

Third Student Council Meeting 2024/25

Meeting Summary – Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Agenda:

- **Welcome**
- **Ask Herts Q&A Session**
- **Updates from the SU**
- **Idea for Change #1** – Urgent Action for Women's Safety on Campus
- **Idea for Change #2** – Improving Transparency and Accountability in Herts SU
- **Idea for Change #3** – Amend Herts SU Byelaws to Allow Free Society Membership and Free Event Ticket Options for Non-Members of a Society
- **Elected Officer Updates and Q&A**

Welcome

Hamnah (Chair) welcomed everyone to the third Student Council meeting of the year.

Ask Herts Q&A Session

Chris Sutton from Ask Herts came along to deliver a Q&A Workshop on the service.

Updates from the SU

Phill Dowler (Director of Advocacy & Opportunities) gave a update on the recent SU Elections:

Main Elections Results

- We took a different approach to elections this year – expanding online voting, revising freebies, integrating society elections in the main elections.
- A total of 6,946 of you submitted an impressive 15373 votes!

The winners are:

- **President = Jubair Ahmed**
- **Disabled Students' Officer = Lorena Navea**
- **Race Equity Students' Officer = Hassan Husam Kyambadde Wasswa**
- **Women Students' Officer = Shruti Sunil Basantam**
- **Part time Officer for Business = Ritvik Sharma**
- **Part time Officer for Creative Arts = Judith Albert**
- **Part time Officer for Health, Medicine and Life Sciences = Mariangel Briceno Riverol**
- **Part time Officer for Law & Education = Syed Shafquat**

- **Part time Officer for Physics, Engineering and Computer Science = Muhtasim Sadat Nibir**
- LGBTQ+ Students' Officer will be reopened in the October by-elections as we received no nominations for this role.

Idea for Change #1 – Urgent Actions for Women's Safety on Campus

Please read through the separate proposal document for the full details of the 'Idea for Change'.

Key Points

- Improve lighting and security at bus stops and isolated areas
- Improve reporting processes such as Report & Support
- Lobby for the relaunch of the Brave Voices Campaign
- Implement an SU-led research project to understand experiences of violence against women on campus.
- Improve support and education around spiking & Safety in SU Nightlife, including spiking reporting processes.
- Lobby for the production of mandatory consent training for staff and students and an anti-harassment campaign

Results: 35 for, 0 against, 0 abstain – motion passed.

Action: This will now be assigned to the Women's Officer to work on.

Idea for Change #2 – Improving Transparency and Accountability in Herts' SU

Please read through the separate proposal document for the full details of the 'Idea for Change'.

- Require Student Council minutes and officer reports to be publicly available within two weeks of each meeting.
- A monthly update to be published by officers on their key achievements and actions in the period, including references of key meetings with the university and evidence of motion, projects, and campaign progress.
- Create an annual calendar of Student Council meetings at the start of the academic year and distribute to all student leaders.
- Provide at least four weeks' notice before each meeting to allow proper preparation for student leaders presenting Ideas for Change.
- Ensure the newly introduced motion tracking system, suggested in this motion, remains a permanent feature.

Results: 31 for, 2 against, 0 abstain – motion passed

Action: This will be assigned to relevant teams in the Students' Union to work on.

To note: Anurag Phutane (Deputy Chair) resigned from his role in order to participate in the discussion for the next Idea for Change #3.

Idea for Change #3 – Allow free society memberships and free ticket options for non-members of a society. Please read through the *separate proposal document for the full details of the 'Idea for Change'.*

- Allow Societies to Offer Free Memberships
 - Amend Byelaw 5, Section 7.3 to remove the requirement that all societies must charge at least £1.
- Remove Mandatory Ticket Fees for Society Events
 - Permit societies to allocate up to 20 free tickets per event for non-members.
 - Clarify within the byelaws that societies are permitted to allocate up to 20 free tickets per event for non-members, as ticket pricing is currently not explicitly set in the byelaws.

Results: 23 for, 9 against, 2 abstain – motion passed

Action: This will be assigned to relevant teams in the Students' Union to make the amendments to the Society By-laws.

Updates on previous Idea for Change passed

Idea for Change: More Healthy Food on Available Campus

- **Krishna provided an update:** He explained that he has attended several meetings, he undertook a survey on the options available and there is an increase in options in the canteen and shop.

Updates from previous meeting actions

- **Previous Action:** Kesar to provide an update at the next Student Council of QR codes and consent awareness campaign.
 - Kesar was not present at this Student Council Meeting and no update was given.
- **Previous 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.

- **Officer Response:** Rohit explained that training for bus drivers has been conducted. Asked students to continue contacting UNO Bus for future issues.
- **Officer Response:** Pavan explained that feedback surveys were conducted, there is a UNO Bus Forum being organised for the students and senior managers of UNO Bus to come together.
- **Previous Action:** Krishna to escalate this concern to De Havilland campus accommodation team to explore more effective and long-term solutions for noise disturbances.
 - **Officer Response:** Krishna has escalated and says that the response time has been a decreased response time from this conversation
- **Previous Action:** Academic Experience Team to look into the page and provide an update at the next Student Council meeting.
 - **Response:** Rhiannon explained that this has been looked into and these pages no longer exist as the motions are invalid as they were over two years old. They have not been taken down from the website.
- **Previous Action:** For the next Student Council, Rohit to provide an update on how meeting minutes will be shared and any changes to the process.
 - **Officer Response:** Rohit discussed this with the relevant university staff and due to confidentiality issues this cannot be published. He ensured that the student voice is included and there is data used throughout the lobbying process (e.g. Herts Unfiltered).

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.

Question/Comment from Student Council Member: Students raised that the prices of the buses have been increased to £3.50 without any notification.

- **Officer Response:** Rohit said that students should have been told this, so he and Pavan will pick this up outside the meeting with the University.

Action: Rohit and Pavan to provide an update at the next Student Council on this.

Question/Comment from Student Council Member: Students raised that there are no sanitary products dispensers in SPECTRA, and said that the other sanitary dispensers across campus are often empty, and they are not in every toilet.

- **Officer Response:** Zhora said that the timeline has not yet been confirmed for when they will be put into SPECTRA, however it has been confirmed that there will be some being added in there. Zhora also advised that she will be

asking for locations of where the sanitary product dispensers are on campus.

Action: Zhora to provide an update on timeline for sanitary products installation in SPECTRA, and locations of all sanitary dispensers on campus.

Next Student Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th May 2025. This will be the final meeting for the 2025/26 academic year.

Actions 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.	<p>Question from Student Council Member – Raised concerns about a recent women's safety issue on campus and asked about future initiatives to address safety.</p> <p>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.</p>	Women's Officer	Wednesday 14 May 2025.
Idea for Change #1	This has been passed and is now assigned to the Women's Officer	Women's Officer	Wednesday 14 May 2025.

Idea for Change #2	This has been passed and has been assigned to the Students' Union to work on.	Hertfordshire Students' Union	Wednesday 14 May 2025.
Idea for Change #3	This has been passed and has been assigned to the Students' Union to work on.	Hertfordshire Students' Union	Wednesday 14 May 2025.
Action – Rohit and Pavan to provide an update at the next Student Council ticket prices increases being communicated.	Students raised that the prices of the buses have been increased to £3.50 without any notification.	President & Commuting Students' Officer	Wednesday 14 May 2025.
Zhora to provide an update on timeline for sanitary products installation in SPECTRA, and locations of all sanitary dispensers on campus.	Students raised that there are no sanitary products dispensers in SPECTRA, and said that the other sanitary dispensers across campus are often empty, and they are not in every toilet.	LGBTQ+ Officer and Women's Officer	Wednesday 14 May 2025.