

ARU Students' Union AGM and All Student Meeting 22nd April 2020, 12pm

1.1 Attendance			
P = Present, Ap = Apologies, A = Absent			
1.1.1 Members			
Kerdisha Ali-Arab	Women's Rep (Cambridge)	А	
Angela Atuahene	Women's Rep (Chelmsford)	А	
Amanda Campbell-	White Vice President: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	Р	
Mary Copsey	Vice President: Business and Law	Р	
Gold Dominic	International Students' Rep (Chelmsford)	А	
Ethan Dredge	Trans Students' Rep (Cambridge)	А	
Damien Francis	B&L Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)	А	
Luca Girardi	LGBT+ Students' Rep (Cambridge)	А	
Ganesh Gupta	BME Students' Rep (Cambridge)	А	
Matt Hayes	President	Р	
Jose Hermosilla	S&E Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)	А	
Caroline Hill	Disabled Students' Rep (Chelmsford)	Р	
Ashleigh Jackson	HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)	Р	
Anna Kiss	International Students' Rep (Cambridge)	А	
Tiegan Lawson	HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)	А	
Imogen Lay	HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)	Р	
Emily Long	S&E Faculty Rep (Cambridge)	Р	
Fraser Luther-Yarw	ood Vice President: Health, Education, Medicine & Social Care	Ар	
Alessia Mevoli	B&L Faculty Rep (Cambridge)	А	
Bethany Miller	HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)	Р	
Obinna Ogbankwa	BME Students' Rep (Chelmsford)	Р	
Sarah Strachan	AHSS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)	Р	
Emma Scriven	Disabled Students Rep (Cambridge)	Р	
Andrew Taylor	LGBT+ Students' Rep (Chelmsford)	А	
Lin Lee	Group Chat Chair	Р	
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Student Members	14 active participants in the online chat, 223 views (before		
	close of voting) 48 Voters and 352 votes received online		
1120			
1.1.2 Observers Emma Howes	Engagement Manager (Minutes)	Р	
Rachel Wilkenson	Democracy & Campaigns Coordinator (Chair support)	P	
Bee Newboult	Communications and Insight Coordinator (Online feed)	P	

1.2	1.2 Welcome
1.∠	LL: welcomed students to the Group Chat and explained new online only format due to COVID
	19 outbreak.
	Voting on policy will take place online.
	Links to papers were explained.
	All officers introduced themselves
	MH: noted FLY absence due to personal circumstances.
2.0	2.0 AGM
2.1	2.1 AGM Minutes
	MH: Minutes of the last AGM were noted and time was given for questions or corrections – none
	received.
	RW: All papers are available online.
2.2	2.2 Trustee Report
۷.۷	MH: Noted membership of trustee board.
	Presented 'Trustees report on Union activities'
	Highlighted development of a new strategy as key work of the board.
	I highlighted development of a new strategy as key work of the board.
2.3	2.3 Accounts of the Union
	MH: presented 'The accounts of the Union'.
	Noted that these have scrutinised by appointed accountants.
	Opened the floor to questions.
	Noted that pension deficit liability over 14 years will impact on the appearance of accounts but
	'finance and risk committee' have approved these accounts and are confident in our financial
	situation.
2.4	2.4 Affiliations
2.7	MH: Presented 'Affiliations of the Union' and briefly outlined purpose of each membership.
	MH: Opened the floor for questions – none received
2.0	LL: All papers will be online for approval after the meeting.
3.0	3.0 Election of the Chair
	LL: Explained the role and process for the election of 2 new Group Chat Chairs 2020/21
	(Chelmsford and Cambridge). Outlined basic duties of the role.
	Declarations on interest to be emailed to r.wilkenson@angliastudent.com by 4pm, or comment
	on the live stream.
4.0	Voting will take place online. 4.0 Executive Committee Updates: Officer Updates
4.0	LL: Introduced executive committee updates. Video updates will be taken as read / noted. Further
	updates will be given verbally. All executive committee minutes are also available online.
	An executive continuities are also available offline.
4.1	4.1 Vice President Arts Humanities and Social Sciences.
	ACW: Recently working on supporting representation and regular meetings with the faculty re:
	COVID 19 responses and degree shows. Looking at practice in other Unions and universities.

Providing weekly live streams eg: 'meet my pets' to maintain contact.

SS and ACW facilitated a faculty forum with Ellie Robley (Rep Coordinator AHSS) and received good feedback. Another will be hosted soon.

Big white wall and 'a bloody mess' proposal have been submitted to the wellbeing steering group and ACW is looking forward to responses.

Awaiting a meeting with Union / University / Big White wall to explore options.

Working to arrange online de-stress fest (week commencing 27th April).

LL: Opened the floor for questions.

LL: Whilst we let students submit their questions; What is your proudest accomplishment this year?

ACW: The Raise the Bar campaign we have secured funding and a space for a bar on the Cambridge campus. Excited to see the outcome.

4.2 Vice President Business and Law

MC: Successful lobbying on housing and rent, no detriment policy and quality of teaching related to COVID crises.

Working on an SU accessibility pledge and accessibility project – paper has been submitted to the university.

Attended NUS national conference (online) and supported student delegates.

Regular meeting with deputy deans and faculty staff.

Supporting webinars and online wellbeing support.

LL: Opened the floor for questions.

LL: What is your proudest accomplishment this year?

MC: The accessibility project – working with the faculty and staff to have short and long term impacts.

Student question: Any update on the Brexit campaign?

MC: This campaign has been completed – recent student feedback has been used to maintain the tiles and information sharing on Canvas. The Erasmus policy which will be coming up is a development on from the Brexit policy.

4.3 President and Interim Vice President Science and Engineering:

MH: Much of my work is covered in my video update. Since we have moved online I have been working with the 2 weekly Corona Virus action meetings.

I have raised student feedback on tenancy agreements, which was successful on campus and is moving onto external providers.

A no detriment policy was also raised and is being developed and is due on 30th April. Deadline extensions were also granted.

Attended NUS national conference as group leader. We submitted an amendment to a priority motion regarding a national education service which was successful and will be implemented through NUS.

I stood for the national scrutiny council to ensure NUS VPs and President act in our interest, but was not elected.

Learning to adapt to online provision and meetings including meetings with MPs to discuss raising student issues at government level.

Student question: Will you be fighting for fee reimbursements for international students accessing online classes?

MH: We have not yet moved to lobby for refunds, but if this is a widely felt issue we will be able to raise this. (Action)

MH

Student Question: What about reduced rent for students who have to keep their accommodation but aren't actually using it? Particularly private accommodation where bills are included; the accommodation will be saving money on the students not using water etc, but students are still paying for this.

MH: We have started with establishing 'on campus' accommodation, but ongoing conversations with rental companies and local MPs are still happening. We have also discussed this with NUS and they are launching a national campaign on student support for issues like this. We can implement their campaign at a local level.

Student Question: Will it be possible to see if students finance will be able to class all money's paid for semester 3 to be a grant rather than a loan.

MH: We do not yet have a firm stance on this but expect it to be part of the NUS campaign and will look into it.

Student question: Most of the universities are going to reduce fee for coming instalments. What about Anglia Ruskin University is there any chance to for us?

MH: I am not aware of any other universities doing this – We do not think anyone has cut their fees. Please let us know if this is incorrect.

Student question: Many Students applied for the Hardship Fund but they didn't get any money. When are they are going to get funds? They are facing problems for personal payments. MH: That is a university scheme and I do not know about the administration of this process – please approach student services about this.

Student question: Is a 10 day extension enough?

MH: Combined with the new no detriment policy this seems to be a good start – we will work with NUS to see what the national picture and if the upheaval is compensated for and addressed adequately.

MC: Regarding grants and hardship funds you can ask for the reasons if funds are not granted. You can also seek support for applications to other funding pots such as laptop grants and COVID response funding. International students also have other routes they can explore through the international office which might be more relevant.

MC: Assignment extensions (on top of the 10 days) can be provided if the circumstances are appropriate and the evidence required has been relaxed to support students applying for these.

Student question: What about the loss of opportunity for placements and internships especially for international students.

MH: I believe adjustments are being made for Tier 4 visa students – please speak to the international office who will be able to provide more accurate advice.

	00 2/21
Student Question: Students on my course haven't got replies from any of the questions they	/ve
asked from the ARU Funds team, they've processed their application but they didn't reply to	
of their queries. Will students be held accountable if they make a mistake even though they t	
few times to query?	
MH: I will speak to student services funds team to clarify the process. Bear with them in the	short
term as the volume of applications is huge at the moment – we will follow this up and find ou	
more. (Action)	MH
There. (lederly	7.11
Student question: About the laptop bursary - I have heard from students who are in need of	the
laptop bursary that they need to repair/buy a new laptop with their own money, and then app	
get the money refunded, which is problematic as they don't have that money at hand to start	'
Is this something that the SU is discussing with the university?	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
MH: This is something we are aware of but currently do not have a solution for – it will be par	rt of
our ongoing discussions.	
our origining discussions.	
Student Questions: I heard that the laptop bursary is closed now. Is the SU discussing this wi	ith
the university?	
MH: I have not heard that and do not believe that this is the case. I will find out and if necessary	ary MH
try to get this reinstated. (Action)	77111
try to get triis remistated. (Action)	
MH: Our COVID FAQs page will be linked in the Facebook comments.	
Student question: How will the SU be celebrating when all things go back to normal? A free I	par?
MH: We're taking things as they come and haven't thought that far ahead – we will work with	n
incoming officer team and celebrate when we can. We will take suggestions from the faceboo	
comments.	
Student question: Is there any update How the no detriment policy will work for dissertations	;?
MH: I cannot give you a concrete answer on this at the moment. Keep looking at the update	
pages – the latest you should hear the details of the no detriment policy will be Thursday 30t	:h
April.	
Student Question: Will this year's SU awards be rescheduled so happen at like the start of ne	ext
year if possible or will it just be left?	
MH: I do not know. Any plans will be communicated to reps, volunteers and executive comm	nittee
members as soon as possible.	
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4.4 Vice President Health, Education, Medicine and Social Care	
RW: Although FLY is unavailable today the papers and his video can be found online. All mini	utes
and papers for executive committee including officer updates are also available.	
5.0 Executive Committee updates: Campaign and Faculty Rep updates	
LL: introduced the wider executive committee updates	
5 1 A HSS Enoughy Don	
5.1 AHSS Faculty Rep	t-0
SS: My priorities have been around access to facilities and value for money including access t	.U
courses due to financial constraints; particularly for CSA and CSCI.) and
Trying to remove the books plus scheme cap for arts materials – especially relevant for year 2	
3 students and is ongoing.	

4.4

5.0

5.1

Some of this work has been delayed due to the COVID outbreak but I will continue to work on hidden costs.

Looking to raise student issues with the faculty, around access to education and grief felt around the loss of degree shows.

LL: I will open the floor to students and in the meantime: what is your proudest achievement?

SS: Being an ambassador for student's voices at higher levels, I hope we will be able to say we got the books plus cap lifted.

5.2 | 5.2 Disabled Student's Rep (Cambridge)

ES: We worked to launch sunflower lanyard as the COVID crisis hit and we are now working to find an alternative.

Looking to support disabled students with employability and now how to reach them with technologies and relevant support during this crisis.

LL: Open the floor to students and in the meantime: what is your proudest achievement?

ES: The 'elephant in the room' campaign was great and I was proud to see people wearing purple and supporting the campaign.

Student comment – you are a legend! Thank you for your hard work.

5.3 | 5.3 HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)

IL: Working on Childcare for placements campaign – which has now changed slightly to a signposting activity as bursaries have been reinstated.

We have been looking at interdisciplinary learning and will support this more once things return to normal.

Working to speak to Course Reps and SU staff to get feedback and forums delivered online.

LL: Open the floor to students and in the meantime: what is your proudest achievement?

IL: Christmas at the SU with GD (International Rep) – Over 20 students attended and we had to extend the time scale as people were engaged and enjoying the event.

5.4 HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)

AJ: Working on childcare support for HEMS with IL. Supported a campaign on travel expenses for paramedics which again will be supported by new bursaries / funds.

Inter-professional learning event for a wide variety of NHS and healthcare students was a success and I hope to make this an annual event or embed into curricula.

LL: Open the floor to students and in the meantime: what is your proudest achievement?

AJ: The interdisciplinary day was my best achievement – it went very well and lots of people collaborated and worked hard to make it happen.

5.5 | 5.5 HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)

BM: Helped with paramedic support package project and so pleased that the bursary has been announced including paramedics as a new group.

Working with staff to deliver interdisciplinary learning and although this has been delayed by COVID we have been sharing ideas to develop this.

Working with IL to improve communication and feedback between students and staff.

LL: Open the floor to students and in the meantime: what is your proudest achievement?

BM: The paramedic support package – this was a project from previous reps and has been going for a long time. It seemed impossible, but now is a reality! 5.6 5.6 S&E Faculty Rep (Cambridge) EL: Started weekly rep catch ups, fortnightly faculty meetings and meetings with the Dean to raise student voice on COVID. I have been updating reps and maintaining transparency with a faculty rep update. Working on rep recognition with the dean, considering eg: a lunch, or other appreciation activity. Improving faculty networking at school level. Joined the student partnership work stream looking at analysing canvas usage data and how students engage with it. Reported to the faculty on student communication survey results. Attended national NUS conference as a delegate. Looking at a celebration magazine for the faculty to share good news. MH: EL has also been elected as the incoming Vice President for Science and Engineering. RW: Open the floor to students and in the meantime: what is your proudest achievement? EL: Working with the course reps in my faculty and how they've been excellent and made it easy for me to do my job. Toby Pallatt (Rep Coordinator S&E) has also helped me to improve as a faculty rep. 5.7 5.7 BME Students Rep (Chelmsford) OO: This is my first skype meeting! I have found it difficult to communicate with students since the lockdown - I have not received a lot of feedback apart from the tight deadlines and the challenges this has caused. LL: Open the floor to students and in the meantime: what is your proudest achievement? OO: Participating in the culture and diversity programme at the uni although the event will not now happen due to lockdown. LL: No questions have come in from OO, but there is a question for EL: Student question: Is there any plans to promote women in STEM. EL: I am meeting with an Athena Swan group who work on women in STEM issues – I can send out my updates to students who are interested. (Action) EL RW: Minutes of all exec meetings are available online throughout the year. Thanks to all of our Executive committee and their hard work this year. LL: Thanks again to the Executive Committee 6.0 6.0 Policy LL: explained the process for new policy proposals. A one minute summary will be provided for each policy and comments will be taken online via the facebook live comments. 6.1 6.1 MC: Access and Signage policy MC summarised the resolutions and feedback sections of the policy. A focus on responding to student feedback about inaccessible aspects of ARU. 6.2 6.2 MH: Drug harm reduction and education policy

MH summarised policy.

This will 'solidify' the work of the past two years as I leave my role as an officer. It seeks to continue provision of resources and an SU stance against a 'zero-tolerance' university approach to drug use.

6.3 ES: Hidden disability

ES summarised the policy which links feedback from elephant in the room campaign and accessibility campaign. Aims to remove barriers to education.

6.4 MH: TEF Off! – ARU against marketization

MH summarised the policy which promotes an anti-marketization stance and lobbying against measures which would disadvantage students at ARU. Noted links in the policy document to evidence and research.

6.5 MC: Erasmus – The fight for funding

MC summarised the resolutions and explained background. The Erasmus programme is due to end in December 2020 and ongoing provision is unclear. This policy asks the SU to lobby for alternatives to prevent any negative impact on students. Students need clarity on these issues.

6.6 | 6.6 ACW: Meaningful mental health policy

To maintain mental health as a high priority on our agenda and resolutions include presence on relevant committee and activity which is not simply 'awareness raising'.

6.7 Izzie Woodcock: Mental health campaign rep

¼ students struggle with mental health and it is an issue which affects everyone – many unions have a welfare officer which we do not and there is a communication gap between the SU and university to support student voice on mental health. This policy would introduce a new role within the executive committee.

6.8 MH: Equal access to education

This policy asks the university to recognise refugees and asylum seekers as 'home students' with regard to fees, and make policies on applications for scholarships accessible.

6.9 ACW: Tackling period poverty and menstrual accessibility

Summarised policy which came from the research within the 'bloody mess' campaign. Noted links within the document to research. Lobbying for access to menstrual products and education.

6.10 | 6.10 | Izzie Woodcock: Food poverty

This policy prioritises social welfare as an issue for the SU and asks them to lobby the university on issues around food poverty.

6.11 ACW: Protecting student sex workers.

The policy comes from work on sexual health provision and is an update to last year's policy. It sets a stance on the perception of sex work and lobbying for provision of resources, support and knowledge.

6.12 MH: Sustainability awareness.

This was proposed by FLY – It is a broad policy aimed to cover a wide range of issues under the banner of sustainability as the biggest threat to our generation.

MH summarised a number of resolutions and actions contained within the policy resolutions. LL opened the floor for questions. Comments can be made on angliastudent.com/thegroupchat and voting will be live, later today. Student question: What happened to the peer mentoring campaign? FLY MH: that was one of FLY's policies and we will ask him to update on this. (Action) 7.0 7.0 Feedback LL: The floor is now open for other feedback via the live stream comments section. 7.1 7.1 LL: How are Officers finding the lockdown? MH: I have been filling my time when I'm not working preparing to return to my studies in September. Being out of education for 2 years is a strange experience and the longest I have not studied for about 20 years! I am excited to get back and complete my degree. ACW: Interesting! I came home to my parents for the weekend and haven't left! Trying to organise accessing what I need, and my internet is awful, so it is difficult. Not being able to see people is a challenge but making the most of technology to have regular catch-ups. Everyone at the SU and the officer team are seeing each other often (online). We've done well getting feedback heard and dealing with things quickly. MC: This has tested my patience! I've stepped up in my caring role and the balance with supporting home schooling is hard but fun. Conversations with the team has helped - we know we've had highs and lows in motivation and I know students will be feeling this too - we need to recognise that it's ok and support each other through it. 7.2 7.2 Student question One of my classmates came to the SU reception asking for permission to put posters and help her with promotion on campus and she was told that the SU only support activities related to societies. MH: this would depend on the request – we cannot support requests for individual businesses or for eg; Dissertation work via posters because we have over 20,000 students. We do allow some posters to be placed in our spaces depending on content and allow some businesses to place posters for a fee. 7.3 7.3 Student question: Is there any move to hold campaign reps to account better? MH: Yes - for all members of the executive committee. I am looking at possible improvements and hopefully you will see this moving forward. We will be decreasing the number of formal meetings and increasing workshopping of campaigning activity and accountability structures. I would appreciate any additional feedback you have. 7.4 7.4 Student question. Students have been complaining that they aren't aware of everything that the SU does and that they don't know where to look for information. Is there any way to create a comprehensive guide for students? MH: We have a survey at the moment at angliastudent.com/survey where you can give feedback on our communications (and you could win £200). 7.5 7.5 Student comment

	There are so many posters throughout all of the Cambridge campus that they're pretty much drowning out the walls, and it's impossible to actually pay attention to any of it. Posters should more monitored more, rather than less, and there should be some procedure on how long they are up, as I believe that would help relevant posters to be more visible, and also encourage students to read what's there instead of feeling overwhelmed and just walking past. MH: I'm not sure where the responsibility lies but I will find out and try to make the guidance clearer. (Action)	MH (7.14)
7.6	7.6 EL: Can you explain what happens to lapsed policies? MH: they will no longer be in effect and are no longer required to be followed. ACW: All lapsed policies can be found on our website.	
7.7	7.7 IL: Do we still have plans to revamp the website? Will you guys get input from students if so? MH: It is still on the cards, but the results of the survey will steer our actions and website redesign may or may not be a priority depending on the results.	
7.8	7.8 EL: I would recommend things such as having a representation board in student spaces that hold the exec papers. Also perhaps on the website we could have a profile page for us to post our updates and students can read and comment. MH: I agree not everyone knows where to look – the more transparent Exec can be the better, again the survey will inform this.	
7.9	7.9 Student question Is there any way we can have the canteen opened for longer hours? It's very difficult to get food on campus if you have classes from 12 to 2 or later on. MH and ACW: The new SU bar will meet this need. There is a powerpoint on the website regarding the design of the bar and you can input on the design / offer. There will be a link in the comments.	
7.10	7.10 EL: I've been wondering about Speak week. Students provided us lots of information but on the website there are only 3 comments for each campus? I have been told this is for items "resolved" but would it not be better to show everything people have said to show you took in the suggestion? Feels like speak week was brushed away a bit. MH: There was a huge amount of data and this takes time with a limited staff team. A report is being made and it has not been finalised yet.	
7.11	7.11 IL: Could we have some kind of system to thank individual staff at the SU. Like a post card system? MH: We will explore options for this when we are back on campus (Action)	МН

7.12 7.12 Student question: When does Rep of the Month close? MH: Provided dates for upcoming months and will provide in the facebook feed. RW: Don't worry about deadlines as we look at these on a rolling basis. LL: Nominate a volunteer of the month here: https://www.angliastudent.com/volunteering/votmcriteria/ 7.13 7.13 Student comment Not a question, just wanted to give a big thanks to all of the SU staff that've been working so incredibly hard under this COVID situation. I'm feeling the community growing a lot more than usual, which is partly because people need the community more, but mainly I think because of how well you've dealt with it and accommodated to an online transition. That said, maybe a suggestion for the future would be to continue this level of online communication where possible, when this resolves, for example with an ARU SU facebook group where people are members and post, rather than "just" the Facebook Page. I realise that is a lot of work to administrate and monitor, but I think that would encourage more engagement and activity, and you're doing it so incredibly well now! 7.14 7.14 MH: To refer back to the comments on posters: The front desk can stamp things affiliated with us, such as societies or external companies who are part of our income, and those posters can then be posted across the university. Otherwise, the student talk noticeboards are the right places for students to be posting anything unstamped. Security monitors posters across the university. Stamping is part of our responsibilities with regard to PREVENT legislation. 8.0 Any Other Business LL: is there A.O.B.? 8.1 Student comment: The online communications have been really useful for distance learning students, thanks everyone for your hard work. 8.2 MH: Thanks to LL for maintaining a positive attitude and supporting this meeting despite the unusual circumstances. LL: Thank you for the video updates - these help us to feel connected. MH: Thanks to the SU team who make this possible; RW for organising and BN for the work on communicating and monitoring the facebook feed. RW: thanks to EH for minuting. 8.3 RW: Next week is de-stress fest (not distress fest) with events online so please get involved. 8.4 Please remember to approve the AGM papers and for policy on the website and links will be sent to the live stream event. This should be by 4pm today and will be live until Friday. 8.5 The next meeting will be in November (date TBC) with information via the website. LL: Thanks for your support and we will close the meeting.

Actions

4.3	To consider the need for campaigns activity relating to reductions or reimbursements of fees due	МН
	to COVID 19 outbreak provision.	
4.3	To speak with student services and clarify processes for fund applications, including expected	МН
	response times.	
4.3	Establish the status of the laptop bursary provision and (if necessary) lobby for its reinstatement.	МН
5.7	Share updates on 'Women in STEM' progress, made through Athena Swan meetings	EL
6.12	Share an update on the outcomes of the 'Peer Mentoring' policy – now lapsed.	FLY
7.5	Clarify guidance on the use of posters in SU and university spaces. (completed – see 7.14)	MH
7.11	Consider options for thanking SU staff members eg: postcard system, once we return to	МН
	campuses.	