**MINUTES:**

**Union Council Meeting – 15/02/2022**

**Attendees**
Gaebriel Min
Sol Gjøines
Tripti Kaur Kohli
Albert Jose
Julia Pentz
Bianca Radoslav
Fee Hobbs

Emily Screen

Amanda Francis

**Apologies**
None

**No Apologies**

Oleksandr Aryku

Ben Powell

1. **Kara** ran through Action updates:
* *Action: Tripti to plan an agenda for UC drop-in sessions.*

Update: Completed. Tripti spoke to Gaeb about this and UCA’s Enrollment Days are being used as a platform for sabbatical officers to talk more about what the Union does.

* *Action: Kara to involve UC in voter engagement plans and UC to help in getting students to vote.*

Update: In progress. Kara will organise a meeting with UC once she has spoken with the staff team.

**Roll-over this Action to next meeting.**

* *Action: Gaeb to put together information around elections.*

Update: Completed. Kara has done this with Election Comms and will share with UC

* *Action: Kara to speak to UCA Global about potentially tailoring election comms to these students.*

Update: Completed. UCA Global have said that there are no students studying from abroad.

* *Action: Gaeb will look into creating a resource pack / update current Housing Handbook*

Update: Gaeb has looked at this and will aim to update the Housing Handbook in time for 2022/23 academic year.

1. In light of the NUS Referendum mandate changing (NUS has since been split into two organisations; NUS UK and NUS Charity), **Sol** put forward a motion to decide whether students will vote on UCASU’s affiliation with the NUS during the SU Election period. This was seconded by **Gaeb**.

**Sol** explained the paper, asked for questions and a vote took place on whether Union Council members wanted the NUS Referendum to take place during the Election period. It was a unanimous **Yes**, 8 votes to 0.

This means that an NUS Referendum will be held as part of the SU Elections with the question being posed to students: “Should UCASU remain affiliated to NUS UK and NUS Charity?”

***Action: Kara to include the NUS Referendum information on the website and as part of the Elections***

**AOB**

* **Amanda** raised a point about increasing the awareness of running in Elections and encouraged all of UC to do the same. **Kara** suggested that as part of the Election briefing, UC should give strategies on how to engage nominees and increase voter turnout

***Action: ALL OF UNION COUNCIL******to think about means to engage nominees and increase voter turnout, ready to discuss at election meeting. Also consider ways to improve the part-time officer experience.***

***Action: Kara to organise said meeting.***

* **Amanda** raised the point that COVID testing is likely to cease in the coming weeks and that this may concern some students. **Sol** echoed these concerns and it’s something the Union need to consider.

***Action****:* ***Kara raise with Andy Squire and seek next steps.***

* **Albert** wanted to know if anything could be done for the Graduate Route Visa students, from the red-listed countries, who had to pay for mandatory quarantine in April 2021. This came about because students who started in February 2021 had to be in the UK by 27th September, as part of their Visa requirements.

***Action: Kara to find out numbers affected and investigate if other Union’s are doing anything to reimburse these students.***

**The next meeting will be on 15/03/2022 at 3:30pm.**