. A midnight deadline would also be more inclusive for students, a lot of other universities are 11:59pm
6. This may help with attendance of lectures during assignment months.

7. Most students don't attend the last set of lectures due to trying to meet 3pm deadlines.

This meeting resolves (actions):

1. LMSU to set as formal policy for assignment deadline time to be moved from 3pm to 11:59pm
2. To engage with the university authorities and lobby for this change of time

Motion 2

Motion title: Alteration of Student partnership agreement to include freedom of expression

Main submitter: Maciej Rylow

Seconder: Joao Pereira Carvalho

This meeting notes:

- Student partnership agreement doesn't explicitly state freedom of speech as core value or principle.
- Parliament is currently working on "Higher Education (freedom of speech) Bill" where section 5A subsection 1 "A students' union...must take the steps that, having particular regard to the importance of freedom of speech..."
- Where legal definition of Freedom of expression is right "...to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers..." as per article 10 of (1998) Human Rights Act.
- Some UK Universities used non-disclosure agreements to silence victims of sexual harassment and pledged to stop doing so just this year.
- Attempts of stopping guest speakers from talking justified by them being hateful had happened in the not so distant past in the UK.

This meeting believes that:

- Adding freedom of expression as core value would be a step to satisfying future statutory requirements.
- Best method of dispatching hateful or radical rhetoric is to challenge it ad nauseum wherever it crops up rather than silencing those who profess views that are seen as such.
- Furthermore, silencing free expression is likely to further radicalisation and proliferation via avenues that are outside the reach of university.
- While fairness, liberation and inclusion are worthy values, so too is freedom of expression yet it is not explicitly stated as such.

This meeting resolves:

- Add 'Protecting freedom of expression to encourage untethered exchange of ideas and spark critical discourse between students' to student partnership agreement under section "Values and Principles: 2. Collaborative and Creative" or as its own section.

Motion 3

Motion title: Duvet Days

Main submitter: Yasmeen Bashir

Seconded: Denise Morrison

This meeting notes:

- A Duvet Day is a day off University, not because a student is sick but because they need some time to rest
- A Duvet Day will require no advance notice and **CANNOT** be taken during the assessment period
- There are not enough provisions in place at London Met to support students' mental wellbeing

This meeting believes:

- Allowing students to take a day off to rest, could reduce the number of absences students take as a result of the pressure faced in their studies
- This will normalise and mainstream the conversations surrounding mental health and mental wellbeing for students at University
- This has many benefits such as boosting one's immune system, improving attention span, relieving stress and overall, increasing motivation and productivity

This meeting resolves to:

- Mandate the Student's Union to lobby the University to introduce Duvet Days for students

Motion 4

Motion title: LMSU and University Mental Health support provision

Proposer: Fatuma Mohamed (students rep)

Seconded: Makaylyn Helms (students rep)

Seconded: Yasmeen Bashir (President of LMSU)

This meeting notes (facts):

1. I have found out that before Covid pandemic started, we used to have a student hub facility with a full-time practitioner available to support students in need but unfortunately this was scrapped.
2. See foot of motion for more supporting facts

This meeting Believes (opinions):

1. At the moment, students are assigned a mentor who can support them when they have mental health issues, who then redirects them to student's services who also redirects them somewhere else and just giving them links.
2. Some students can disclose mental health issues if they are lucky to be having a good relationship with the mentor, otherwise, they are at risk of not disclosing because they might not know whom to talk to and where to go.

This meeting resolves (actions):

1. LMSU to look into this issue and liaise with the university to ensure students a place to go when they need help now the hub is no longer operational.
2. LMSU to liaise with the university to ensure a full-time practitioner trained to in mental health and well-being is in/will be in post. Who can give them immediate support and advice to students and direct students where necessary regarding where to get counselling.
3. LMSU to have a part-time officer for mental health and well-being nominated for 2022-2023

General facts to support my motion

UCAS REPORT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH (UCAS report 2020, 2021):

- 3.7% of all UK applicants declare mental health conditions, that 450% Increase in student metal health declaration over the since 2011.
- 27.2% of UK applications declared mental health conditions, of all conditions declared.
- 24% of international applicants declared mental health conditions.

- Some LGBT+ are 6 times more likely to declare a mental health condition
- Women are 2.2 times more likely to share a mental health condition.
- Progress still needed to address stigma declarations.
- 1 in 5 students has a current mental health diagnosis.
- 1 in 5 students research support specifically for an existing mental health condition before they apply.
- 1 in 4 looks at the provision of general mental health and wellbeing services.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY (TheInsightNetwork, 2020)

- 42.8% reported that they were often or always worried. Students also reported high levels of isolation.
- 33.0% stating that they experienced feelings of loneliness often or always.
- At risk group are second and third-year students, international students, students who identified as a “non-binary” gender, students who identified as female.
- 1.7% students reporting that they often had self-harm thoughts.

key concerns are that students are feeling worried and isolated.

Stress and depression may be seen as significant impediments to foreign students' continuous study and success, and so to the sustainability of an education system as a whole. According to research, adopting Berry's model of acculturation fails to consider whether the host nations are resistant to these issues. (Nguyen et al., 2019).

5. Receiving the accounts of the Union for the previous financial year

See PDF attached to agenda

6. Approving the list of affiliations of the Union

NUS UK: £12,200

NUS Charity: £3050

BUCS: £2227

Advice UK: £1544

London Uni Sports League - £613.50

Student Radio Association - £96

Student Publication Association - No Cost*

National Student Television Association - £60*

National Council of Voluntary Organisations - £0

7. Receiving reports from the Trustees

8. Any other business

9. Official notices and announcements:

- Notice of student trustees recruitment coming up
- Student Awards
- Student and Officer meetings

10. Close of meeting