

Student Council #1 – 2025/2026

Wednesday 29th October 2025 – Summary

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions
- What on Earth is Student Council?!
- Update from the SU
- Student Council Chair Speeches & Voting
- Idea for Change #1 – Power Banking Stations
- Idea for Change #2 – Pre-Paid Student Meals
- Elected Officer Q&A
- Student Council Chair Results

Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome given by the Academic Experience Team to both in-person student leaders and online.

What on Earth is Student Council?!

- This session was led by Hamnah (Academic Experience Coordinator) who explained what Student Council is and presented the agenda and the slides for the meeting. The slides have been attached for further information.
- A student did ask about if the details of the meeting and the slides would be sent over, Hamnah said the summary will be up on the website and the information will be there too.

Updates from the SU (Summary)

- There are 94 new society committee members following recent elections.
- The recruitment of student reps is ongoing, with 934 reps currently registered.
- **School Student Forums:** This is a meeting for non-academic feedback. School Community Organisers (SCOs) will gather feedback and raise it to senior university staff.
 - Monday 3rd November 12:00–14:00 – HML
 - Tuesday 4th November 10:00–12:00 – CTA
 - Tuesday 4th November 13:00–14:30 – SLE
 - Wednesday 5th November 10:00–12:00 – PG HBS

- Wednesday 5th November 14:30-16:30 – UG SPECS
- Thursday 6th November 14:00-15:30 – UG HBS
- Wednesday 12th November 14:30-16:30 – PG SPECS
- **Student Voice Form:** This allows students to report issues or suggest improvements. Student leaders can use these forms as evidence in meetings. The SU may contact the student for further details (optional). Forms can be found on the [SU website](#) or collected as business cards at the SU office.
- A new LGBTQ+ Students' Elected Officer (Aadarsha Parajuli) – will be joining the Elected Officer team soon. There will also be a new School of Law & Education Students' Officer (Aliza Khan) – joining the team in January, once the current officer completes their studies in January.

Student Council Chair Speeches & Voting

- Role of the chair outlined:
 - Ensure that the discussions are fair and respectful
 - Make sure that the meeting runs smoothly and on-time
 - Present information to the Student Leaders at Council
 - Encourage discussion and voting on the Ideas For Change
- Candidates then had two minutes each to explain why they would be an ideal Chairperson for Student Council.
 - First Candidate – Aryan Ajit Patil
 - Second Candidate – David Ifeqluwa Kukoyi
 - Third Candidate – Md. Sani Ahmed Sayem
 - Fourth Candidate – Paul Eracleous

The winner of the Chair Election was David Ifeqluwa Kukoyi, and the Deputy Chair position was won by Aryan Ajit Patil.

Idea for Change #1 – Power Banking Stations

- The student bringing the idea for change forward described their proposal.
 - Provide power bank stations across campus that allow easy access to charging. Convenient for people, claimed to be sustainable, and saves people from the stress of having low-battery devices.
- Questions from student leaders, and answers given by the presenting student:
 - **Q:** How can you make sure this is the best fit, rather than other companies?
A: Many universities already use this service successfully.
 - **Q:** Will it be wired or wireless?

- A:** It will be wireless with fast charging, providing enough charge to last the day.
- **Q:** What is the expected price?
A: There will be a student discount. The proposal offers 73 accounts for our university, with a rate of £1 per hour and a £3 deposit for extended use.
 - **Q:** Has any research been done, and is it compatible with all phones?
A: Other universities have provided positive feedback about the service.
 - **Q:** Will it work with all devices, not just phones?
A: Yes, it includes three types of connections (including Type-C), so laptops and other devices may also be compatible. It would mainly be available on campus, but more flexibility could come once additional stations are installed.
 - **Q:** Can students buy a power bank instead?
A: Yes, students still have the option to purchase their own power banks.
 - **Q:** Who will pay for this – the students or the university?
A: Students will pay. The proposer noted it wouldn't be ethical to lock the university into one company and expressed interest in keeping options open.
 - **Q:** Has any comparison been made with other companies?
A: Not yet, as the proposed company already works with 20 universities, but other providers could be considered in the future.
 - **Q:** How was the £1/hour rate calculated?
A: It's simply a proposed service for convenience; students can still buy their own if they prefer.
 - **Q:** Has research been done into profit-sharing with the university?
A: Limited research has been done so far; factors such as price and safety were considered, but more work is needed.
 - **Q:** Why choose power banks instead of fixed charging stations?
A: Power banks are portable and therefore more convenient.
 - **Q:** What about students who could just save up and buy their own power bank?
A: The proposer recognised this and said the service is meant to provide an extra convenience option.
 - **Q:** Has there been a survey to find out if students actually want this?
A: Not yet. The proposer brought the idea to Student Council to gather opinions and feedback.
 - **Q:** What about financial stress for students?
A: A survey was suggested to determine whether students would genuinely find this service beneficial and affordable.

Results: 25 for, 25 against, 6 abstain – Idea was not passed

Idea For Change #2 – Pre-Paid Student Meals

- Hamnah read a description of an idea for change submitted by a student who could not attend council.
 - Introduce prepaid, nutritious, and affordable meals for commuter and busy students, available at on-campus restaurants.
- Questions from student leaders, and answers given by Hamnah as best estimates based on prior discussions about the idea with the student:
 - **Q:** What about pricing?
A: Pricing hasn't been finalised yet but will be discussed further.
 - **Q:** How will students pay?
A: Students will be consulted to decide the best payment method. Meals can be collected and eaten anywhere on campus.
 - **Q:** What about queues, portion sizes, and prices?
A: Expectations are that pricing would be like current options, such as mac and cheese.
 - **Q:** Who is this for?
A: The service is designed for busy students, especially commuters and those with back-to-back lectures.
 - **Q:** What about seating near food courts and vegetarian options?
A: Seating is a separate issue that may need a different motion, but dietary needs would be considered.
 - **Q:** How will pick-up and collection work?
A: The motion didn't specify collection details yet. If passed, these would be discussed further.
 - **Q:** How will students order?
A: This can be discussed with students to find the most convenient method.
 - **Q:** Are these meals frozen or freshly prepared?
A: They would be ready-to-eat meals, not frozen ones that need microwaving.
 - **Q:** Why offer this instead of students buying food elsewhere?
A: The idea supports students who are too busy to shop or prepare meals themselves.
 - **Q:** How many collection points will there be?
A: Initially, one restaurant at de Havilland and one at College Lane.
 - **Q:** Can more details be gained before deciding?
A: Yes. The proposal requires more details before students can make an informed decision. If it doesn't pass, feedback will be given to the proposer, and it may return in a future meeting.
 - **Q:** Will prepaid students still need to queue like others?
A: That's not known yet.

- **Q:** What about meal quality and how they differ from existing cold meals?
A: This remains unclear and will need to be reviewed in further discussions.

Results: 23 for, 25 against, 7 abstain – Idea was not passed

Elected Officer Q&A

- Student leaders are invited to ask questions to the team of Elected Officers.
 - **Q:** Broken lighting around campus
 - **A:** Jubair (President) explained that he has walked around campus to collect details of broken lights and forwarded the issue to the Estates team, who are currently working on it. Officers will follow up to ensure progress continues.
 - **Q:** There were strong concerns about the harassment training provided by the university. Students explained that the training is currently optional, of poor quality (in terms of content, sound, and visuals), and not well advertised. Many felt that the campaign lacked visibility, and that when harassment is reported, staff responses are often dismissive, leaving students feeling unsupported and lacking confidence in the reporting process.
It was noted that the university's database tracking completion of the training is inadequate. Some students appear to complete it only because they are required to, not because they are genuinely engaged. Students believe the university should invest more focus and funding into improving this training and should be able to track exactly who has and hasn't completed it.
 - **A:** Officers are investigating and communicating with the relevant departments to determine who has not completed the training. Investigation will require student feedback, which is why the Student Voice Forms are so important: they help identify which departments and programmes are affected. The officers encouraged students to continue filling out these forms.
The investigation aims to understand why some students did not receive or complete the training and to address the gaps in communication. Similar issues have been reported at other universities, so a broader review is also taking place.
 - **Q:** The university is not acting on the feedback brought forward by students. Students expressed frustration that these concerns have been raised repeatedly without resolution. They emphasised the need for

accountability and even suggested the possibility of protest action if senior university staff continue to ignore these issues.

A: The new Vice-Chancellor is actively working to resolve these issues as quickly as possible. He is developing a tracking policy to ensure that ongoing problems continue to be addressed even when leadership changes.

- **Q:** To illustrate the growing sense that what is by the university to be done was not really done, the example of food prices was raised. Catering prices have continued to rise, despite the previous academic year's Elected Officers saying that this issue would be addressed.

A: Jubair emphasises that the new Officer team can only take accountability for their own work, and that they are in discussions with Aramark to improve food quality, lower prices, and ensure inclusivity for different dietary needs and student backgrounds. Another meeting with Aramark is scheduled to continue these discussions.

- The Q&A with Elected Officers section of the agenda overran for time, so the format and structure may be adjusted or clarified for future Council meetings.

Student Council Chair & Idea for Change Voting Results

- **Both Ideas for Change** (Power Banking Stations and Prepaid Meals) **did not pass** but can be resubmitted via the Ideas for Change process and can be raised again in future Council meetings.
- The winner of the Chair Election was **David Ifeqluwa Kukoyi**, and the Deputy Chair position was won by **Aryan Ajit Patil**.

Key Dates

Student Council #2: Wednesday 3rd December 15:00–17:00

Idea for Change deadline for Student Council #2: Wednesday 19th November

Student Leader Conference: Wednesday 19th November 09:30–17:00

Mandatory Student Rep Training: Ongoing sessions until 27th November