

Roehampton Students' Union
STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL
AGENDA

Tuesday 6th December – 5pm for a 5.15pm start
Cinema Room (DB), Digby Stuart

| Apologies for absence, late arrival, or early departure should be submitted to studentvoice@roehampton.ac.uk by 12 noon on the day of the meeting. | | <i>Timing</i> | <i>Running Time</i> |
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| 1. | <u>Membership & Agenda</u> | <i>5 mins</i> | <i>5.20pm</i> |
| 1.1 | To note the agenda, consider proposals for urgent business (items which have arisen since the agreed deadline which cannot wait until the next meeting of SU Council), and to agree to the guillotine – 6.45pm. | | |
| 1.2 | To note the apologies of absent Officers. | | |
| 1.3 | To note the deferral of the Annual Members' Meeting and RSU audited accounts to the next meeting of SU Council on Tuesday 7 th February 2023. | | |
| 2. | <u>Minutes & Matters Arising</u> | <i>15 mins</i> | <i>5.35pm</i> |
| 2.1 | To approve the minutes of SU Council held on the 10 th November 2022. (Attached – page 3). | | |
| 2.2 | <u>Matters Arising</u> | | |
| 2.2.1 | To note recent ideas that have been submitted on the RSU Ideas page. | | |
| 2.2.2 | (4.2) To receive an update from President, Harrison Cohen about how the university supported students during the strike action. | | |
| 2.2.3 | To receive an update from VP (Community & Welfare), Sharon Azams about the cost-of-living crisis. | | |
| 3. | <u>Decision-Making</u> | <i>15 mins</i> | <i>5.50pm</i> |
| 3.1 | To approve President, Harrison Cohen's proposal 'Adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism.' (Attached – page 11). | | |

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| 3.2 | To approve President, Harrison Cohen's proposal 'Adopting the APPG definition of Islamophobia.' (Attached – page 12). | | |
| <u>BREAK</u> | | <i>10 mins</i> | <i>6pm</i> |
| 4. | <p><u>Accountability</u></p> <p>4.1 <u>Sabbatical Officer Objectives</u></p> <p>To receive Sabbatical Officer updates from the following:</p> <p>4.1.1 - RSU President</p> <p>4.1.2 - RSU VP (Community & Welfare)</p> <p>4.1.3 - RSU VP (Education)</p> <p>4.2 <u>Part Time Officer Updates</u></p> <p>To receive Part Time Officer updates from the following:</p> <p>4.2.1 - AME Students' Officer</p> <p>4.2.2 - Black Students' Officer</p> <p>4.2.3 - Digby Stuart College President & Deputy President</p> <p>4.2.4 - Environmental & Sustainability Officer</p> <p>4.2.5 - Froebel College President & Deputy President</p> <p>4.2.6 - Gender Equality Officer</p> <p>4.2.7 - International Students' Officer</p> <p>4.2.8 - LGBTQ+ Students' Officer</p> <p>4.2.9 - Mature Students' Officer</p> <p>4.2.10 - Mental Health Officer</p> <p>4.3 <u>Questions to RSU Officers</u></p> <p>To ask any other questions to the Students' Union Officers.</p> | <i>40 mins</i> | <i>6.40pm</i> |
| 5. | <p><u>Any Urgent Business</u></p> <p>To consider any other urgent business agreed at the start of the meeting.</p> | <i>5 mins</i> | <i>6.45pm</i> |
| 6. | <p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Tuesday 7th February 2023 in a location to be confirmed.</p> | <i><u>1hr 30 mins</u></i> | <i><u>6.45pm</u></i> |

ITEM 2.1

Roehampton Students' Union
STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Thursday 10th November – 5pm for a 5.15pm start
Besborough (PT), Whitelands

In attendance

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| RSU President | Harrison Cohen |
| Chair of Students' Union Council | Mehmet Ali Acikgoz |
| Digby Stuart College President | Harvey James Henson |
| Froebel College Deputy President | Amy Hopkins |
| Froebel College President | Dent Patrick |
| Gender Equality Officer | Lily Wells |
| International Students' Officer | Yasamin Mehrasa |
| LGBTQ+ Students' Officer | Theviya Karunaharan |
| Mature Students' Officer | Lynsey Cowlshaw |
| Mental Health Officer | Elliot Barlow |
| Muslim Students' Officer | Sana Siddique |
| Off-Campus and Commuting Students' Officer | Sofia Khan |
| Societies Officer | Md.Foqhrul Islam |
| Southlands College President | Fahad Ahmed |
| Students With Caring Responsibilities Officer | Andrea Prado |
| Trans Students' Officer | Sasha Golobodkro |
| Whitelands College Deputy President | Jameel Karim Aumeer |

Partly absent with apologies

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| Vice President (Community and Welfare) | Sharon Omonor Azams |
| Southlands College President | Fahad Ahmed |
| Whitelands College President | Aaliyah Hassan |

Absent with apologies

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| AME Students' Officer | Nafisa Nabi Rashmi |
| Black Students' Officer | Jeanne Chantal Masikini |
| Environmental and Sustainability Officer | Mona-Lisa De Greve |
| Postgraduate Students' Officer | Adaobi Nwokeanochie |
| Southlands College Deputy President | Adam Doughaili |
| Sport Roehampton President (Female) | Eloise Rixon |
| Sport Roehampton President (Male) | Finlay Eaton |
| Students with Disabilities Officer | Sophie O'Sullivan |

Absent without apologies

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| Vice President (Education) | Mushtaq Ismail |
| Digby Stuart College Deputy President | Joshua Mark Winters |

In attendance

Nishaant Kumar – Head of Membership Services; Samuel Dangerfield – Student Voice Coordinator

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| | The meeting started at 17:20, with SU Council Chair Mehmet Ali Acikgoz running through operational points. | |
| 1. | <u>Membership & Agenda</u> | |
| 1.1 | Council noted the agenda and agreed to the guillotine of 7pm. | |

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| | <p>Council approved receiving two items of urgent business, to receive President, Harrison Cohen’s verbal update on social spaces – to be received at item 3.2.4, and to approve President, Harrison Cohen’s proposal ‘UCU Strike Action 2022’ - to be received at item 4.2.</p> <p>1.2 Council noted the Officers who sent apologies for late arrival: Southlands College President</p> <p>Council noted the Officers who sent apologies for early departure: VP (Community & Welfare) Whitelands College President</p> <p>Council noted the Officers who sent apologies for the entire meeting: AME Students’ Officer Black Students’ Officer Environmental & Sustainability Officer Postgraduate Students’ Officer Southlands College Deputy President Sport Roehampton President (Female) Sport Roehampton President (Male) Students with Disabilities Officer</p> | |
| <p>2.</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.1.1</p> <p>2.1.2</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.2.1</p> | <p><u>Elections</u></p> <p><u>Vacant Part Time Officer positions:</u></p> <p>Interfaith Officer nominees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Md. Fahim Wasik - Sukhpreet Singh <p>Neither candidate was in attendance, and therefore the vote to fill the vacant Interfaith Officer position was deferred to the next SU Council.</p> <p>Trans Students’ Officer nominees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gopinath Kakani - Sasha Golobodkro <p>Sasha Golobodkro was elected Trans Students’ Officer.</p> <p>President, Harrison Cohen asked what Sasha’s initial plans are for the role. Sasha explained the importance of establishing a trans student group chat and gathering data on trans student experiences.</p> <p><u>Vacant Committee positions:</u></p> <p>Student Executive Committee nominees:</p> | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Off-Campus & Commuting Students' Officer, Sofia Khan - Mental Health Officer, Elliot Barlow - Students with Caring Responsibilities Officer, Andrea Prado - Trans Students' Officer, Sasha Golobodkro <p>Officer elected to Student Executive Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sasha Golobodkro <p>2.2.2 Elections Committee nominees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health Officer, Elliot Barlow - Trans Students' Officer, Sasha Golobodkro <p>Officers elected to Elections Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elliot Barlow - Sasha Golobodkro | |
| <p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.2.1</p> <p>3.2.2</p> <p>3.2.3</p> <p>3.2.4</p> | <p><u>Minutes & Matters Arising</u></p> <p>SU Council approved the minutes of SU Council held on 10th October 2022.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Council noted that no ideas are currently live on the RSU website.</p> <p>RSU President, Harrison Cohen gave an update about Speak Week (November 2022). He outlined the prizes that will be provided to students and volunteers and stressed that any feedback about UCU strikes should be sent to Digital Rep.</p> <p>RSU President, Harrison Cohen gave an update on social spaces, proposing that SU Council establishes a taskforce to work on a plan to develop social spaces across campus. He stated that he's met with the estates team and encouraged representation on how any potential funding is spent to develop social spaces.</p> <p>RSU President, Harrison Cohen gave an update about Student Senate scheduled on the 23rd November. He outlined his experiences of past Student Senate and encouraged Officers to keep an eye on their emails for invitations.</p> | |
| <p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p> | <p><u>Decision-Making</u></p> <p>Mental Health Officer, Elliot Barlow introduced the proposal 'No More Other!', stating that the University enrolment form needs to become more inclusive and that the current form risks offending or endangering students.</p> | |

Trans Students' Officer, Sasha Goloborodko asked whether the proposal has a current plan on what sexual orientation and gender identities to add to the enrolment form, or whether this will be explored. Elliot mentioned options of male, female, trans, male/trans, female/trans, non-binary, and self-describe. Gender Equality Officer, Lily Wells mentioned that the goal of the proposal is to include as many gender and sexuality options as needed and suggested more research would be beneficial.

Mature Students' Officer, Lynsey Cowlshaw suggested utilising existing examples.

RSU President, Harrison Cohen asked whether the proposal extended to pronoun options.

Sasha emphasised that students should be consulted on enrolment form options before being taken directly to the university. Elliot stated that they plan to factor in student consultation.

Elliot summated, stressing the importance of more gender identity and sexual orientation options.

Item **passed** unanimously.

4.2 RSU President, Harrison Cohen introduced the proposal 'UCU Industrial Action 2022.' He stated that the NUS are supporting the strike action and encouraged students to support the cause.

Trans Students' Officer, Sasha Goloborodko stressed that teachers will be more severely affected by cuts to staff and pay. She mentioned that working with the teachers on this issue will benefit students and suggested organising events during strike days to foster a sense of community between staff and students.

Southlands College President, Fahad Ahmed asked how the RSU plans to support the strikes. Harrison referred to informing students, receiving and passing on feedback, and holding the university to account.

Mature Students' Officer, Lynsey Cowlshaw stressed that SU Council can be used as a channel to move student animosity directed at the staff to university management.

International Students' Officer, Yasamin Mehrasa mentioned that during previous strikes, lecturers have uploaded lecture notes, so students do not miss important module content. She asked how students will not be negatively affected by the strikes and how the university will provide

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| | <p>support for students. Harrison stated the Sabbatical Officer team are yet to meet with university management on the topic but will provide feedback to Officers at the next meeting.</p> <p>Harrison summated, reiterating the importance of staff-student solidarity, and the role SU Council has in facilitating this.</p> <p>Item passed unanimously.</p> <p>The meeting took a break at 18.33.</p> | <p>HC</p> |
| | <p>SU Council Chair, Mehmet Ali Acikgoz proposed an extension to the guillotine of 5 minutes, with SU Council approved.</p> <p>5. <u>Accountability</u></p> <p>5.1 <u>Sabbatical Officer updates</u></p> <p>5.1.1 RSU President, Harrison Cohen gave a verbal update, outlining his collaboration with officers and the study abroad team to run events for International Week and raising money for Movember. Harrison mentioned work to improve comms across the RSU and encouraged all officers to get in contact if they want anything publicised. Lastly, Harrison mentioned that refreshers events, scheduled for the new year, and currently being organised.</p> <p>5.1.1 RSU VP (Community & Welfare) was no longer present at the meeting, so did not provide a verbal update.</p> <p>5.1.2 RSU VP (Education) was not present at the meeting, so did not provide a verbal update.</p> <p>5.2 <u>Part Time Officer Updates</u></p> <p>5.2.1 Muslim Students' Officer, Sana Siddique gave a verbal update, highlighting close work with the chaplaincy. For example, there is an international tea community event next Friday.</p> <p>5.2.2 Off-Campus & Commuting Students' Officer, Sofia Khan gave a verbal update, highlighting plans to put on off-campus events and wishes to extend the UoR bus to go to Putney bridge.</p> <p>5.2.3 Societies Officer, Md. Foqhrul Islam was not present at the meeting, so did not provide a verbal update.</p> | |

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| <p>5.2.4</p> <p>5.2.5</p> <p>5.2.6</p> <p>5.2.7</p> <p>5.2.8</p> <p>5.2.9</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p> | <p>Southlands College President, Fahad Ahmed gave a verbal update about the work of the Southlands officers, mentioning 61 events, such as Diwali and South Asian food night, having been run on Southlands college, with 3,257 students attending. Fahad also highlighted that CCLs have been trained, college Town Halls have been run, and planning is underway for Southlands International Night.</p> <p>SU Council received a written update from the Sport Roehampton Presidents, Finlay Eaton and Eloise Rixon, which referenced creating inclusive spaces, planning Winter Ball, activities throughout Movember, and maintaining positive communications throughout all sports teams.</p> <p>Students with Caring Responsibilities Officer, Andrea Prado gave a verbal update, highlighting signposting work to promote the Nest. RSU President, Harrison Cohen emphasised that any student experiencing a serious issue should use Report & Support.</p> <p>SU Council received a written update from the Students with Disabilities Officer, Sophie O’Sullivan, which referenced the promotion of the Social Autism group and collaboration with the Disabled & Neurodivergent Society – to plan events and provide support for students.</p> <p>Trans Students’ Officer, Sasha Goloborodko reiterated her plans to create and provide support to trans people both on and off campus.</p> <p>Whitelands College Deputy President, Jameel Aumeer gave a verbal update about the work of the Whitelands officers, mentioning orientation Sundays, Flat Rep check-ins, and a Sisters Spa Night. Whitelands College President, Alliyah Hassan has attended Governors Board, and they are planning to develop social spaces and a potential trip to Andorra in March 2023. Jameel also mentioned an international film screening and organising a homeless awareness camp-out.</p> <p><u>Questions to the Students’ Union Officers</u></p> <p>Harrison emphasised how great it was to hear of all the work being done by the officers and stated that he will reach out to some officers to discuss further campaign plans.</p> <p>Fahad asked about the effectiveness of raising student issues to RSU. Harrison referred SU Council to the different ways that the RSU and university can support students, emphasising that his office door is always open.</p> <p><u>Trustee Board Minutes & Decision Log</u></p> | |
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| | Harrison gave a verbal update about recent Trustee Board minutes, stating that there are currently three vacant Student Trustee positions. Harrison also stated that the NUS have been approved as the Returning Officers for the Spring 2023 officer elections. | |
| 6. | <u>Any Urgent Business</u> Already discussed at items 3.2.4 and 4.2. | |
| 7. | The meeting closed at 19.05. | |

ITEM 3.1



Policy Proposal title: Adopting the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism

Name of proposer: Harrison Cohen (President)

Has this proposal been submitted via RSU Ideas? No

Roehampton Students' Union Council notes:

1. University Council approved the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of Anti-Semitism in June 2021.
2. The University states that "the adoption of the definition will help promote and increase our collective understanding of anti-Semitism, both within and outside of the University" and that "reference can be made to the definition during staff and student induction processes... as well as in materials published by university services in support of our work to foster equality, diversity and inclusion."
3. The University states that "the IHRA definition is not intended to be legally binding. For the University, adoption also means that we can use the definition to identify anti-Semitism within the institution and to support better decision-making under relevant policies and procedures. For example, decision-makers can refer to the IHRA definition when considering whether a particular behaviour falls within the definitions of "harassment", "bullying", "unlawful discrimination" as defined in our Dignity and Respect Policy."
4. The IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism:

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

5. More information can be found [here](#)

Roehampton Students' Union Council believes:

1. Students agree to a code of conduct when they enroll
2. RSU works in partnership with the University on student casework and support. Adopting the IHRA definition supports the values of RSU, fits within the Officer objectives, and will further support and protect students

Roehampton Students' Union Council resolves:

1. To adopt the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism

ITEM 3.2



Policy Proposal title: Adopting the APPG definition of Islamophobia

Name of proposer: Harrison Cohen (President)

Has this proposal been submitted via RSU Ideas? No

Roehampton Students' Union Council notes:

1. Since the University adopted the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism in June 2021, discussions have been prompted on how the University should consider the adoptions of other definitions e.g. All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) definition of Islamophobia.
2. The University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDIC), presented a paper to adopt the APPG working definition of Islamophobia in October 2022, which went to the University Executive Board (UEB)
3. The APPG working definition of Islamophobia:

"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."

4. By adopting the APPG definition of Islamophobia, the university could use the definition to easily identify Islamophobia within the institution and would enable decision-makers to give due regard to the definition when making decisions under relevant policies and procedures.
5. Adoption of the definition would also help promote and increase our collective understanding of Islamophobia and Islamophobia tropes within the institution. For example, reference can be made to the definition during staff and student induction processes or mandatory training, as well as in materials published by university services in support of our work to foster equality, diversity and inclusion.
6. In adopting this definition, the University will be presenting itself as a welcoming destination for all Muslims.

Roehampton Students' Union Council believes:

1. Students agree to a code of conduct when they enroll
2. RSU works in partnership with the University on student casework and support. Adopting the APPG definition supports the values of RSU, fits within the Officer objectives, and will further support and protect students

Roehampton Students' Union Council resolves:

1. To adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia