

Student Assembly

Students' Union Cafe

Goldsmiths Students' Union

5:30-6.30pm, Thursday 7th December 2017

Chair

Joe Williams

**Full Time Officers
present**

Taylor McGraa (Education Officer), Joseph Tema
(Campaigns and Activities Officer), Tara Mariwany
(Welfare and Diversity Officer)

**Part Time Officers
present**

Alvi Suipov (International Students' Officer), Edgar
Ndazi (Mature Students' Officer), Rosie Watson
(Women's Officer), Cat Zauner and Ffion Cowen
(Sports Officers), Sechelle Mtitimila (Ethical and
Environmental Officer), Amal Bider (BME Officer),
Julian Barbieri Selme (Postgraduate Officer), Kelly
Morgan (Student Parents and Carers Officer), Hayley
Wiltshire (Wired radio manager)

**Goldsmiths Students'
Union staff members:**

Meg Evans (Engagement Manager), Nuz Fatima
(Democracy Coordinator), Rachel Sunderland

(Societies Coordinator), Heather Welsh
(Communications Coordinator)

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair introduced himself and welcomed students to the meeting, noting that Student Assembly is open to all Goldsmiths students and is the forum to debate and agree the Union's position on issues and campaigns. The Chair noted the Union's [Safe Space policy](#).

NUS delegate elections

The Deputy Returning Officer announced the NUS delegate elections:

JT (Joseph Tema) and Amal Bider were elected as Goldsmiths Students' Union's delegate to NUS conference in March 2018. The full election results can be found [here](#).

Part Time Officer Introductions.

The Chair invited the part time officers to come to the front and introduce themselves and their roles.

- Rosie Watson (Women's Officer) reported she had been working on tackling sexual harassment at University.
- Amal Bider (BME Officer) introduced herself as the newly-elected BME officer and reported she had been working on the refugee crisis.
- Jessica Hazzard (LGBTQ+ Officer) reported on working within the LGBTQI community and making it accessible.
- Hayley Wiltshire (Wired Radio manager) reported on running Wired radio.

- Julian Barbieri Selme (Postgraduate Officer) introduced himself as the newly-elected Postgraduate officer and that he has been working on the introduction of a Facebook group to build a strong postgraduate community.
- Sechelle Mtitimila (Ethical and Environmental Officer) presented an interest in collaborating with the local area on ethical and environmental projects.
- Cat Zauner and Ffion Cowen (Sports Officers) introduced themselves as sports officers.
- Edgar Ndazi (Mature Students' Officer) introduced himself as the mature students officer.
- Kelly Morgan (Student Parents and Carers Officer) asked for student parents to get in touch and introduced herself as the student parent officer.

Full Time Officer Reports

Full Time Officers gave a maximum of 5 minute update on what they have been working on with a further 5 minutes allocated by the chair for any questions from the floor.

Welfare and Diversity Officer's Report- Tara Mariwany

- Tara Mariwany (TMA) gave an update on the Against Sexual Violence campaign and reported that they were recruiting for student trainers to deliver consent and bystander training to fellow students. TM reported that she had also been working on launching a the Report and Support tool, with the launch planned for the spring term.

- TMa reported working with the Islamic society on the provision of space for Friday prayers. It was noted that RHB 300 and 300A are currently being used for prayer space as a temporary solution and that work was taking place on this issue.
- TMa updated on on the hate crime reporting centre and noted that the centre will be launched next term.
- TMa reported that she had been working on the development of a liberation strategy.
- TMa updated on work taking place around the BME attainment gap (the gap between BME students and white students getting good honours.) An open meeting focusing on the BME student experience will take place next term. TMa is also developing the workshops as part of the Liberate my Degree project.
- TMa noted that she had attended a training session by the Refugee Support Network and NUS Black Students Winter Conference, facilitating a session on Prevent.

Campaigns and Activities Officer's report - Joseph Tema (JT)

JT reported on work that has taken place so far this term:

- Space on campus - JT has created a user group for space on campus and was working on this becoming a part of the University governance structure in order for students to give feedback about space on campus.
- JT reported that he had chaired the 'Winning the argument for Free Education' panel discussion and the National Demonstration for free education.

- JT reported on organising a student media conference day which will include organisations such as Bestival and the Centre for Investigative Journalism amongst others.
- JT reported that the University had introduced a new Halls Ambassador role, which he was concerned duplicated some of the work of the students' union. He reported working with the University to ensure this is not the case.
- JT reported that he had been elected to NUS Society and Citizenship Zone Committee, had attended NUS Black Students Winter Conference and had given evidence to the House of Lords.

Education Officer's Report – Taylor McGraa

- TMc reported that she had been a member of the panel debate on free education.
- TMc reported that they had held a Joint Honours degree form to work on solutions for dispersed students.
- TMc reported that she had been working with the Director of Student Experience on student employability and academic quality reviews. TMc added that whilst employability was an important attribute of the university, it was essential that the University ensures that 'learning for learning's sake' remains at the heart of the institution.
- TMc reported that she was developing an alternative careers fair to run in parallel to the university careers fortnight, which will include representation from a diverse range of backgrounds and creative fields.

- TMc reported that she had attended Wonkfest, an event focused on higher education policy and had been elected to NUS Higher Education Zone committee.

President - Eva Crossan Jory

Eva sent apologies to the meeting due to illness. Her report is available to read [here](#).

The chair allowed time for questions from the floor.

There was a question regarding University of the Arts London's participation in Varsity, as they do not have as many competitive teams as Goldsmiths. The Campaigns and Activities Officer replied that this had been considered but it was difficult to find a similar sized university in London with a similar sporting offer.

Motions

Motion 1: Referendum on Leaving the National Union of Students (NUS)

Proposer: James Braithwaite

Seconder: Kyle Farren

Speech for the motion: James Braithwaite

Amendments to the motion

Proposer: JT (Campaigns and Activities Officer)

Seconder: Taylor McGraa (Education Officer), Tara Mariwany (Welfare and Diversity Officer), Eva Crossan Jory (President)

Amendment: Officers in their work capacity shall campaign for neither for nor against leaving the NUS and will not use SU resources.

Speech for the Amendment:

JT (Campaigns and Activities Officer)

Speech against the amendment:

None

Questions:

How would full time Officers be campaigning if the motion passes?

Answer: JT clarified that all Full time officers take leave to be able to campaign and run in elections and that the officers would like to be able to do the same or campaign within their own time out of work hours.

Vote on the amendment:

Amendment passes.

Speech against the motion as amended

JT (Campaigns and Activities Officer)

Before voting the chair asks for any questions from the floors for the clarity of the motion.

Question: Will there be a vote or a referendum about the NUS at the next AGM?

Answer: JT clarified that legally all affiliations have to be voted on by students including BUCS and NUS. The AGM must occur every eighteen months so students will get an opportunity to vote on these affiliations.

Question- Does Goldsmiths Students' Union pay to be part of the NUS and what does it offer us?

Answer - JT clarified that Goldsmiths Students' Union pays an annual affiliation fee to NUS and explained some of the services and benefits received as a member of the organisation.

Vote for Motion 1:

For: 14

Against: 12

Abstained: 1

Motion falls

2) Motion: Combating Islamophobia

Proposer: Amal Bider (BME Officer)

Seconder: Aya Saleh

Speech for the motion: Amal Bider (BME Officer)

Amendments to the motion

Proposer: JT (Campaigns and Activities Officer)

Seconder: Tara Mariwany (Welfare and Diversity Officer)

Amendment: To remove reference to supporting or involving TellMAMA in our work on combatting Islamophobia.

Questions

None

Speech against the Amendment

None

Vote on the amendment

For: 24

Against: 0

Abstaining: 2

Amendment passes

Speech against the Motion

None

Vote on the motion.

Motion 27

Abstaining 0

Against 0

Motion Passes

3) Motion: Continued support for Eritrean refugees as well as other refugees

Proposer: Amal Bider (BME Officer)

Seconder: Daisy Jeanrenaud

Speech For: Amal (BME Officer)

Speech Against: None

Amendments: None

Questions: What does continued support mean?

Proposer asked Tara Mariwany to clarify: Noted that Goldsmiths currently recognises Refugee Awareness Month and has successfully lobbied for refugee scholarships at the University. Continued support would include continuing these measures and inviting Eritrean refugees to campus as part of the campaign.

Vote on the Motion:

For: 25

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes.

Solidarity Motions:

Supporting the anti-slavery march on Libya: Phoenix Martins (President, ACS) presented that it is important for Goldsmiths Students' Union to support this and oppose and condemn the slave trade in Libya. The march is to take place on Belgrave Square this Saturday.

The solidarity motion was passed.

The Chair noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 25 January 2018 at 5:30pm in the Students' Union cafe.

The Chair closed the meeting.