

3RD

STUDENT COUNCIL SUMMARY

TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2024

4PM - 6PM • THE LOFT, FORUM (HYBRID)

HERTS SU

AGENDA

SC-1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

SC-2 UPDATES FROM THE SU

SC-3 UPDATES FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

SC-4 UPDATES AND Q&A FROM THE ELECTED OFFICERS

SC-5 MOTION 1: REASONABLE ADVANCE NOTICE FOR ANY LESSON/TIMETABLE CHANGES

SC-6 MOTION 2: OVAL AS FUNCTIONAL SPACE FOR THE STUDENTS

SC-7 MOTION 3: UNSUITABLE DE HAVILLAND MULTI-FAITH SPACE FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS

SC-8 MOTION 4: FREE PARKING ON CAMPUS

SC-9 DISCUSSION OF URGENT BUSINESS/AOB

SC-10 UPCOMING DATES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Welcome given by Eloise Trebilcock (Student Representation coordinator)

UPDATES FROM THE SU

Rebecca & Stephen

- Stephen updates on elections
- SU Wrapped video played
- Rebecca thanks everyone for their contributions

UPDATES FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

Hannah & Oluronke

- No major update
- Urges students to ask questions
- Meeting on 7th February 2024



UPDATES AND Q&A FROM THE ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Manoj

- Gives insight into the role of the president
- SU Insights Research:
 - Timetabling issues – link for a form will be shared to ask your queries and issues
 - Unfavourable learning environments – Manoj will have meeting with estates soon and will update after the meeting
- Celebrating diversity of students
- Hello Herts with the President – an initiative to meet students in person
- Lobbied for a standardised policy on how to use AI
- Celebrating commonwealth countries on 17th march
- Focus group with new student body
- Lobbying for Student holiday letters for international students
- New disabled students' officer, Lawal Akinyemi Daniel is welcomed
- Introduces the new campus-based officer, Kamalkumar Narendrakumar, and the International Students' Officer, Shalini Namani started last month:
 - Working on their network separately
 - Common room availability 24/7
 - Shalini is planning a multi-cultural fest
 - More updates by them during the next student council

WOMEN STUDENTS' OFFICER

Divya

- Bystander training for gender-based violence – £15 voucher for attendees

Q&A

- Plagiarism issues within the business school – set up meeting with programme staff members
- January intake students have issues with zoom sso – Guidance given during induction talks and video posted on canvas site, if not, urge module/programme lead to repost it
- Issues with female washrooms in de Havilland campus
- Sep 2024 intake students have issues with heating in uni accommodation
- College Lane LRC 2nd floor washrooms are not maintained properly

MOTION 1: REASONABLE ADVANCE NOTICE FOR ANY LESSON/TIMETABLE CHANGES

Joe Rider

- This motion does involve a personal experience from the student presenting
- The motion concerns the timetable and the fact that it is very inconvenient that the lectures are often cancelled too close to the time of the lecture. He requests at least 48h advanced noticed for students. It affects everyone but specifically commuting students as they need to travel to campus.
- The student ask for anyone needs to object or ask questions everyone is positive for the motion
- Manoj said that the this motion will be discussed the timetabling meeting

MOTION FORM

WHAT'S THE IDEA AND/OR ISSUE AT HAND THAT YOU'D LIKE TO DISCUSS?

“ Quite often, my classmates and I receive 11th hour notice that lessons aren't on despite them clearly showing on the timetable.

In order to prevent this issue, please (where possible, practicable and reasonable) could lectures give a minimum of 48 hours' notice?

Thank you

WHY IS THIS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE?

“ It causes unnecessary hassle and major inconvenience / time and financial loss (in particular for commuting students) not having sufficient notice of any timetable changes.

This is not an isolated issue as it always happens to occur in semester B, so my analysis concludes that there are essentially some “teething troubles” going on so could this be investigated and dealt with please?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE ACTION OF HERTFORDSHIRE STUDENTS' UNION TO BE?

“ Please ensure (where possible, practicable and reasonable) to do so, lecturers give a minimum of 48 hours' notice to any timetable changes because ultimately and objectively, us as students have to trust that the timetable is correct (granted that it is accepted that it is always subject to change).

MOTION 2: OVAL AS FUNCTIONAL SPACE FOR THE STUDENTS

- He is advocating for the enhancement of the Oval for the gathering of students. In his point of view is that the oval should have a cafe from students and staff. He would like also to increase the use of the balcony of the Oval for students, for recharging.
- Motion was passed

MORE HANGOUT SPACES PLEASE!



MOTION 3: UNSUITABLE DE HAVILLAND MULTI-FAITH SPACE FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS

Islamic Society Chair and Head Girl, motion read by Hamnah Baig

- Small spaces and the area isn't properly segregated
- Makes students uncomfortable while praying
- Hassle to travel to the key from de Hav campus between classes
- Motion was passed

MOTION FORM

WHAT'S THE IDEA AND/OR ISSUE AT HAND THAT YOU'D LIKE TO DISCUSS?

- “ According to the Islamic ruling regarding prayer, this space is not suitable. It isn't segregated at all. (same entrance/exit, small space only divided by a barrier that doesn't even come to the ground)

This causes many students to commute to the Key just for a comfortable space to pray but they jeopardise their studies/lectures in doing so.

WHY IS THIS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE?

- “ Many students complain about it and feel uncomfortable praying there and they do not want to miss their lectures/lessons/exams by travelling to the Key. There is a huge demand for this as there is a large Muslim population at the University of Hertfordshire and many study on the De Havilland Campus.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE ACTION OF HERTFORDSHIRE STUDENTS' UNION TO BE?

- “ Students would like the Students' Union to collate the student feedback and create a plan to have a new/improved space. They would expect this new/improved space to meet the religious requirements for Muslims but also, other faiths that might not have the space to pray because of the large Muslim population.

We would want any research conducted to be shared with the relevant faith societies who can pass on surveys and focus group information to students that this relates to.

MOTION 4: FREE PARKING ON CAMPUS

Chloe Tang

- Not enough parking for students
- Difficult for commuting students
- Needed to improve accessibility, equity, and financial burden on students
- Clear signage - create consistent, visible, easy-to-follow signage to separate car parks for visitors, students, and staff
- Motion was passed

MOTION FORM

WHAT'S THE IDEA AND/OR ISSUE AT HAND THAT YOU'D LIKE TO DISCUSS?

“ There is not enough parking for students which makes it difficult for commuting students to come to class. Parking areas should be expanded, there isn't much space and sometimes there are space for staff but not for students. Staff can work from home when they are not teaching however students can't do the same. There is also, no parking on De Havilland.

WHY IS THIS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE?

“ Many students park on campus and many students have cars. They also, don't want to get fined but sometimes the signage can be difficult to understand or not in the right locations. This can lead to students getting large fines.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE ACTION OF HERTFORDSHIRE STUDENTS' UNION TO BE?

“ It would be great to have consistent, visible, easy-to-follow signage directing students and visitors to correct car parks. And ensure parking policies, permit systems and infrastructure accommodate motorcycles, mopeds and other non-traditional student vehicles in a fair manner. It would be great to have more parking spaces.

It would be better for students to have the option to pay monthly or yearly at a reduced rate which is an option that only staff have now. This would mean that students would be more likely to turn up to lecture throughout the year too.

It would be great to have a form or survey to collect more experiences together and see what else students would benefit from.

DISCUSSION OF URGENT BUSINESS/AOB

- Chloe asked for better ventilation in classrooms - Creative Arts Building and LRC
- Separate microwaves for Muslim students/ Halal food items are being lobbied by elected officers
- The cleanliness of microwaves is to be discussed in the estates meeting by the elected officers
- Free entry on Friday nights before 10:30 was suggested - agreed to do one night to see if students would join
- HertSquad Active bicycles aren't active right now - Ola is working to fix that issue currently
- Water cups next to the water cooler on Oval - a sustainability issue, use recyclable cups?

UPCOMING DATES

Next student council on **Monday the 26th of February 2024 at 4PM**



HERTS SU

