

Second Student Council Meeting 2024/25

Meeting Summary – Thursday 28th November 2024

Agenda:

- **Welcome**
- **Updates from the SU**
- **Updates and Q&A from the Elected Officers**
- **SU Insight Form**
- **Idea for Change**
- **Actions and Idea for Change Log**

Welcome

Hamnah (Chair) welcomed everyone to the second Council of the year.

Updates from the SU

Hamnah provided an update on the SU

By-Elections Results

- A total of 2239 of you submitted an impressive 6554 votes!

The winners are:

- **Black Students' Officer = Hassan Husam Kyambadde Wasswa**
- **Commuting Students' Officer = Pavan Satya Kumar Polimuri**
- **Disabled Students' Officer = Lorena Navea**
- **International Students' Officer = Parsha Sri Kella (replacing Santosh when he finishes in January)**
- **Mature Students' Officer = Deepak Vishwakarma (replacing Anas when he finishes in January)**

Herts Unfiltered

- Thank you to the over 5,000 students that have completed the Herts Unfiltered surveys over this past term. We're using the information you've provided to lobby for: more buses (always!), cheaper catering options, better AI guidance for students and more contact from Personal Tutors.

Upcoming activities

- All of our December and beyond activities are on our website www.hertssu.com – please do share far and wide within your WhatsApp/social groups.

Updates and Q&A from the Elected Officers

Each officer provided an update on what they have been working on. Please read the Elected Officer Report for full details.

Women's Safety Question:

- **Question from Student Council Member** – Raised concerns about a recent women's safety issue on campus and asked about future initiatives to address safety.
 - **Officer Response** – Kesar is working on putting out the QR codes to make the process easier for students to report any incidents. She is also planning on working on a consent awareness campaign.

Action – Kesar to provide an update at the next Student Council of QR codes and consent awareness campaign.

Uno Buses Questions:

- **Question/Comment from Student Council Member:** Students waiting for shuttle buses at the De Havilland stop around 5–6 pm have experienced delays of up to 40 minutes.
 - **Officer Response:** Rohit is currently addressing this issue. Shuttle bus delays and other concerns with Uno buses have been ongoing for multiple years, and the Commuting Student Officer will also be focusing on this matter.
- **Question/Comment from Student Council Member:** Ticket prices will be rising as permitted by the UK Government. Students are concerned about the affordability of these increases.
 - **Officer Response:** Discussions are ongoing with Uno Buses and the University to explore ways to mitigate the impact of these price increases.
- **Question/Comment from Student Council Member:** Reports of bus drivers being rude or even racist. Students have also observed unprofessional behaviour from drivers during journeys.
 - **Response:** Hamnah (Chair) emphasised the importance of reporting specific incidents. Students should record the time, bus route, and other relevant details when submitting complaints.

Action: Rohit and Pavan to ensure these specific concerns are highlighted in discussions with the Uno Bus Team and update at the next Council meeting.

Noise complaints in specific De Havilland buildings:

- **Question/Comment from Student Council Member:** Residents in certain buildings on De Havilland campus are being very loud at night, particularly on weekends from 1–2 am. Students have been complaining and calling security, but the issue persists. Security's response to turn off the noise is

only a temporary solution and does not address the root of the problem, causing ongoing distress to students.

Action: Krishna to escalate this concern to De Havilland campus accommodation team to explore more effective and long-term solutions for noise disturbances.

Lift issues on Jacob's Ladder:

- **Question/Comment from Student Council Member:** The lift on Jacob's Ladder is currently out of service.
 - **Officer Response:** Rohit explained that the lift is in the process of being fixed and further updates will be provided as progress is made.

SU Insight Form

This form Collects student feedback from: SCOs, Reps, Society Committees, Elected Officers. This summary covers feedback from September to November

Academic issues:

- Timetabling Issues: 33%
- Teaching Issues: 17%
- Marking/Assessment Issues: 17%
- Despite efforts to address academic matters, only 28% of these issues were resolved by student leaders, leaving 72% unresolved.

Non-academic issues:

- Uno Bus Service: 26%
- On-Campus Parking: 16%
- Financial Hardship: 11%
- Mental Health & Wellbeing: 5%
- Disability Support: 5%
- On-Campus Housing: 5%
- Only 21% of these issues were resolved by student leaders, leaving 79% unresolved.

Comments from Student Council Members:

Timetabling Issues:

- **Concern:** Students in BUS and HSK have raised complaints about lecture timings. Some lectures are scheduled early in the morning, while others run late at night, creating inconvenience.
- **Specific Issue:** Lectures scheduled from 5–7 pm are particularly problematic, and students suggest that these should end no later than 6 pm.
 - **Officer Response:** Ameer shared that this issue has already been raised with the University. The scheduling depends on how many days students are expected to be on campus, and students are

encouraged to use their time between lectures productively on campus.

Idea for Change – More Healthy Food on Available Campus

Key points:

- Add more vegetarian and vegan meals on campus.
- Make fruit and vegetables available at reasonable prices, including in food vendors, the Forum Restaurant, and the on-campus shop. This will give students more healthy snack options and make it easier for them to get fresh produce without needing to go to expensive supermarkets.

No objections to the motion and it has been passed.

Action: This motion will now be assigned to Krishna as the On-Campus Officer to work on and provide an update at the next Student Council.

AOB

Herts SU Student Council Webpage

- **Question/Comment from Student Council Member:** Unable to read the motions that have gone through previously – 404 page.

Action: for the Academic Experience Team to look into the page and provide an update at the next Student Council meeting.

Minutes from meetings Officers attend:

- **Question/Comment from Student Council Member:** Students expressed interest in seeing meeting minutes that Elected Officers have attended to understand what was discussed, with the suggestion of redacted versions for confidentiality. Rohit attends many meetings, some of which are confidential, and therefore specific details cannot always be shared. However, there's consideration to make minutes more widely available.

Action: For the next Student Council, Rohit to provide an update on how meeting minutes will be shared and any changes to the process.

Next Student Council Meeting – Wednesday 2 April 2025

Action & Ideas for Change Log:

Action	Notes	Assigned to	Update Due
Action – Kesar to provide an update at the next Student Council of QR codes and consent awareness campaign.	Question from Student Council Member – Raised concerns about a recent women's safety issue on campus and asked	Kesar	Wednesday 2 April 2025

about future initiatives to address safety.

Officer Response - Kesar is working on putting out the QR codes to make the process easier for students to report any incidents. She is also planning on working on a consent awareness campaign.

Action: Rohit and Pavan to ensure these specific concerns are highlighted in discussions with the Uno Bus Team and update at the next Council meeting.	Question/Comment from Student Council Member: Reports of bus drivers being rude or even racist. Students have also observed unprofessional behaviour from drivers during journeys.	Rohit and Pavan	Wednesday 2 April 2025
	Response: Hamnah (Chair) emphasised the importance of reporting specific incidents. Students should record the time, bus route, and other relevant details when submitting complaints.		

Action: Krishna to escalate this	Question/Comment from Student Council	Krishna	Wednesday 2 April 2025
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concern to De Havilland campus accommodation team to explore more effective and long-term solutions for noise disturbances.	Member: Residents in certain buildings on De Havilland campus are being very loud at night, particularly on weekends from 1–2 am. Students have been complaining and calling security, but the issue persists. Security's response to turn off the noise is only a temporary solution and does not address the root of the problem, causing ongoing distress to students.	Wednesday 2 April 2025
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