

# Student Council Agenda

From meeting dated 07.05.2026

## Welcome, Introductions & Apologies for Absence

Your Student Leaders will welcome attendees to Council Café as well as introduce themselves and give apologies for absence.

## Manifesto Progress Reports: Student Leaders

You can find your Manifesto Progress Reports for Student Voice Leaders & Liberation Officers in **Appendix A** of this document.

## Trustee Board Update

The Trustee Board update can be found in **Appendix A** of this document.

## Scrutiny Panel Report

Scrutiny Panel will provide an update following the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

## Motions

All motions are available in document form in **Appendices (B-E)**

The following motions will be debated and voted on during this Student Council:

### Motion to replace the “Liberation Officer” roles & introduce paid “Liberation Community Organiser” roles

*Proposed by Dilpreet Kaur*

**Motion to make changes to the structure & timing of Student Council for next academic year**

*Proposed by Twig Smalley*

**Motion to use WhatsApp as a primary form of communication between DSU Opportunities & societies / student groups**

*Proposed by Ellie Strain*

**Motion to introduced Pre-Candidate Interviews to the Election nomination process**

*Proposed by Maddie Willey*

### **General Discussion**

The general discussion will be formed from two main questions:

**“How do we make Student Council more accessible / engaging?”**

**“How do Student Leaders engage the unengaged?”**

### **Any Other Business**

Any other business that falls outside of the previous topic points will be discussed here.

### **Meeting Close & Actions Arising**

At XX:XX, the meeting is closed.

Appendix A

# **Student Voice Leaders report**

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# THE STUDENT VOICE LEADERS

**Twig**



**Communities**

**Dilpreet**



**Inclusion  
& Wellbeing**

**Precious**



**Academic  
Experience**

**Aamira**



**International  
Experience**

**Badhri**



**Employability**

# THE GOALS

**Twig**



**Communities**

- 1. Enhancing Student Group Inclusivity & Redefining Elections**
- 2. Strengthening Collaboration & Representation**
- 3. Fostering Open Communication & Awareness: You Said, We Did**

# PROGRESS UPDATES



## Communities

1. Ongoing training assessments for the incoming committee in May. Prepping handover document for Share the Wear so that it becomes an ongoing initiative. Continue planning for Queer Prom scheduled for June.
2. Continuing work on the collaboration fund proposal and preparing the handover documentation.
3. Further integration of the "You Said, We Did" initiative into our communications strategy

# OTHER UPDATES \*



## Communities

- Weekend delivery maintenance grant issues
- DMU x OIEG
- Renters' Right Article and Social Media
- Don't Freeze Our Futures campaign

# THE GOALS

**Dilpreet**



**Inclusion & Wellbeing**

- 1. Easy Access to Mental Wellbeing Facilities**
- 2. More Campaigns Mean More Education: Brave Conversations**
- 3. You Say It, We Do It: Acting Upon Student Voices**

# PROGRESS UPDATES

**Dilpreet**



**Inclusion & Wellbeing**

- **The BRAVE Conversations podcast**  
Episode 1: Right place, Wrong time has now been released on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 on the DSU YouTube channel as well as Spotify. Stay tuned for a new episode each Tuesday at 6pm.
- Working towards wellbeing trainings for the next academic year and updated resources for signposting including social media awareness.

# THE GOALS

**Precious**



**Academic Experience**

- 1. Enhancing Feedback Integration**
- 2. Improved Academic Support**
- 3. Inclusive & Flexible Learning Opportunities: Flexible Futures**

# PROGRESS UPDATES

**Precious**



**Academic Experience**

- **Improving Academic support**
  - Identifying gaps in visibility and access across faculties
  - Developing recommendations to improve signposting and coordination
  - Using student feedback to inform improvements
- **Enhancing feedback integration**
  - Expanding feedback Loop to reach underrepresented students
  - Engaging programmes without Course Reps
  - Strengthening transparency through “You Said, We Did”
  - Sharing insights to support next academic year planning

# OTHER UPDATES \*

**Precious**



**Academic Experience**

- Attendance update
- Car parking
- UK Advising and Tutoring Association (UKAT Conference 2026)
- September intake Internship Opportunities Concern

# THE GOALS

**Aamira**



**International Experience**

- 1. Enhanced Communication: Voices Without Borders**
- 2. Cultural Integration: Cultural Fusion Fair**
- 3. Support Networks: International Buddy Scheme & Peer Groups**
- 4. Mental Health & Wellbeing: Culture & Care**

# PROGRESS UPDATES

**Aamira**



**International Experience**

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> events have now been completed, with the final event planned for 20 May in DMU London campus. I'm also reviewing whether this initiative should continue next year.
2. The cultural fusion fair will be incorporated in next year's welcome festival.
3. I'm planning a collaborative event with the Inclusion and Wellbeing SVL about how mental health is understood across different cultures, and I'm open to ideas to shape it further.

# THE GOALS

**Badhri**



**Employability**

- 1. Expanding Career Opportunities**
- 2. Enhancing Skill Development**
- 3. Amplifying the Student Voice**

# PROGRESS UPDATES

**Badhri**



**Employability**

**Goal 1:** As part of the Employability Project, an article is currently Being written to raise awareness among students about the importance of activating their alumni accounts and using MyGateway to access career opportunities. It is in the final stage of preparation and will be released soon. Further discussions will take place to plan the next steps and additional activities under this goal

**Goal 2:** Five employability workshops were successfully delivered in collaboration with the Careers Team. The sessions focused on supporting students in developing job search skills, application preparation, and interview readiness. The workshops were well received by students and generated positive feedback, marking a successful step in supporting student employability.



## TRUSTEE UPDATE

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee Board meeting, Precious Ikechukwu, SVL(Academic Experience), stepped in to Chair the meeting in her capacity as Deputy Chair. The meeting was successfully led, facilitating key strategic discussions and governance updates, including an update from the CEO, discussions on Term 2 review and Term 3 outlook, and consideration of key items such as Membership services, SUSS Pensions, and Bye-Law changes. Minutes will be available on the Students' Union website as usual, and we are currently seeking new student trustees to join the Board for the next academic year.

# Appendix B

## Submit a motion

Responder	Dilpreet Kaur
ID / card number	
Response date	24 Apr 2026 10:36
Response ID	19593

## Intro and Type of Motion

In this section, we just need to know who you (and your Seconder if applicable) are, and what type of Motion you are submitting.

What is your name and P Number?	Dilpreet Kaur
What is the Seconder's Name and P Number?	Aamira Waghmar
What category does your motion fall under?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal

## Main Body

This makes up the main section of your motion - detailing why, when and how!

What is this motion about?	<p>This motion proposes that De Montfort Students' Union (DSU) introduces paid Liberation Community Organiser roles, replacing the current Elected Liberation Officer positions.</p> <p>In January 2026, DSU opened a consultation after taking the decision not to recruit Liberation Officers through the 2026 Student Leadership Elections.</p> <p>As part of this consultation, DSU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hosted workshops with students from underrepresented groups to explore what they wanted to see from future liberation representation</li><li>Ran an open feedback session for all students to comment on the proposed Liberation Community Organiser model</li></ul> <p>The proposed changes reflect the feedback gathered through this consultation. This motion now asks Student Council to formally approve the new approach.</p>
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<p>What is the purpose of this motion?</p>	<p>Liberation Officer roles underwent changes during the 2024–2025 academic year in an effort to improve engagement with underrepresented student voices, following ongoing inconsistencies in engagement and frequent vacancies.</p> <p>Despite these changes, challenges have persisted. Throughout the 2025–2026 academic year, many Liberation Officer roles have remained vacant, requiring DSU to run multiple by-elections and co-option processes. This has resulted in gaps in feedback channels and reduced representation for underrepresented student communities.</p> <p>Feedback from students highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The roles required a high level of responsibility and time commitment</li> <li>-The voluntary nature of the roles was not sustainable for many students, particularly in the context of the rising cost of living</li> <li>-Students are increasingly time-poor, prioritising paid work and academic commitments</li> <li>-Liberation Officers often lacked clearly defined or active communities with whom they could consistently engage and seek feedback</li> </ul> <p>The proposed Paid Liberation Community Organiser model aims to address these issues by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Supporting students financially through paid roles</li> <li>-Creating and sustaining student-led Liberation Communities</li> <li>-Ensuring consistent, accessible channels for feedback and representation from underrepresented student groups</li> </ul> <p>This approach focuses on bringing students together around shared experiences, issues, and barriers, rather than organising solely by demographic characteristics. It combines structured support, community-led engagement, and effective student voice mechanisms.</p>
<p>What should be done to solve this?</p>	<p>DSU should introduce Liberation Community Organiser roles.</p> <p>These roles will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Part-time, paid student positions</li> <li>* Focused on building, supporting, and connecting student communities</li> <li>* Responsible for listening to students’ experiences, gathering feedback, and empowering students to collectively take action on the issues they face</li> </ul> <p>Liberation Community Organisers will help build underrepresented student communities and support meaningful, sustained change.</p> <p>The exact number of roles will depend on the level of funding secured from De Montfort University.</p> <p>A draft job description, including role responsibilities and proposed structure, is available in the appendices.</p>
<p>How does this support students or DSU's mission?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>This motion supports Article 3.1(a) of DSU’s Articles of Association, which states that DSU exists to:</p> <p>“Provide representation, advice, and assistance to students on matters affecting their welfare and interests as students.”</p>
<p>How long should this motion last?</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Do you want support with this motion?</p>	<p>I have already spoken to a Rep/Student Leader about this motion.</p>
<p><b>Final Step &amp; Confirmation</b></p>	
<p>Final Step &amp; Confirmation</p>	<p>I confirm the information included in this form is accurate., I'm happy to attend Student Council to present this motion., I give consent for the Student Voice Team to contact me regarding this motion.</p>

## Role Title: Liberation Community Organisers

Hours of the Role: **TBC**

### Summary:

As a Liberation Communities Organiser, you will lead the development, facilitation, and growth of Student Liberation Communities at De Montfort University Students' Union (DSU). These communities are designed to enhance students' sense of belonging while creating safe, collaborative spaces for underrepresented voices to connect, share experiences, and contribute feedback.

In this role, you will work closely with students, Liberation Communities, and the Student Voice Team to establish and sustain inclusive, engaging communities. You will support students to collectively share their perspectives, ensuring their voices are captured and communicated effectively into Students' Union and University decision-making structures.

This role focuses on community building rather than individual representation, instead, you will facilitate shared dialogue, insight gathering, and collective feedback from communities.

Being a Liberation Communities Organiser will strengthen your confidence, adaptability, communication, and ability to analyse and respond to student needs. You will play a pivotal role in shaping inclusive student experiences and informing institutional change.

### Duties:

- Establish and develop Liberation Communities based on student demand, ensuring they are inclusive, accessible, and aligned with student needs
- Facilitate engagement within communities, including organising meetups, events, and discussions that foster belonging and participation
- Create and maintain supportive spaces where students can safely share experiences, perspectives, and feedback collectively
- Support the development of feedback mechanisms that prioritise collective voice and reduce pressure on individuals to represent entire groups
- Gather and communicate feedback from communities, ensuring insights are clearly shared with Student Voice Leaders and relevant University or Union channels
- Act as a key point of contact for Liberation Communities, ensuring consistent communication and accessibility
- Monitor and manage shared communication channels, including inboxes and community platforms, responding to queries and signposting appropriately
- Attend relevant University and Students' Union meetings when required, contributing community insights, themes, and emerging issues
- Research sector trends and emerging issues within higher education and beyond, identifying topics that may impact underrepresented student groups
- Produce reports and summaries of community insights, presenting findings to Student Council, University committees, or other stakeholders as required
- Maintain accurate and secure data records, ensuring compliance with GDPR and data protection policies
- Collaborate with the Student Voice Team and Student Voice Leaders, contributing to the ongoing development, reflection, and improvement of Liberation Communities

### What you'll gain:

Through this role, you will develop key employability skills that support your academic, personal, and professional journey:

- **Empowerment:** Build confidence, resilience, and self-awareness while supporting

inclusive communities

- **Professionalism:** Develop strong organisational, facilitation, and communication skills in a structured role liaising with key stakeholders including Students and the University
- **Confidence:** Enhance your ability to lead discussions, engage diverse groups, and present insights
- **Connection:** Strengthen your empathy and collaboration skills while working with a wide range of students
- **Curiosity:** Apply critical thinking and research skills to identify trends and respond to student needs
- **Innovation:** Design creative approaches to community engagement and adapt to evolving challenges

### Support and Training:

TBC

# Appendix C

## Submit a motion

Responder	Twig Smalley
ID / card number	
Response date	24 Apr 2026 10:30
Response ID	19594

## Intro and Type of Motion

In this section, we just need to know who you (and your Seconder if applicable) are, and what type of Motion you are submitting.

What is your name and P Number?	Twig Smalley
What is the Seconder's Name and P Number?	Dilpreet Kaur
What category does your motion fall under?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bye-Law Change

## Main Body

This makes up the main section of your motion - detailing why, when and how!

What is this motion about?	This motion proposes changing the timing and frequency of Student Council meetings so that Council meets twice per academic year, alongside, clearer scrutiny panel accountability, revised agenda submission and circulation deadlines to allow more time for student support, democratic scrutiny, and stronger motion development.
What is the purpose of this motion?	<p>This motion is important because the current structure of holding multiple Student Councils each year does not allow enough time for meaningful student engagement or the development of well-informed and impactful motions.</p> <p>Currently, student engagement is diluted by having too many Councils with too few motions to debate, limited time to advise and support students in shaping their ideas, and frequent clashes with major DSU priorities such as Welcome Refresh, DSU Elections, and other key engagement activities. These competing demands reduce participation and can contribute to student leader burnout.</p> <p>By reducing the frequency of Student Council meetings, the Union will create more space between meetings to properly consult students, strengthen motions democratically, and ensure Councils are purposeful, structured, and action-focused. This change supports deeper engagement, clearer outcomes, and a more sustainable and accessible democratic process for students.</p> <p>In addition, to ensure mandated progress has sufficient time to occur, Scrutiny Panel will have authority as a committee to mandate an officer without the need to pass the mandate through Student Council.</p>

What should be done to solve this?	<p>This motion asks DSU and Student Council to:</p> <p>Make amendments and additions to Student Council Bye-Laws</p> <p>Reduce the minimum number of Student Council meetings to two per academic year, held in at times suitable and in line with the DMU Academic Calendar</p> <p>Amend the Bye-Laws to require agenda items to be submitted at least 20 working days before a Student Council meeting, allowing sufficient time for advice, consultation, and motion development.</p> <p>Amend circulation of the final agenda and supporting papers to no later than 10 working days before the meeting, ensuring all voting members have adequate time to prepare and submit procedural motions if needed</p> <p>Retain the Chair's discretion to allow emergency items where appropriate</p> <p>Add a new Bye-Law to ensure accountability of Chair in their volunteering role</p> <p>Make amendments and additions to Scrutiny Panel Bye-Laws:</p> <p>Allowing Scrutiny Panel to make Student Leader Mandates that do not delay progress in line with new Council frequency</p> <p>Add a new Bye-Law to ensure accountability of Scrutiny Panel in their volunteering role</p> <p>These changes will result in fewer but more meaningful Student Council meetings, stronger and more representative motions, improved student engagement, and a clearer democratic and accountability structure.</p>
How long should this motion last?	Indefinitely until Bye-Laws require change again
Do you want support with this motion?	I have already spoken to a Rep/Student Leader about this motion.
<b>Final Step &amp; Confirmation</b>	
Final Step & Confirmation	I confirm the information included in this form is accurate., I'm happy to attend Student Council to present this motion., I give consent for the Student Voice Team to contact me regarding this motion.

# Appendix D

## Submit a motion

Responder	Ellie Strain
ID / card number	██████████
Response date	17 Feb 2026 13:17
Response ID	19565

## Intro and Type of Motion

In this section, we just need to know who you (and your Seconder if applicable) are, and what type of Motion you are submitting.

What is your name and P Number?	Ellie Strain, ██████████
What is the Seconder's Name and P Number?	Grace Kendall, ██████████
What category does your motion fall under?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal

## Main Body

This makes up the main section of your motion - detailing why, when and how!

What is this motion about?	My motion is about having the student union to use whatsapp to communicate through student groups and sports to create clearer and faster communication. This is because the current communications through emails and learning zone can cause confusion- can sometimes get lost in spam on emails, this doesn't happen on whatsapp.
What is the purpose of this motion?	To have better communication and it encourages groups to follow a clearer process and have a better understanding. Stronger relationship between both parties.
What should be done to solve this?	We're asking DSU to introduce whatsapp communication between volunteers and co-ordinators (committee members). Automatically get put into whatsapp groups as the first option but it's still an option to communicate through email if people would rather do that.
How long should this motion last?	This could be held for a year and then review if it was successful.
Do you want support with this motion?	I have already spoken to a Rep/Student Leader about this motion., I would like support from the Student Voice Leader Team., I would like support from the Voice Team with writing or refining this motion.

## Final Step & Confirmation

Final Step & Confirmation	I confirm the information included in this form is accurate., I'm happy to attend Student Council to present this motion., I give consent for the Student Voice Team to contact me regarding this motion.
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# Appendix E

## Submit a motion

Responder	Maddie Willey
ID / card number	██████████
Response date	18 Mar 2026 13:42
Response ID	19577

## Intro and Type of Motion

In this section, we just need to know who you (and your Seconder if applicable) are, and what type of Motion you are submitting.

What is your name and P Number?	██████████ Madison Willey
What is the Seconder's Name and P Number?	Twig Smalley
What category does your motion fall under?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bye-Law Change

## Main Body

This makes up the main section of your motion - detailing why, when and how!

What is this motion about?	Introduce Bye-Law change to vet full-time candidates before they are approved to run in the election.
What is the purpose of this motion?	Vetting candidates will ensure that they are qualified for the role and have champion all students. This is a paid job and should be treated as such.
What should be done to solve this?	Interview candidates before the approval of candidates.
How long should this motion last?	Permanently
Do you want support with this motion?	I have already spoken to a Rep/Student Leader about this motion.

## Final Step & Confirmation

Final Step & Confirmation	I confirm the information included in this form is accurate., I'm happy to attend Student Council to present this motion., I give consent for the Student Voice Team to contact me regarding this motion.
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