

Student Council Minutes

de montfort su

Minutes: Council Café

Date / Time:	8/5/25
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Location	De Montfort Students' Union – The Pod
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Chair:	Hayley Gule	HG
Deputy Chair	Patrick Chileshe	PC
Union development officer	Judith Olurankinse	JO
Welfare officer	Fluffy Adewola	AA
Academic officer	Ramish Ayub	RA
Opportunities and engagement officer	Gurupriya Karasala	PK

Attendees	
Name	Role
Dilpreet	Student participant
Harjas Jhagra	Scrutiny Panellist
Aaron Ram	Committee member
Twig Smalley	Committee member
Priya Nagra	Student participant
Shivam Pandya	Student participant
Jane Palmer	Course rep
Moses Ojugbeli	Student participant
Lily Jacob	Student participant
Olasubomi Oyebamiji	Student participant
Nitish .	Student Participant
Bala Oruganti	Student participant
Neha Vadapally	Student participant
Sai Kethiri	Student participant
Rohit Dindu	Student participant
Bobby Ogunyemi	Student participant
Neha Ijaz	Student participant
Ramya Sandun	Student participant
Oluwatobiloba Jalaade	Student participant
Mohamed Bougandoura	Student participant
Matthew Sabo	Student participant
Abdelmalek Arroui	Student participant
Shreyansh Parekh	Student participant
Najim Abdallah	Student participant
Nishant Bhumbra	Student participant
Pavan Mamidi	Student participant
Thanaa Sulum	Scrutiny Panellist

Owen George	Course rep
Sajin Sojan	Student participant
Ramyashini Pathmanaba Sarma	Student participant
Gohula Kannan	Student participant
ELIJAH GEORGE	Student participant
James Uwakwe	Student participant
Edidiong Effanga	Student participant

Agenda Item	Description	Lead	Timings (Mins)
Introductions and Apologies for Absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of purpose of item E.G any new members of the committee E.G refresh purpose of the meeting 	HG	10 mins
<p>Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All officers were introduced Apologies - all Liberation officers 			
Agenda item 1 Election of student voting member	To elect student voting members and discuss unfilled positions.	JO	Decide time
<p>Minutes:</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not all roles were filled during the by-election. Students can still put themselves forward in the next academic year. Current vacancies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business and Law PGT Faculty Lead Rep HLS/ ADH PGT Faculty lead rep LGBTQ+ Liberation Officer <p>Action:</p>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote upcoming Co-Option elections and encourage student applications at council. 			
Agenda item:		HG	2
Review of previous minutes			
Minutes : Voting members approved the minutes from the previous meeting.			
Agenda item:		n/a	2
Manifesto progress update: Executive officers			
Manifesto Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manifesto updates are now available on the DSU website. QR codes were provided at the meeting for attendees to view them. No questions or comments were raised. 			
Agenda item:		n/a	2
Manifesto progress Update: Liberation officers			
Minutes : Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberation Officers sent apologies; no updates were provided during this meeting. Manifesto updates are now available on the DSU website. QR codes were provided at the meeting for attendees to view them. No questions or comments raised. 			

Agenda item :		HG	15
Motion A: Student Council Bye law amendment Presented by Hayley Gule			
<p>Minutes:</p> <p>Did not meet voting member quorum, no formal vote could take place but discussions continued.</p> <p>Presented by: Hayley Gule (HG)</p> <p>Proposal Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand Student Council to include additional student-led roles: Secretary, Treasurer, Social Media Assistant. Increase student engagement and representation. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AA: Word of mouth is powerful–students must inform each other. Twig: Society members aren't aware of voting members–training should include Council info. PC: Societies are unaware and need better communication–could be made mandatory. Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include in Course Rep catch-ups. Use lecturers to share information. Share updates on the Learning Zone. <p>Student Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students attended to make friends and learn about Council Café. Quorum discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jas suggested reducing quorum to 15/18. HG advised against it to maintain democratic integrity. JO and others argued quorum reduction is needed to pass motions and enable change. <p>Ideas Raised:</p>			

- Encourage more diverse participation.
- Make Council engagement mandatory for societies and sports clubs.
- Use LinkedIn and email to reach students outside of social media.
- Introduce incentives (e.g., point system or awards) or light penalties (e.g., strikes for non-attendance).

Concerns:

- Need for better regulation and response within societies.
- Reports of negative experiences due to poor society leadership.

Agenda Item:		PC/J 0	5
Motion B 1.1: Transitions Liberation officer Presented By Libs Morris			
Motion B 1.2: Alternative option for the Transition Liberation officer Presented by Judith Olurankinse			
<p>Minutes:</p> <p>1.1: Transitions Liberation Officer Presented by: Libs Morris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion not discussed as the presenter was unavailable. <p>1.2: Alternative Option for the Transitions Liberation Officer Presented by: Judith Olurankinse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred; not discussed in detail. 			
Agenda item: Motion C: Officer mandate – Ramish Presented by Scrutiny Panel		SP	5

Minutes:

Presented by: Scrutiny Panel

Discussion:

- Quorum not met; motion not voted on.
- Jas and Thanaa (Scrutiny Panel) reported limited progress on projects, particularly around timetabling.
- Encouraged RA to continue working on attendance and timetabling reforms.

Agenda item: Open forum		HG	20
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Minutes:

Topics Discussed:

- **DMU Alumni Access to Sports Training**
 - Students raised about Alumni being apart of sports club after finishing university
 - PK to follow up with DMU Sports.
 - Alumni invited to some events but access remains limited.
- **International Student Fees & Support:**
 - Students asked for more support for flexible payments
 - RA: Vice-Chancellor and Academic Board are working on more flexible instalment plans.
 - AA: Students can request 1:1 financial support by emailing the finance team and CC'ing an Executive Officer.
- **Communication Gaps & Feedback:**
 - Students feel signposted between departments and lack in-person support.
 - Suggested clearer pathways for financial and emotional support.
- **Attendance Tracking:**
 - RA: Academic Board discussed monthly attendance tracking and integrating it into an app. Financial discussions ongoing.
- **Events Promotion:**
 - Students unaware of past events.
 - JO: Events are emailed and posted on social media. Voice newsletter and website also contain details.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AA: Encouraged checking both university and personal emails. • Job Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students raised that they wanted more job opportunities ○ Available through Unitemps, Student Ambassadors, and Frontrunners schemes. • Joining the SU or a Committee/Society: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students raised that they were unsure of how to get involved with the union particularly committees and societies ○ PC: Elections happen yearly for student union roles. ○ Website has all societies listed. • Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ○ Sports club membership: ~£40/year. ○ DMU Active: Free. • Graduation and Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A student raised whether they could still be apart of a club or society after finishing university but not yet graduated ○ PK: Students graduating in winter cannot purchase next year's sports membership. ○ AA: International students remain students according to the Home Office until their graduation. 			
Agenda item : AOB		HG	5
Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for next Chair and Co-Chair for the upcoming Student Council. • Prize Draw Winner will be contacted via email to claim the £75 voucher 			
MEETING CLOSED			

DATE OF MEETING Action Log		
Action	Responsible	Timescale agreed
All motions to be brought	Student voice leaders	TBC

forward to the next council café		
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