

# **Student Council Agenda, Reports & Motions**

de montfort 

# Council Café Agenda

## 08/05/25

Agenda Item	Description	Lead	Timings (Mins)
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome to council cafe – the event to make meaningful change at DSU.</li> </ul> <p>You will be greeted by your officers. Voting members will receive a paddle and a badge upon signing in.</p> <p>Want to chat about something in open forum? You can grab a posit note upon entering so we can chat about it!</p>	HG	15 min
Introductions and Apologies for Absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to Student Council and the purpose</li> <li>What Student Council will cover today</li> </ul>	HG	10 mins
Student Executive Officers update ( <i>Full Time, Paid, Students</i> ) through written report.	<p><b>Please find attached in the Appendix</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Development Executive Officer</li> <li>Academic Executive Officer</li> <li>Opportunities and Engagement Executive Officer</li> <li>Welfare executive officer</li> </ul>	N/A	5mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completed projects</li> <li>- Projects in progress</li> <li>- Projects in discussion</li> </ul>			
Liberation officer	<b>Please find attached in the Appendix</b>	N/A	5 Mins

<p>update (<i>Part Time, Volunteer, Students</i>) through written reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completed projects</li> <li>- Projects in progress</li> <li>- Projects in discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled Students' Liberation Officer</li> <li>• Mature Students' Liberation Officer</li> <li>• International Students' Liberation Officer</li> <li>• BAME Students' Liberation Officer</li> <li>• Postgraduate Students' Liberation Officer</li> <li>• LGBTQ+ Students' Liberation Officer</li> <li>• Women's Liberation Officer</li> </ul>		
Motions	<p><b>Formal Proposals sent in for Student Council to consider and vote on.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What happens?</b></li> <li>• <b>Motion A: Student Council Bye law amendment Presented by Hayley Gule</b></li> <li>• <b>Motion B 1.1: Transitions Liberation officer Presented By Libs Morris</b></li> <li>• <b>Motion B 1.2: Alternative option for the Transition Liberation officer Presented by Judith Olurankinse</b></li> <li>• <b>Motion C: Officer mandate – Ramish Presented by Scrutiny Panel</b></li> </ul> <p><i>The proposer of a motion shall be given two minutes to speak in favour of that motion, a speech against of two minutes will be offered to the floor.</i></p> <p><i>Debate shall then be opened to the meeting.</i></p> <p><i>If there is no speech against a motion the Chair may use their discretion and move straight to a vote. 8.5.3. There shall be opportunities for a one-minute summation of the arguments for and a one-minute summation of the arguments against a motion at the end of debate.</i></p>	PC/JO	20 Mins

Voting	Vote on the motions which have been put forward.	PC  Counting votes	10 Mins
Open Forum	<p><b>A space for all attendees of Student Council to air informal grievances for Council to consider.</b></p> <p>For example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finances</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Cost of living</li> <li>• Student experience</li> </ul> <p>Those who wrote on the post it note will be discussed first and the open to floor if there is enough time</p>	PK/AA	10 Mins
A.O.B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any other business a member wishes to raise.</li> <li>• Improve employment policies for international students - Petition</li> </ul>	JO	5 Mins
Prize draw	Could you be our winner of the £75 virgin experience git voucher - stay till the end to find out!	HG	
Meeting Closed		PC	

Name	Acronym	Role
Hayley Gule	HG	Chair
Patrick Chileshe	PC	Deputy Chair
Ramish Ayub	RA	Academic Executive Officer
Judith Olurankinse	JO	Union Development Executive Officer
Fluffy Adewola	AA	Welfare Executive Officer
Priya Karasala	PK	Opportunities and Engagement Executive Officer
Libs Morris	LM	Disabled Students Liberation Officer
Lyn Landon	LL	Mature Liberation Officer
Daniel Duke	DD	BAME Liberation Officer
Paige Billings	PB	Women's liberation officer
Ken Bizaluel	KB	Postgraduate Liberation officer
Badhri Durgapu	BD	International students Liberation officer
Jas Jhagra	JJ	Scrutiny panellist

Thanaa Sulum	TS	Scrutiny Panellist
Sarah Underhill	SU	Student voice Manager
Natéa Joseph	NJ	Student Voice Coordinator

**Title:** Bye-law Amendments for Student Council Structure Improvement

**Proposer:** Hayley Gule, P2766352.

**Seconders:** N/A

**Policy Statement:** I believe that one of the keyways to encourage students to join student council is through adding more roles within student council so that students can be more involved including having more responsibility over the running of the meetings.

**Purpose of the Motion:** To add more student roles within student council in order to increase student participation and to encourage more students to attend student council meetings.

**Actions to be Taken:**

1. To change the structure of student council to the following:

**Chair:** The Chair, elected by a simple majority vote at the first Student Council meeting each academic year, serves as the principal leader. They facilitate meeting discussions, maintain order and neutrality, and ensure that the council functions effectively. In this role, the Chair represents the student voice at key university events, such as Trustee Board Meetings, where they provide updates on council deliberations and decisions. To uphold impartiality, the Chair must recuse themselves—temporarily or permanently—whenever a conflict of interest arises. The Chair also holds full voting rights, equal to those of other council members, and candidates must be eligible voting members to run.

**Deputy Chair:** The Deputy Chair assists the Chair in managing meetings and the overall operations of the council. In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair steps in to ensure continuous leadership. This role demands impartiality, and any conflict of interest requires the Deputy Chair to step aside. In addition to supporting council functions, the Deputy Chair may lead significant projects, such as event organization or project planning initiatives. Like all voting members, the Deputy Chair retains full voting rights, and candidates must be active, eligible voters.

**Secretary:** The Secretary assists the organization and management of the council's documentation, including meeting agendas, official correspondence, and general communications. This role ensures that all communications—from email updates to meeting announcements—are professional, timely, and efficiently circulated. The Secretary may also assist in preparing official documentation for motions that are submitted for consideration.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the council's financial operations, including accurate budgeting for projects and events. This includes, tracking all expenditures from efforts, and providing regular, transparent financial updates. The role emphasizes the responsible allocation of resources to ensure the financial health of the Student Council.

**Communication Assistant:** The Communication Assistant enhances the visibility and outreach of the Student Council by assisting with relevant projects such as Welcome Weeks as well as assisting with social media and Go Out and Talk Activities. This role involves creating engaging and informative content, regular updates, and sharing opportunities to encourage student participation. The objective is to keep the student body informed and actively involved in the council's activities.

**I would also recommend they are elected at the last student council of the academic year so they benefit from the summer of training.**

## **2. Implement the following By-law Amendments**

### **8.4.4.3 and 8.4.4.4**

In order to keep engagement at Student Council meetings, Executive and Liberation Officers' manifesto progress reports should be presented within the Scrutiny Panel, including what progress has been made towards officers' manifestos. This would allow Student Council meetings to be more streamlined and consistent.

### **8.7.1**

In order to make Student Council more of a student led organisation, any proposals that are submitted to the Students' Union by current student members should be given to student council prior to the executive officers. This enables the student council to have oversight of the submitted proposal, rather than executive officers.

**Strategic Fit:** This policy aligns with our charity objectives of;

*'promoting and encouraging contact and co-operation between Students'*

*'and being the recognised representative channel between Students and De Montfort University and any other external bodies'*

### **Proposed Duration:**

Implemented for the 2025 Academic Year.

## **Liberation Officer – Transitions Officer Motion Proposal**

**Students involved :** Libs Morris (P2649900) and Stephanie Muthambulwa (P2655163)

**Type of Motion :** Idea Proposal ( Proposal of a new Liberation Officer role)

### **Description of the Motion**

We are proposing a new Liberation Officer Role under the title : Transitions Officer. This is to create a role to support care leavers / care experienced students in the university. Facilitating their integration and progression through higher education. This role will provide peer-to-peer support, bridging the gap between existing staff-led services and students who may be reluctant to engage with formal institutional support.

### **What demographics would the Officer Cover ?**

The Liberation officer would represent care leavers and care experienced Students, we have spoken to some members of the transitions team such as Louise roles and she is in support of this idea. If this motion is passed the Transitions Officer would work with the Transitions team.

Many may struggle with:

- Lack of familial support during major life transitions
- Housing instability, particularly outside term time
- Financial independence challenges, including navigating student funding
- Social isolation – leading to lower levels of belonging and engagement

### **How is this demographic not already covered ?**

During the last student council , the mature students Officer became the Parents , Guardians, Carers and mature students Officer. It however doesn't cover those on the other side of the system, therefore it would not be appropriate to merge care leavers into this role. Care leavers/ care experienced often have their own struggles with family relationships due to their own experiences in the system making adding it to the pre-existing role inappropriate alongside inhibiting the value of the role.

### **What are you trying to change / improve ?**

While universities often provide staff-led student support services, many care-experienced students do not engage with these resources. Some reasons might include:

- A lack of trust in institutions due to negative past experiences with authority figures



- Feeling that staff lead services are impersonal or do not fully understand their lived experiences
- Concerns about stigma when seeking support from university

This role would provide an alternative support system – one that is accessible, relatable and driven by lived experience.

### **WHY?**

Peer-to-peer support system: students may feel more comfortable confiding with someone who has a shared experience or deep understanding of the challenges they may face.

A more approachable and informal service: some students may feel intimidated or overwhelmed by formal support – offers a less formal, more personal approach that can encourage engagement.

Better representation of care-experienced/leavers' voices – ensures their voices remain visible

A bridge between students and existing support services can signpost students to appropriate university resources while also acting as an advocate to improve these services

Fostering a sense of community – peer networking among this group of students – helps reduce social isolation. Involves meetings, workshops, events etc

### **Why is this important ?**

(Research indicates that only 13% of care-experienced young people enter university by the age of 19, compared to 43% of their non-care-experienced peers.)

Transiting into university life can be particularly daunting for these students, who may lack the familial support systems that assist others during this period. Challenges include securing stable accommodation, managing their finances independently and navigating complex administrative processes.

Liberation officer – works closely with self-identifying students, enhances the student experience with a focus on equity, diversity and inclusion and is elected to listen, give feedback, campaign, lobby and lead on input.

### **What is the Outcome of the motion ?**

To have a Liberation Officer titled: Transitions Officer as we believe this will help students feel more comfortable whilst actually accessing support instead of struggling in silence without feeling outed because of their background.

### **Supporting evidence:**

**Student-Led Success Stories:** The University of Strathclyde's Care-Experienced Student Network has reported **higher engagement rates** when peer support is student-led.

<https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/search-bank/blog/how-students-are-helping-shape-university-led-and-peer-support-students-care-experience>

**UCAS Research** highlights that care-experienced students often feel isolated, and peer support is a critical factor in retention and success.

<https://www.ucas.com/advisers/help-and-training/toolkits/adviser-toolkit-supporting-students-individual-needs/supporting-care-experienced-students>

**Student Testimonials:** Many care-experienced students have stated they feel more comfortable seeking support from fellow students rather than university staff.

[https://www.celcis.org/application/files/9115/6147/3751/SFC\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_for\\_web\\_and\\_print.docx.pdf](https://www.celcis.org/application/files/9115/6147/3751/SFC_Report_FINAL_for_web_and_print.docx.pdf)

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. What is a care Leaver ?**

A care leaver has been in the care of the local authority for 13 weeks or more, spanning their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### **2. What does it mean by care Experienced ?**

Care experienced – those who have spent time in foster care, residential care or other forms of state care

**Ramish academic officer:**

We scrutiny panellists believe there should be a mandate for the academic officer:  
Ramish Ayub

**Description**

DSU Student Members have not seen enough updates progress from Ramisha's manifesto. This officers answers towards scrutiny questions shows a lack of measurability from his projects in regard to timetabling and projects, which we see as a concern.

**What are we trying to improve/change?**

From this mandate, we want to encourage the officer, to demonstrate genuine progress to improve students access to timetabling concerns and regulations regarding block teaching, as per their manifesto.

We also want to change how executive officers respond to scrutiny panellists questions, as we simply wish that officers are more prepared to answer with answers that are measurable.

**Why is it important?**

This is important to ensure each officer is held accountable towards their projects and manifestos and to provide an example for other upcoming officers. It would mean that we can see the intention to progress accordingly.

**What is the outcome?**

We hope the outcome will entail more progress for projects like timetabling and block teaching.

Signature:

*Thanaa Sulum*

(Thanaa Sulum)

*Jas Jhagra*

(Jas Jhagra)

## Officer written report

Date:

24-04-25

Name:

Fluffy Adewola

Officer title:

Welfare Executive

Role description:

*{A description of your role.}*

As the elected Welfare Executive Officer, I represent and advocate for students' wellbeing, safety, and inclusion. I lead on key issues such as mental health, cost of living, and international student wellbeing support, while also organizing initiatives like self-care boot camps, SHAG Day event, and safety campaigns. I work closely with university leadership, sit on various boards and committees—including the trustee board, academic board, and student experience action group—and ensure student voices are heard in decision-making processes. My role is driven by strategic goals of

Officer goals:

*{A description of what you want to achieve as an officer, what is your focus? }*

**As a Welfare Executive Officer, my goal is to create a university environment where every student feels safe, supported, and empowered to thrive.** I aim to improve the visibility and accessibility of mental health and wellbeing services, address the rising cost of living through practical student support, and enhance the welfare experience for international students. I'm committed to building a culture of care by organizing regular wellbeing events, promoting inclusive student engagement, and pushing for institutional changes that reflect the real needs of our diverse student body. My

Project completed:

*{Projects, campaigns, events you have already completed and the outcome.}*

**DSU Pantry** – This is an initiative aimed at providing food and other essential supplies to support students facing food insecurity. This is still in progress from the University part but has been approved to kick off.

- **Monthly Self-Care Bootcamp** – Hosted wellness sessions to promote mental health and self-care. This is a continuous monthly event.
- **International Students' Termly Vibe Check** – Created a safe space for international students to share experiences and access tailored support outside term time as a lot of international students don't go home to their families due to several factors.
- **Safe to Say, Safe to Share Campaign** – Raised awareness about sexual harassment and encouraged safe reporting by leading on a video and physical campaign in regards to harassment and misconduct on campus.
- **SHAG Day (Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance)** – Promoted sexual health, consent education, and access to resources on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.
- **Flexible Futures Campaign** – Collaborated on advocating for flexible tuition payment options to ease financial pressure on students.

## Project progress :

*{A description of projects, campaigns, events you are getting up to including dates and people involved.}*

SELF CARE BOOTCAMP SERIES; This is a monthly self care series and it's a continuous initiative.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TERMLY VIBE CHECK: This is a termly event and it's a continuous initiative.

## Projects in discussion:

*{Any projects, campaign, events you want to do but yet to be started.}*

- Stretch and Soothe Yoga and Pilates Sessions (an exam period session to relieve exam stress) in collaboration with Self Care Bootcamp, advice and DMU ACTIVE.

## Something you are improving on within your role:

*{Something you are trying to change/improve.}*

**I'm working to improve student access to mental health and wellbeing services by making support more visible, relatable, and timely.** This includes clearer signposting, culturally sensitive resources, and proactive wellbeing events that meet students where they are—physically and emotionally. I'm also advocating for faster response times and better coordination between the university and support teams so no student feels lost or unsupported when they reach out for help.

## Officer written report

Date:

24/04/2025

Name:

Judith olurankinse

Officer title:

Union development officer

Role description:

*{A description of your role.}*

- Work with the Marketing & Communications team to promote the Union internally and externally, including, but not limited to, Open Days, and raising awareness of DSU's services.
- Act as the Union's spokesperson to key stakeholders including, but not limited to DMU,

Officer goals:

*{A description of what you want to achieve as an officer, what is your focus? }*

I aim to accomplish all my manifesto goals while collaborating effectively with the team and fellow executives. Currently focus on cost of graduation, partnership review, executive social media visibility.

Project completed:

*{Projects, campaigns, events you have already completed and the outcome.}*

- Halloween pumpkins craving/painting- good turn up and engagement
- Nus conference and feedback input
- Over 10 partnership modules reviews.

## Project progress :

*{A description of projects, campaigns, events you are getting up to including dates and people involved.}*

- More engagement and attendance for student council/ dmu marketing
- Cost of graduation and looking into budget/calum and A
- Cultural clash with Priya
- Actively working on content creations with all executive
- Promoting resources at Dsu
- Constantly partnership modules reviews

## Projects in discussion:

*{Any projects, campaign, events you want to do but yet to be started.}*

Accommodation halls forum event

## Something you are improving on within your role:

*{Something you are trying to change/improve.}*

More engagement from students during students' council.

## Officer written report

Date:

01/05/2025

Name:

Ramish Ayub

Officer title:

Academic Executive Officer

Role description:

*{A description of your role.}*

As Academic Executive Officer, I oversee academic quality, support student success, and promote faculty growth. I work with faculty and staff to ensure strong programs, improve student engagement, and uphold standards. I also build partnerships to strengthen DMU's mission of providing high quality, impactful education for all students.

Officer goals:

*{A description of what you want to achieve as an officer, what is your focus? }*

I will ensure every student's voice is heard by bridging students and the university. My goals include faster access to mental health services, empowering course reps with weekly drop-in sessions, and creating flexible timetables to help students balance studies, part-time work, and other commitments.

Project completed:

*{Projects, campaigns, events you have already completed and the outcome.}*

All are Done



## Project progress :

*{A description of projects, campaigns, events you are getting up to including dates and people involved.}*

I'm Working on my new goal, which is to offer more installment plans for students.

## Projects in discussion:

*{Any projects, campaign, events you want to do but yet to be started.}*

Installment plans

## Something you are improving on within your role:

*{Something you are trying to change/improve.}*

Trying to socialise more and more with the students and gather information from them .

## Officer written report

Date:

24/04/2024

Name:

Badhri Sai Purnima Rai Durgapu

Officer title:

International Liberation part time officer

Role description:

*{A description of your role.}*

As the International Liberation Part-Time Officer, I represent and support the international student community at DMU. I aim to promote inclusivity, ensure international students' voices are heard in decision-making processes, and contribute to creating a culturally rich and welcoming campus environment.

Officer goals:

*{A description of what you want to achieve as an officer, what is your focus? }*

My primary goals are to enhance the experience of international students by advocating for better academic and well-being support, promoting multicultural events, and working on initiatives that support financial inclusivity and career development opportunities for international students.

Project completed:

Flexible Future Payments: This project, aimed at improving payment flexibility for international students, is now in its final stages. It involved gathering feedback from students, working with finance and student support teams, and proposing solutions that can help reduce financial stress. The feedback has been positive, and final documentation and implementation planning are ongoing.

Project progress :

*{A description of projects, campaigns, events you are getting up to including dates and people involved.}*

**On-Campus Placement Support Initiative:** This project is progressing steadily. I have collected initial feedback from international students on their placement-related needs. Communication is currently ongoing with the **Careers team** to explore how we can better support international students in accessing on-campus placement opportunities. Further planning and collaboration will follow based on these discussions.

Projects in discussion:

*{Any projects, campaign, events you want to do but yet to be started.}*

Something you are improving on within your role:

*{Something you are trying to change/improve.}*

I'm working on enhancing my communication and stakeholder engagement skills to improve collaboration across university departments. This is especially important for ensuring that projects like the On-Campus Placement Initiative receive broad institutional support.

## Officer written report

Date:

1/05/2025

Name:

Libs Morris

Officer title:

Disability Liberation Officer

Role description:

*{A description of your role.}*

A volunteer

Officer goals:

*{A description of what you want to achieve as an officer, what is your focus? }*

Raise awareness of Invisible Disabilities

Project completed:

*{Projects, campaigns, events you have already completed and the outcome.}*

## Project progress :

*{A description of projects, campaigns, events you are getting up to including dates and people involved.}*

Sensory toolkit making session 14<sup>th</sup> May

Open air cinema – 27<sup>th</sup> May

Campaign shoot 15<sup>th</sup> May

Article containing results of the shoot will be shared during the liberation celebration on the 27<sup>th</sup> May

## Projects in discussion:

*{Any projects, campaign, events you want to do but yet to be started.}*

## Something you are improving on within your role:

*{Something you are trying to change/improve.}*

Awareness of the role and communicating with students

## Officer written report

Date:

30/04/2025

Name:

Paige Billings

Officer title:

Women's Liberation Officer

Role description:

*{A description of your role.}*

The voice of women students at de Montfort student's union.

Officer goals:

*{A description of what you want to achieve as an officer, what is your focus? }*

To empower women to be confident within themselves; to raise awareness on menstrual health issues for students and encourage women+ to get confident with putting themselves at the forefront.

Project completed:

*{Projects, campaigns, events you have already completed and the outcome.}*

I have completed various projects, including My Period Power.

The writing for the rest of the campaign is now complete. I will showcase pictures from the International Women's Day 2025 gig and article pieces by myself and Joelle Callis on supporting yourself and your peers through phases or lack thereof, hopefully with information on menopause as well.

## Project progress :

*{A description of projects, campaigns, events you are getting up to including dates and people involved.}*

Liberation Celebration May 27<sup>th</sup>

My stall shall promote menstrual and sexual health awareness through an interactive game. Having heart shaped lollies and affirmations, potentially another period hamper or small period packs. I will also utilise some backing boards to show pictures of IWD 2025 gig and a link to Fluffy's video campaigns. To encourage conversations around period stigma, mental health and overall empowerment, with support resources available via QR codes, such as Joelle's resource pack.

## Projects in discussion:

*{Any projects, campaign, events you want to do but yet to be started.}*

Working with DMU staff Marta Afonso and Paisley Tomlinson to see options of potential period drives for the last week of May.

## Something you are improving on within your role:

*{Something you are trying to change/improve.}*

Finishing my writing for My Period Power, hopefully ending as a way to showcase longer-term understanding and projects.