

The Group Chat Minutes

21 April 2021 12:00pm-14:00pm (Teams Live Event)

| Item No                   |   | Action          |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------|---|----------------|---|---|-------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------|--|---|------------|---|---|------------|------------------|---|-------------|------------------------------|----|-----------------|-----------------------------|----|------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------|------------------------------|----|-------------|------------------------------|----|----------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------|------------------------------|----|-------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------------------|---|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|---|---|--------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------|--------------------------------|---|------------|--------------------------------|----|---------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| 1                         | <p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p><u>1.1 Members</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="289 680 1255 1745"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Avinash Miriyam</td> <td>President</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fatima Lakhani</td> <td>Vice President: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Omkar Singh</td> <td>Vice President: Business &amp; Law</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Riya Gadhavi</td> <td>Vice President: Health, Education, Medicine, and Social Care</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emily Long</td> <td>Vice President: Science and Engineering</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Matt Hayes</td> <td>AHSS Faculty Rep</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sara Hoxhaj</td> <td>B&amp;L Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)</td> <td>Ap</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cristina Ionita</td> <td>B&amp;L Faculty Rep (Cambridge)</td> <td>Ap</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Imogen Lay</td> <td>HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Olu Onasanya</td> <td>HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bethany Miller</td> <td>HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)</td> <td>Ap</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lucy Barton</td> <td>HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)</td> <td>Ap</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bennitta Benny</td> <td>HEMS Faculty Rep (Peterborough)</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Efua Taylor</td> <td>S&amp;E Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)</td> <td>Ap</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moh Sufyaan</td> <td>S&amp;E Faculty Rep (Cambridge)</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Olubenga Oluwatominiyi</td> <td>BME Students Rep (Chelmsford)</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abdullahi Idris</td> <td>BME Students Rep (Cambridge)</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shubham Singh</td> <td>Disabled Students Rep (Cambridge)</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aina Bashir</td> <td>International Students Rep (Chelmsford)</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rohit Dhyani</td> <td>International Students Rep (Cambridge)</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charlotte Fraser-Williams</td> <td>LGBT+ Students Rep (Chelmsford)</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kat Persaud</td> <td>LGBT+ Students Rep (Cambridge)</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Calli Dale</td> <td>Trans Students Rep (Cambridge)</td> <td>Ap</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Izzy Woodcock</td> <td>Women's Rep (Cambridge)</td> <td>A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Avinash Miriyam | President | P | Fatima Lakhani | Vice President: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences | P | Omkar Singh | Vice President: Business & Law | P | Riya Gadhavi | Vice President: Health, Education, Medicine, and Social Care | A | Emily Long | Vice President: Science and Engineering | P | Matt Hayes | AHSS Faculty Rep | A | Sara Hoxhaj | B&L Faculty Rep (Chelmsford) | Ap | Cristina Ionita | B&L Faculty Rep (Cambridge) | Ap | Imogen Lay | HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford) | P | Olu Onasanya | HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford) | A | Bethany Miller | HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge) | Ap | Lucy Barton | HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge) | Ap | Bennitta Benny | HEMS Faculty Rep (Peterborough) | A | Efua Taylor | S&E Faculty Rep (Chelmsford) | Ap | Moh Sufyaan | S&E Faculty Rep (Cambridge) | P | Olubenga Oluwatominiyi | BME Students Rep (Chelmsford) | P | Abdullahi Idris | BME Students Rep (Cambridge) | A | Shubham Singh | Disabled Students Rep (Cambridge) | A | Aina Bashir | International Students Rep (Chelmsford) | A | Rohit Dhyani | International Students Rep (Cambridge) | A | Charlotte Fraser-Williams | LGBT+ Students Rep (Chelmsford) | A | Kat Persaud | LGBT+ Students Rep (Cambridge) | A | Calli Dale | Trans Students Rep (Cambridge) | Ap | Izzy Woodcock | Women's Rep (Cambridge) | A |  |
| Avinash Miriyam           | President   | P               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Fatima Lakhani            | Vice President: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences   | P               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Omkar Singh               | Vice President: Business & Law  | P               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Riya Gadhavi              | Vice President: Health, Education, Medicine, and Social Care  | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Emily Long                | Vice President: Science and Engineering   | P               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Matt Hayes                | AHSS Faculty Rep  | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Sara Hoxhaj               | B&L Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)  | Ap              |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Cristina Ionita           | B&L Faculty Rep (Cambridge)   | Ap              |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Imogen Lay                | HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)   | P               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Olu Onasanya              | HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)   | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Bethany Miller            | HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)  | Ap              |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Lucy Barton               | HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)  | Ap              |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Bennitta Benny            | HEMS Faculty Rep (Peterborough)   | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Efua Taylor               | S&E Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)  | Ap              |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Moh Sufyaan               | S&E Faculty Rep (Cambridge)   | P               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Olubenga Oluwatominiyi    | BME Students Rep (Chelmsford)   | P               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Abdullahi Idris           | BME Students Rep (Cambridge)  | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Shubham Singh             | Disabled Students Rep (Cambridge)   | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Aina Bashir               | International Students Rep (Chelmsford)   | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Rohit Dhyani              | International Students Rep (Cambridge)  | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Charlotte Fraser-Williams | LGBT+ Students Rep (Chelmsford)   | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Kat Persaud               | LGBT+ Students Rep (Cambridge)  | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Calli Dale                | Trans Students Rep (Cambridge)  | Ap              |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |
| Izzy Woodcock             | Women's Rep (Cambridge)   | A               |           |   |                |   |   |             |                                |   |              |  |   |            |   |   |            |                  |   |             |                              |    |                 |                             |    |            |                               |   |              |                               |   |                |                              |    |             |                              |    |                |                                 |   |             |                              |    |             |                             |   |                        |                               |   |                 |                              |   |               |                                   |   |             |   |   |              |  |   |                           |                                 |   |             |                                |   |            |                                |    |               |                         |   |  |

16 active student members, 9 watched live via Facebook, 183 views after the event on Facebook, 17 voters and 89 votes received online.

1.2 Observers

Rachel Wilkenson

Emma Howes

Ellie Robley

Demi Smith

Jess Walker

John Valerkou

Rose Guy

Rhys Davies

Oli Gray

2

**Welcome to the Group Chat**

RW: Hello and welcome to the Group Chat! My name is Rachel Wilkenson, I am the Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator, and I will be helping to facilitate this meeting by acting as chair.

The Group Chat is your space to discuss the big issues on campus and help the SU make key decisions on things that effect your journey at ARU. The agenda for the meeting is available at [www.angliastudent.com/thegroupchat/april21](http://www.angliastudent.com/thegroupchat/april21)

During the meeting, we will look at the papers for the Annual General Meeting and those papers have important information from our Board of Trustees and gives an insight into the state of the Union. You will also hear updates from your Executive Committee members, so your officers, campaign reps, and faculty reps. You will then have an opportunity to ask them questions and hold them to account.

We will then look at proposed policy so you will be able to understand what policy you will be able to vote on and voting will for policy will open later today, following the close of the Group Chat.

As a reminder throughout the Group Chat, you will be able to ask questions or give feedback through the Facebook Live Stream or through the TEAMS Live Q&A. Students who are joining us on our TEAMS live feed will be entered into a prize draw. You may win one of the four £20 vouchers as a thank you for joining.

We'll get started in just a few minutes, but as a reminder if you have any comments or questions, please feel free to submit those through the Facebook chat or the Q&A function on TEAMS.

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|   | <p>We had another prize draw before this event and the winner was Izzy Woodcock so congratulations to Izzy. We'll be emailing you later today with how you can claim that prize.</p> <p>We're going to start off with reviewing the papers from the Annual Group Meeting. These papers give a brief overview of the current state of the Union. I will pass the floor to our President to discuss the main points from the papers.</p>   |  |
| 3 | <p><b>Minutes of the Previous AGM</b></p> <p>Minutes from the previous AGM were accepted as accurate.</p>  |  |
| 4 | <p><b>Trustees report on Union Activities</b></p> <p>AM: The next item on the agenda is the trustees report. The union is governed by Articles of Association and the object of the Union is the advancement of education of students at Anglia Ruskin University by promoting the interests and welfare of students at ARU during their period of study and representing, supporting, and advising students. Being the recognised representation channel between students and ARU. And providing social, cultural and recreational activities.</p> <p>The Board of Trustees is made up of 5 officer trustees, and 5 regular trustees who meet at least 4 times a year and oversee the running and governance of the Union. The Board of Trustees also has three subcommittees which it delegates particular areas of work to, such as 'Finance and Risk' 'HR and Employee Engagement' and 'Appointments and Governance'.</p> <p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>Budgets for 2020-21 have been approved and the spending from 2019-20 has been audited and approved. These will be available on our website shortly.</p> <p><b><u>New Strategy</u></b></p> <p>The Union's previous strategy has expired, so this year's focus was on developing a new five-year strategic plan for the SU. The union researched with students, staff, University staff, and other Students' Unions to help develop a new strategy. We are proud of the plan we have created which sets out a bold vision shaped by four strategic themes. Those themes are;</p> <p>Conversations with you. Meaningful, honest conversations which shapes what we do along your journey.</p> <p>Belonging. Helping you form strong communities and friendships, have fun, and feel supported by the University, by us, and by each other.</p> <p>Improving your Learning. We will place your education in the heart of our work. Collaborating with you and the University to make positive impacts now and for the students who come after.</p> |  |

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|   | <p>Broadening your Horizons. Where we will help you develop your ambitions for the future. We will support you to be brave, resilient and explore opportunities on your journey through ARU.</p> <p>We have also decided on 5 new values, creative, challenging, inclusive, sustainable, and collaborative. These values will shape the ways in which we think and our ways of working.</p> <p><b><u>Operational Updates</u></b></p> <p>The March 2020 lockdown led to the Union adapting a lot of our services to online delivery, including society events, course rep meetings, and advice appointments. The union was very proud of the impact it made over the course of the year and its ability to adapt quickly.</p> <p><b><u>Student Trustees</u></b></p> <p>We will be looking to appoint one student trustee to the Board of Trustees in the next academic year.</p> <p>RW: The Board of Trustees are a group of people who oversee the governance of our union and make sure that we are serving our purpose. We do have a question from a student, and that is:</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A- How are Student Trustees appointed?</b></p> <p>EL: If you are interested, you will need to contact one of our senior managers, Bethan (b.dudas@angliastudent.com) and she can walk you through what that role entails. You will be asked a series of questions to gauge your interest and about why you'd want to be a trustee, but she is the best person to contact if you're interested. We also have several students who have been trustees in the past who can give you some guidance on what that role entails. And we, as Officers, are more than happy to chat more about the role. We can investigate getting some guidance up on the website with the contact information you need.</p> |  |
| 5 | <p><b>The Accounts of the Union</b></p> <p>AM: COVID 19 did impact the union and there were some things that we had planned that we were not able to do. However, the pandemic has not negatively affected the accounts of the union. We ended last year in a surplus, so we were able to utilise those funds to run events, activities, campaigns and support to students.</p>  |  |
| 6 | <p><b>List of affiliations of the Union</b></p> <p>We are affiliated with six external organisations;</p> <p>National Union of Students- A collection of Students' Unions from across the UK</p>   |  |

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|   | <p>National Union of Students Limited- Is related to NUS that allows us to purchase goods for our shops and the bar in Chelmsford.</p> <p>Advice Quality Standard is an organisation that accredits advice services, and our advice service is accredited through them.</p> <p>National Council of Voluntary Organisations Partnership of Volunteering England- This organisation provides advice and quality assurance for organisations with volunteers.</p> <p>Investors in Volunteers- This is a quality standard program from organisations with volunteers.</p> <p>Living Wage Foundation- This affiliation means all student and career staff are paid a living wage.</p> <p>RW: This is the final paper from the AGM that students can vote to approve on our website after the Group Chat. If you have any questions for the members of the Board of Trustees, please feel free to submit those and we'll wait a few minutes in case there is a lag on the stream.</p> <p>As a reminder, these papers will be available to vote to approve, along with the policies that we'll discuss at a later point, on our website after the Group Chat. We'll share the voting link as an announcement later so that you all have that.</p> |  |
| 7 | <p><b>Election of the Chair</b></p> <p>RW: We are looking for a new Group Chat Chair in the next academic year. We have 2 Group Chats each year so we're looking for someone to chair either one or both of those for next year. You will do what I am doing now and walk the audience through the agenda. We are looking for someone who would like to volunteer, you can add this to your hours and skills transcript so if you are interested, please contact me with your name and campus, and I will be in touch with more details. We've just gotten a comment from a previous chair saying how fun it was, so that's a glowing endorsement.</p>   |  |
| 8 | <p><b>Officer Updates</b></p> <p><u>5.1 President:</u></p> <p>AM: In terms of my projects for this year... Committee for BAME students- the University has created a Race Equality Steering Group and rather than duplicate work, I have decided to end the campaign and offer my support to this steering group, of which I am a member, to deliver best outcomes of support. This steering group aims to improve the lives and experience of all BAME students from across the faculties.</p> <p>Course Rep Communication- This was a campaign to improve communication between Course Reps and the Officers. Due to GDPR policy, we are holding this campaign until we can find a solution to improve the communication between Course Reps and the SU.</p> <p>Access to Facilities- This campaign changed direction due to the lockdown, so I am in conversations with James Rolfe, and we have improved accessibility to software at home, when needed for specific courses. Students can now access licensed software from their home. Students who are having issues with access should contact IT. We have also improved accessibility to online lectures through implementing a procedure</p>                                     |  |

to ensure all captured lectures have closed captions. Students that have issues with EVision or Canvas, we are signposting them to IT.

Our Team Campaigns are Sustainability and Mental Health & Wellbeing, I would like to take this time to thank our Team Campaign leads for all of their work. The Sustainability Summit is taking place now, and I would encourage you all to attend those sessions and learn how to be sustainable for the future and support future generations. In terms of Mental Health & Wellbeing, we are working alongside the University to improve services and resources available to students.

My proudest accomplishment this year was when we worked as a team to help implement payment plans for international students. I am proud of our teamwork on reactive student concerns throughout the year.

#### 5.4 Vice President (Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences):

FL: First and foremost, I will start with my work around Employability. I have been in touch with colleagues, and we have identified 12 areas where we could create internship opportunities for students. I am currently drafting a paper on this work that will be shared with the Faculty Leadership Team and be discussed and decided. I've also been in conversations about the AHSS Live Briefs and have flagged provision for support. Over the year I have also been actively promoting employability opportunities on my social media accounts and the AHSS Newsletter.

I was also part of the faculty bid which enabled funding for student content creators for the Seeing Myself Project. I shared my views about employability at ARU in an employability podcast.

Inclusive Campaign- I've been in talks around diversity, equality, and inclusion both with the Uni and the national level, with the National Union of Students. Last Trimester, I was involved in a bid for funding for postgraduate research for the HEMS faculty and I led focus groups for students. I am currently facilitating workshops with students within AHSS which act as a safe space to have discussions about topics like identity, role models, diversification of curriculum. This all sits within the AHSS Heart Community.

I attended the NUS Liberation Conference in March and represented ARUSU, I was nominated for the Liberations Conference Campaigns Committee. I am involved in the Seeing Myself project as a co-creator of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion website and the designing of the Ruskin Module 'Why Equality Matters'. I am also a member of the RECSAT committee.

Communication- I am part of the editorial team for the AHSS Newsletter, working to make it as student-led and relevant as possible. I am active on my Social Media Accounts. VPAHSS on Instagram. I helped organise networking events for students to discuss hot topics with senior staff within the faculty. I also host drop-in sessions throughout the year, so please feel free to get in touch.

My proudest accomplishment is the work I have done around inclusivity.

#### 5.3 Vice President (Health, Education, Medicine, and Social Care):

RW: Riya cannot attend the meeting and did not provide an update for this meeting. I'll read out her update for the upcoming Executive Committee meeting. She is currently working on accommodation contracts for postgraduate January starters. The Accommodation Strategy Group has confirmed that January starters from Jan2022 will be offered 4 month and 1-year contracts.

She is also working on the Faculty Newsletter, she has designed and drafted this newsletter and shared and is currently waiting for its release.

She is currently working with Imogen Lay (Faculty Rep HEMS Chelmsford) on the Nursing & Midwifery Appreciation Week in May of this year so keep an eye out for more information on those.

She is also still working with CAM SU on renting rights with private landlords.

If you'd like to contact her, please include your contact details with any questions and we will pass those along to her. You can also find the Officer's email addresses at any time under the Representation Tab on the SU website.

#### 5.2 Vice President (Business and Law):

OS: I will discuss the three major campaigns that I have been working on this year.

Incubation Centre- That is in its pilot phase, and I am happy to say that it is going as expected and is looking positive. The pilot phase will be over in June, and we will know more after the close of the pilot program. We have taken both student feedback and external accreditation feedback and all reports have been positive. I would like to thank all the students who have been involved with this.

Plagiarism and Essay Mills- Working closely with the SU Comms team on creating awareness around Essay Mills and Contract Cheating and bringing awareness of the adverse impact this has on students. We're also focused on giving support to students through Study Skills + and promoting existing resources that the University has for helping students with assignments. I will be launching a specific campaign around Essay Mills soon. I'm working with local MPs to draft a new parliamentary bill to ban the operations of Essay Mills across the UK.

Prayer Spaces- We have been successful in this campaign and have been given larger multi-faith spaces on each campus. We are now in the design stage for these large multi-faith spaces after getting the University to agree to them.

Mental Health- We have been working very closely with the external organisation, Citizen's UK, and lobbying for mental health and how important it is to students at ARU. We are still working as a team and evaluating how we can collaborate with external organisations to offer a full support package to support students mentally.

My proudest accomplishment has been the work I have done on the Incubation Centre.

#### 5.5 Vice President (Science and Engineering):

EL: I've been running several campaigns over the last few months, some that I picked up when I was elected, and I've made some progress though campaigns have changed

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|   | <p>throughout the pandemic. The last few months have been reactive and amending the goals we hoped to achieve that still get the best outcome for students.</p> <p>One of the big campaigns that did not go the way we had expected was the Accessibility Campaign- that became an online, mostly digital access campaign. I have focused more on the Hidden Disability side of things. We have a current policy in place and the lanyard scheme that we put in place in September, so these last few weeks has been about revisiting the agreements we have with ARU and getting the university to follow through with the promises they made around staff training.</p> <p>Community Campaign- I have been really involved in the Freshers group and really getting them to push the boat out a little bit in terms of what we can expect as we return to campus. I've been having 1:1s with societies and sports groups just to get a more personal, direct approach with committee members because I know how personal these are the students and I want to show my appreciation for their work and learn how I can better support them. I have been involved in Sports Awards and SU Awards and making sure plans for that are going ahead. I received funding from the University to create Holiday Boxes in December.</p> <p>Comms-We've exploring the ideas of FSE Hubs that have all the information that students need in one place. I have conducted the review stage of the school level Town Halls and recommended that they continue those meetings as both staff and students found them beneficial for communication.</p> <p>Sustainability- We're getting the webpages up. We have gotten a permanent student working group. I have submitted a new policy for Group Chat. The Sustainability Summit is happening for the next few days, and that's going to be exciting.</p> <p>Mental Health- I have submitted a new policy for Mental Health and I have worked with the Comms team to design the DeStress Activities across the year. There is more included in the written update, but that's all I have time for now.</p> <p>I think every small thing has been a proud accomplishment, like getting a Safety Net Policy. I recently received an email from a student, but to see the impact I am making are what makes me proud.</p> |  |
| 9 | <p><b>Wider Executive Committee Updates</b></p> <p>Faculty Reps</p> <p>Imogen Lay- HEMS Chelmsford</p> <p>IL: I have been working with society communications- trying to build a better bond with the HEMS Course Based societies and the society coordinators. HEMS Student Newsletter is being edited so it should be out soon. That's going to consist of various news from around the University, societies, and the SU. We are currently planning International Nursing and Midwifery Week and the senior level staff within the faculty are getting quite involved with that. We are doing a lot of events around policy and mental health; we are getting current students and alumni to join us by sharing their stories, so I'm really excited for that. I am also on the sustainability student working group and the campaign team for the sexual violence campaign. 2 months left so just trying to wrap things up and get ready for handovers. It's been a good year so far. Information for Nursing &amp; Midwifery week can be found on the SU website soon.</p>   |  |



My proudest accomplishment is the increase in Student Communications.

Moh Sufyaan- FSE Cambridge

MS: I want to start by thanking the staff at the Students' Union for helping to facilitate the work I've been able to do this year, it's a team effort so a huge thank you to them. So far, I sit on the Athena Swan Committee- we have made a lot of headway making sure there are more representation within course content from underrepresented groups. I've done a lot of work around holding the Uni accountable through various meetings to ensure students and staff are being treated well. I've been championing mental health and working with Counselling and Wellbeing to improve the service. Along with the VP and Rep Coordinator, we've been hosting regular Course Rep catch ups and enhancing Course Rep communications. Up next, blood donation campaign. I'm working to set up inclusive blood donation events on/near campus. I have started the planning for a May 2022 ARU May Ball. Very shortly I will be reaching out to Cambridge City Council to book a space, either Parkers Piece or Midsommer Common. We are also working on cleaning up the campus, particularly with all the biohazardous waste that is around now. Improving Comms by reaching out the Dean about GDPR compliant WhatsApp Groups to create online communities and bring students together during the pandemic. I've been working with Beth Miller on the sexual violence campaign, my side of the project is more around prevention so working with charities to implement educational programs as we return to campus.

Cristina Ionita- B&L Cambridge

RW: Cristina has worked on the Money Festival and promoting it. Wants to set up a Money Art competition. Worked with students around timetabling and working reactively to get issues resolved. She is liaising with B&L Chelmsford on the quality of teaching and how that has been impacted by the pandemic.

### **Campaign Reps**

Olugbenga Oluwatominyi- BME Chelmsford

OO: Good afternoon. I have been trying to contact students who identify as BME. The ball is rolling to organise a seminar around the inequality the pandemic itself has shown, as COVID is more likely to negatively impact people who identify as BME. So even though we are coming out of lockdown, I'm looking at putting together a program so that students know what they can be doing to continue to protect themselves. Statistically, people who come from BME backgrounds are less likely to get the vaccine. So, this seminar will bring in different people from BME backgrounds to talk to students and advise them on what they need to do and why the vaccine is important and what else we can do to keep our immune systems healthy. I'm still waiting on dates and details, but I will make those available when I have them.  
My proudest moment was when I could reunite with my family after being separated by the pandemic.

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|    | <p>Shubham Singh- Disabled Cambridge</p> <p>SS: I've been working very reactively to address student issues this year due to the pandemic. So far, everything that has come up has been resolved. I have learned a lot from Emily Long's Hidden Disability campaign, and I agree that students with Hidden Disabilities should be given the tools needed to succeed.</p> <p>My proudest moment was learning to take a stand and just going for it. When an opportunity presents itself to you, you have to grab it.</p> <p>RW: A reminder for students that our Executive Committee meets once a month and papers, minutes, agendas are available on our website along with the contact details for the committee members if you ever want to see what your reps are up to or need to contact them.</p>  |  |
| 10 | <p><b>Policy</b></p> <p>RW: Out last section is policy; we have 4 submitted policies for this year. Emily Long will be guiding you through these policies, this is a collaborative process so if you have any feedback or comments, please share them through the chat or Q&amp; A function. You have this opportunity to discuss and debate the policy and then voting for these policies will open after the Group Chat. As a reminder, any student can submit policy and they must be submitted 21 days before the April Group Chat, as per our byelaws. If you ever have any questions about submitting policy or would like to do so next academic year, please get in touch with me I'm always happy to discuss and help out with that.<br/>(r.wilkenson@angliastudent.com)</p> <p><u>Hidden Disability</u></p> <p>This is such a significant item of discussion; the training is not always available at the right level. This policy really outlines how students are ...</p> <p>I have updated this with new additions, such as online learning, returning to campus... this policy is about getting the SU to continue to lobby the Uni to consider Hidden Disabilities and ensuring the SU leads by example. I proposed this policy to make sure that we continue the work we have already started and supporting everyone to get the most out of their journey at ARU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students with hidden disabilities should receive the support they require without having to ensure additional stress of disclosing a disability repeatedly.</li> <li>• Every student should feel that they can openly disclose a disability to both Students' Union and University staff and fellow students, if they so choose. •</li> <li>• All Students' Union and University events should be accessible for students with hidden disabilities. • We believe the university should ensure lecturers check reasonable adjustments for students whom they teach.</li> <li>• No student should be disadvantaged due to having a hidden disability.</li> <li>• All academic material should be accessible for everyone and uploaded in a timely manner.</li> <li>• Students should be provided with all software and other resources they need to succeed in education.</li> </ul> <p><u>Mental Health and Wellbeing</u></p> |  |

Mental Health and Wellbeing should be at the root of every decision across the University. The SU should be holding the Uni to account and making sure that feedback is gathered from a wide audience.

- The Students' Union recognises that mental health is as important as physical health, and that effective mental health support involves not only attending to the needs of those who experience mental health difficulties or distress but protecting and promoting the general mental well-being of everyone within the organisation.
- We are here to support students and staff within the university regardless of their gender, race, sexuality, or economic situation. Mental health campaigns should have clear outcomes that will directly benefit people rather than just being a promotion of awareness. University committees that relate to student mental health should have vast and diverse student representation on them.
- The students' union and ARU will not tolerate discrimination, bullying or harassment of anyone who experiences a mental health problem, and will provide support for any student, staff, officers, or volunteers who are affected by this.
- We should respect the confidentiality of information relating to any mental health difficulty that may be disclosed by staff or students.

#### NUS Affiliation

This policy is not about not being part of NUS. I want people to be clear about our affiliation and being clear about the pros and cons, just to promote awareness and transparency of our affiliations.

- Following the Launch of the SU strategy, The Union believes in collaboration: "We are better when we work together."
- Following the Launch of the SU strategy, The Union believes in Conversations with you: "We will have meaningful and honest conversations together, which shapes what we do along your journey."
- We believe that students lead the direction of the Union and have a say in the operations of the Students' Union. • We believe students should lead the union by voting on the affiliation status of ARU Students' Union to NUS.
- We should be clear and transparent about our NUS affiliation breakdown.

#### Sustainability

This policy is a redraft of the previous sustainability policies. I just wanted to update it with new beliefs and practices that we have.

- The Union believes that each project and activity they undertake should have Sustainability and the sustainable development goals embedded into the planning and delivery.
- The Climate and ecological emergencies are one of the largest issues this generation faces.
- As an institution with Sustainability at its forefront, the union believes that members in a directorial role, board member or senior management role at ARU & ARU SU will hold values akin to those of the students.

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Union should commit to continuously progress and develop as a more sustainable organisation</li> <li>• The Union staff lead by example.</li> </ul> <p>RW: If you have any questions about the policy, now is the best time to ask before the policy goes live for voting at the end of the day today. Voting for these policies will open at 4pm today and be open for 48 hours. Any policies that pass with a simple majority, they will be adopted in September at the start of the next academic year.</p> |  |
| 8 | <b>Any Other Business</b>  |  |
| 9 | <b>Date and time of the next meeting</b><br><br>TBD November 2021  |  |