

Roehampton Students' Union
STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL
AGENDA

Thursday 10th November – 5pm for a 5.15pm start
Besborough (PT), Whitelands

Apologies for absence, late arrival, or early departure should be submitted to studentvoice@roehampton.ac.uk by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.		<i>Timing</i>	<i>Running Time</i>
1.	<u>Membership & Agenda</u>	<i>5 mins</i>	<i>5.20pm</i>
1.1	To note the agenda, consider proposals for urgent business (items which have arisen since the agreed deadline for agenda items which cannot wait until the next meeting of SU Council), and to agree to the guillotine – 7pm.		
1.2	To note the apologies of absent Officers.		
2.	<u>Elections</u>	<i>15 mins</i>	<i>5.35pm</i>
2.1	To elect candidates to the following positions:		
2.1.1	- Interfaith Officer		
2.2.2	- Trans Students' Officer		
2.2	To elect candidates to the following positions:		
2.2.1	- Student Executive Committee (1 vacancy)		
2.2.2	- Elections Committee (2 vacancies)		
3.	<u>Minutes & Matters Arising</u>	<i>15 mins</i>	<i>5.50pm</i>
3.1	To approve the minutes of SU Council held on the 18 th October 2022. (Attached – page 3)		
3.2	<u>Matters Arising</u>		
3.2.1	To note recent ideas that have been submitted on the RSU Ideas page.		
3.2.2	To receive an update about Speak Week November 2022.		
3.2.2	To receive an update from RSU President, Harrison Cohen about social spaces on campus.		

4.	<u>Decision Making</u>	10 mins	6.00pm
4.1	To approve Gender Equality Officer, Lily Wells' & Mental Health Officer, Elliot Barlow's proposal 'No More Other!' (Attached – page 11)		
<u>BREAK</u>		10 mins	6.10pm
5.	<u>Accountability</u>	45 mins	6.55pm
5.1	<u>Sabbatical Officer Objectives</u>		
	To receive Sabbatical Officer updates from the following:		
5.1.1	- RSU President		
5.1.2	- RSU VP (Community & Welfare)		
5.1.3	- RSU VP (Education)		
5.2	<u>Part Time Officer Updates</u>		
	To receive Part Time Officer updates from the following:		
5.2.1	- Muslim Students' Officer		
5.2.2	- Off-Campus & Commuting Students' Officer		
5.2.3	- Postgraduate Students' Officer		
5.2.4	- Societies Officer		
5.2.5	- Southlands College President & Deputy President		
5.2.6	- Sport Roehampton Presidents (Male & Female)		
5.2.7	- Students with Caring Responsibilities Officer		
5.2.8	- Students with Disabilities Officer		
5.2.9	- Trans Students' Officer		
5.2.10	- Whitelands College President & Deputy President		
5.3	<u>Questions to RSU Officers</u>		
	To ask any other questions to the Students' Union Officers.		
5.4	<u>Minutes to Receive</u>		
5.4.1	<u>Trustee Board Minutes and Decision Log</u>		
	To receive minutes and decision log of Trustee Board held since the last meeting of SU Council – Trustee Board minutes 22-23		
6.	<u>Any Urgent Business</u>	5 mins	7pm
	To consider any other urgent business agreed at the start of the meeting.		
7.	<u>Next Meeting</u>	<u>1hr 45 mins</u>	<u>7pm</u>
	Tuesday 6 th December at 5pm in Cinema Room (DB), Digby Stuart.		

Roehampton Students' Union
STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Tuesday 18th October – 5pm for a 5.15pm start
Adam Room (GH), Froebel

In attendance

Vice President (Education)	Mushtaq Ismail
AME Students' Officer	Nafisa Nabi Rashmi
Black Students' Officer	Jeanne Chantal Masikini
Chair of Students' Union Council	Mehmet Ali Acikgoz
Digby Stuart College Deputy President	Joshua Mark Winters
Digby Stuart College President	Harvey James Henson
Gender Equality Officer	Lily Wells
LGBTQ+ Students' Officer	Theviya Karunaharan
Mature Students' Officer	Lynsey Cowlshaw
Muslim Students' Officer	Sana Siddique
Postgraduate Students' Officer	Adaobi Nwokeanochie
Southlands College President	Fahad Ahmed
Sport Roehampton President (Female)	Eloise Rixon
Whitelands College Deputy President	Jameel Karim Aumeer

Partly absent with apologies

RSU President	Harrison Cohen
Vice President (Community and Welfare)	Sharon Omonor Azams

Froebel College Deputy President	Amy Hopkins
Froebel College President	Dent Patrick
Mental Health Officer	Elliot Barlow
Southlands College President	Fahad Ahmed
Sport Roehampton President (Male)	Finlay Eaton

Absent with apologies

Environmental and Sustainability Officer	Mona-Lisa De Greve
International Students' Officer	Yasamin Mehrasa
Off-Campus and Commuting Students' Officer	Sofia Khan
Societies Officer	Md. Foqhrul Islam
Southlands College Deputy President	Adam Doughaili
Students with Disabilities Officer	Sophie O'Sullivan
Whitelands College President	Aaliyah Hassan

Absent without apologies

Students with Caring Responsibilities Officer	Andrea Prado
---	--------------

In attendance

Nishaant Kumar – Head of Membership Services; Samuel Dangerfield – Student Voice Coordinator

Emily Belton; Sasha Goloborodko; Liz Starr

	The meeting started at 17:20, with SU Council Chair, Mehmet Ali Acikgoz running through operational points.	
1.	<u>Membership & Agenda</u>	
1.1	Council noted the agenda and agreed to the guillotine of 7.15pm.	

<p>1.2</p>	<p>Council approved receiving the one item for urgent business – President, Harrison Cohen to update Council on Trustee Board membership – to be received as item 1.6.</p> <p>Council noted the Officers who sent apologies for late arrival: Southlands College President Sport Roehampton President (Male)</p> <p>Council noted the Officers who sent apologies for early departure: President VP Community & Welfare Froebel President Froebel Deputy President Mental Health Officer</p> <p>Council noted the Officers who sent apologies for the entire meeting: Environmental & Sustainability Officer International Students’ Officer Off-Campus & Commuting Students’ Officer Whitelands College President</p>	
<p>1.3</p>	<p>Council noted and approved the SU Council Schedule of Business 2022/23.</p>	
<p>1.4</p>	<p>Council noted the resignation of the Interfaith Officer.</p>	
<p>1.5</p>	<p>Council noted SU Council membership and approved opening the Co-option process to fill vacant positions: Interfaith Officer and Trans Students’ Officer.</p>	
<p>1.6</p>	<p>RSU President, Harrison Cohen updated Council on Trustee Board membership, noting that Rev. Nick Leggett has been appointed as an external trustee.</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p><u>Minutes & Matters Arising</u></p> <p>2.1 SU Council approved the minutes of SU Council held on 4th October 2022, with one correction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Muslim Students’ Officer was absent with apologies. <p>2.2 <u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>2.2.1 Council noted the Officer job descriptions in advance of Officer elections 2023.</p> <p>2.2.2 Council noted the three ideas live on the RSU Ideas page.</p> <p>2.2.3 RSU VP Community & Welfare, Sharon Azams gave an update on the work of Black History Month, with multiple events being organised in collaboration with Universal Black Minds and other Part-Time Officers. Sharon listed the</p>	

	<p>variety of events run throughout October to engage the university's growing black community.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Decision-Making</u></p> <p>3.1</p>	<p>Digby Stuart College President, Harvey Henson introduced the policy proposal 'Ensure Campus is Accessible for All Students.' He stressed that improvements to accessibility must be continuous and not one-off events and wants to lobby targets to ensure that accessibility improvement is longstanding.</p> <p>An observer asked about the exact areas the proposal plans to improve. Harvey mentioned the high-traffic areas of campus, for instance around Digby Stuart college. He stressed that campus security should ensure that no doors are kept open that block walkways, and the importance of timetables being accessed early to ensure students have opportunity to put in place support where required,</p> <p>An observer asked who would be responsible for enacting the proposal. Harvey stated that a policy taskforce will move forward to raise awareness and improve clarity. Another observer stated that requested accessibility improvements were not implemented in their accommodation, which caused problems.</p> <p>Froebel College President, Dent Patrick reiterated the plan to continually raise awareness to improve accessibility across campus.</p> <p>An observer stated that the University medical centre is inaccessible.</p> <p>Southlands College President, Fahad Ahmed stated that the community hub is not accessible to all students, most of the doors across Southlands college are not automated, many passageways are too narrow, and some students continue to struggle entering the computer labs on Southlands due to inaccessibility.</p> <p>An observer stated that a priority should be to ensure all pavements are level, as many routes around campus are unlevel and wobbly. They stressed that this would make campus a more welcoming place, and reiterated Fahad's statement about experiencing inaccessible, unautomated doors.</p> <p>Summation waived.</p> <p>Item passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Reports</u></p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>Council received the Deputy Returning Officer Report from the March 2022 Officer elections.</p>	

<p>5. <u>Accountability</u></p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2 <u>Officer updates</u></p>	<p>RSU President, Harrison Cohen introduced the Sabbatical Officer team objectives.</p> <p>Harrison introduced his Sabbatical Officer individual objectives. He emphasised supporting commuter students and organising more events across London, as well as focusing on society engagement and safety on campus. He then also referred to card production for lost ID cards, which should now be improved as card production has come under the remit of Nest. Harrison then mentioned improving security for both staff and students and encouraged Officers to engage with plans for Movember.</p> <p>RSU VP Community & Welfare, Sharon Azams introduced her Sabbatical Officer individual objectives. She emphasised supporting students from low-income backgrounds, improving facilities, and increasing the support from hardship funds and community fridges. Sharon mentioned plans to hopefully ringfence hardship funds for students in need and is beginning to analyse the price of food on campus, shuttle bus accessibility, accommodation and gym costs.</p> <p>RSU VP Education, Mushtaq Ismail was not present, so Sharon referred to some of the objectives being worked on between the two of them. She emphasized work to examine racial diversity, including within books provided and food on campus. They are working to ensure validation panels, curriculums, and educational programmes actively engage with decolonization and anti-racism and ensuring that all AGTs have the appropriate tools to support students. Sharon then stressed about mental health support and is hoping to ensure longer counselling but shorter waiting times.</p> <p>Southlands College President, Fahad Ahmed asked about the type of events planned for commuter students. He encouraged the Sabbatical Officers to run events across all four colleges. Harrison stated that events have been adapted to work across multiple settings, including the organisation of more daytime events. Harrison stressed the importance of finding out how many students are interested in attending different types of events. Sharon added that an events plan should tailor events for each of the colleges' varied demographics.</p> <p>Mature Students' Officer, Lynsey Cowlshaw stated that the sharing of student demographics would be useful for event organisers.</p> <p>Council approved the Sabbatical Officer Team and Individual objectives.</p>	

<p>5.2.1</p> <p>5.2.2</p> <p>5.2.3</p> <p>5.2.4</p> <p>5.2.5</p> <p>5.2.6</p> <p>5.2.7</p> <p>5.2.8</p> <p>5.2.9</p>	<p>AME Students' Officer, Nafisa Rashmi gave a verbal update, highlighting her work with the Asian Society to ensure all students are content with their university experience. She is collaborating with students across the Asian Society and other Officers to introduce Bengali and Pakistani societies. Nafisa mentioned running south Asian food nights and supporting other students running their own events in collaboration. She concluded by stating a desire to reach out to other Asian students outside of Southlands college.</p> <p>Black Students' Officer, Jeanne Masikini gave a verbal update, highlighting their work to remove institutional racism and increasing engagement. They mentioned work with the Black Students' Officer to push for a diversified and open university community and mentioned work on Black History Month and now looking beyond to ensure the continuation of the black community within the university community.</p> <p>Digby Stuart President, Harvey Henson gave a verbal update about the work of the Digby Stuart officers, mentioning work to incorporate the values of the college. Events recently run include barbecues to support new students and holding accommodation block meetings to identify issues students are facing, in the hope of combatting issues early. Harvey mentioned charity initiatives should be confirmed in the coming days, and the college is planning to organise off-campus events with all students.</p> <p>Environmental & Sustainability Officer, Mona-Lisa De Greve was not present at the meeting, and so did not provide a verbal update.</p> <p>Froebel College President, Dent Patrick gave a verbal update about the work of the Froebel officers, mentioning three pre-meets with students to ensure a welcoming environment. The first off-campus event ran last week, which was an opportunity for off-campus and working students to enjoy the college atmosphere. Flat Rep groups have been organised to ensure all students are settled and supported. The Froebel holiday has been organised, as have two Halloween events, offline campus events, bring & share (in line with Black History Month), and Christmas dinner. Froebel College Deputy President, Amy Hopkins outlined that students are keen for more non-alcohol events.</p> <p>Gender Equality Officer, Lily Wells gave a verbal update, mentioning work with other officers across different projects – including gender and sexuality on enrolment forms and period poverty. Lily mentioned working to support gender-related issues across the student community and mentioned by-stander work and sexual assault. She then mentioned plans to open support spaces for anonymised conversations about gender equality issues.</p> <p>The Interfaith Officer position is vacant, and therefore no update was given.</p> <p>International Students' Officer, Yasamin Mehrasa was not present at the meeting, and so did not provide a verbal update.</p> <p>LGBTQ+ Students' Officer, Theviya Karunaharan gave a verbal update, stressing the plan to bring the LGBTQ+ community closer, with plans</p>	
---	--	--

	<p>including queer karaoke. They mentioned that there appears to be an increase in the number of queer students and wants to help support the setting up of LGBTQ+ Society. An event for trans students has been organised in November, as well as running non-alcoholic events such as having hot chocolate in the orchard.</p> <p>5.2.10 Mature Students' Officer, Lynsey Cowlshaw gave a verbal update, mentioning that there are currently 72 members on the mature students WhatsApp group, which should hopefully be a useful resource for people to connect. She mentioned running multiple events, which are important to foster a sense of belonging. Examples include coffee morning meet ups every Thursday, cabaret events, pop-up bus events, tarot readings, and wicker night for day of the dead. Lynsey mentioned plans to empower students to put on their own events, such as crafting and upcycling workshops.</p> <p>5.2.11 Mental Health Officer, Elliot Barlow gave a verbal update, emphasising their work with other Officers to ensure more inclusivity and building back a sense of community after the pandemic. They mentioned working with minority groups to encourage conversations about mental health and has filled in on some of the responsibilities of the Trans Students' position whilst it has been vacant.</p> <p>5.3 <u>Questions to RSU Officers</u></p> <p>Southlands College President, Fahad Ahmed asked Nafisa if it is responsibility to work with the Asian Society. RSU President, Harrison Cohen stated that this is up to individual officers.</p> <p>Fahad encouraged officers to organise events on Southlands college, to help raise the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community.</p> <p>Lynsey asked about how to find a list of where common rooms are located across campus. Harrison stated that he will work with Lynsey to ensure this.</p> <p>The meeting took a break at 18:30.</p>	
	<p>6. <u>Elections</u></p> <p>6.1 Student Executive Committee nominees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southlands College President, Fahad Ahmed • Muslim Students' Officer, Sana Siddique <p>Officers elected to Student Executive Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fahad Ahmed • Sana Siddique <p>The third position remains vacant.</p> <p>6.2 No Officer ran to join the Elections Committee, and therefore the two positions remain vacant.</p>	

<p>6.3</p>	<p>Part Time Officer Student Trustee nominees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AME Students' Officer, Nafisa Rashmi • Gender Equality Officer, Lily Wells <p>Officer elected as Part Time Officer Student Trustee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lily Wells 	
<p>6.4</p>	<p>SU Council Vice-Chair nominees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSU President, Harrison Cohen <p>Officer elected as SU Council Vice-Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrison Cohen 	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Any Urgent Business</u></p> <p>Already discussed at item 1.6.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>The meeting closed at 18.55.</p>	

Policy Proposal title: No More Other!

Name of proposers: Gender Equality Officer, Lily Wells and Mental Health Officer, Elliot Barlow

Contact details of proposer: genderequalityofficer@roehampton.ac.uk and mentalhealthofficer@roehampton.ac.uk

Name(s) of seconder(s): Southlands College President, Fahad Ahmed

Has this proposal been submitted via RSU Ideas? Yes

Roehampton Students' Union Council notes:

1. The current University of Roehampton enrolment form's gender section only has the options of Male, Female and Other.
2. There is no option to self-describe gender on the enrolment form.
3. The majority of other university's online enrolment forms have a self-describe/more gender options.
4. Additionally, the enrolment's sexuality orientation section only lists Bisexual, Gay Man, Gay Woman/Lesbian, Heterosexual, Other and Information Refused.
5. According to a study done by the J Walter Thompson Innovation Group, they found that 56% of Gen Z said they knew someone who went by gender neutral pronouns such as "they," or "ze," compared to 43% of millennial.
6. Data from the Gender Consensus 2021 survey results states the majority of the participants from the UK identified as non-binary (65.2%), and 45.4% of UK participants identified as queer.
7. Additionally, majority of participants prefer and use the title of Mx (32.7%).
8. There is no title section to the enrolment form.

Roehampton Students' Union Council believes:

1. This is extremely non-inclusive to people on the broader gender identity and sexuality spectrum.
2. This causes offence and/or mental distress to people who have been excluded on the enrolment form, and it demoralises students when filling out the enrolment form, which could cause additional worry and stresses if they are already contemplating if they chose the right university.
3. Additionally, it would be a major problem if students are receiving emails and/or letters from the university and it states the wrong title (making an assumption on the student's gender).

4. The university prides itself for being an inclusive place for everybody, however this is clearly disproven from the evidence presented and that the university has ignored the LGBTQIA2S+ students at the University of Roehampton.
5. This current enrolment form shows the views of the university are outdated and needs improvement regarding LGBTQIA2S+ community and definitely should not force students who are still figuring out their identity to come out, feel made to falsely identify themselves, and/or excluded.
6. We have a large LGBTQIA2S+ community and they should not feel unsafe nor uncared for at our university.

Roehampton Students' Union Council resolves:

1. The University implements all known gender and sexuality orientations to be applied to the enrolment form.
2. If the University denies applying all gender and sexuality orientations to the enrolment, we propose to remove all the current genders and sexualities listed and implement a self-describe box, where students can type their own identity or can state if they prefer to not say.
3. Additionally, the University should implement a title selection so students can apply the title they would like to be identified as (for example, Mx).
4. Students will feel respected and listened to if this is implemented into the enrolment form, and will make the university's application and enrolment process more inclusive.