

**BIRKBECK STUDENTS' UNION
STUDENT PARLIAMENT**
14th of November 2024

There will be a meeting of the Student Parliament on the 14th of November 2024 3pm-5pm on MS Teams.

[Click here](#) to join the meeting.

Please send any apologies to: su-committee@bbk.ac.uk

AGENDA

- 1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**
 - a. Introduction of name, course and pronouns
- 2. APOLOGIES AND PROXIES**
- 3. QUORUM**
 - a. 6 members of the Student Parliament
- 4. CO-OPT TO VACANT POSITIONS**
 - a. To receive nominations for vacant posts
 - b. To co-opt members into vacant posts

Environments and Ethics Officer:

Anti-Racism & Anti-Fascism Officer:

Clubs and Societies Officer:

Community Officer:

Research Students Officer:

Parent and Carer Officer:

Mental Health Officer:

Student Head of Faculty (Postgraduate/ Faculty of Science):

Student Head of Faculty (Postgraduate/ Faculty of LAW and Business):

Student Head of Faculty (Undergraduate/ Faculty of LAW and Business):

Student Head of Faculty (Undergraduate/ Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences):

5. OFFICER REPORTS

- (i) To receive a report for William Sarenden (Education Sabbatical Officer) [ATTACHED]
- (ii) To receive a report from Viji Pirani (Welfare Sabbatical Officer) [ATTACHED]
- (iii) To receive a report from Han Han (EDI Sabbatical Officer) [NOT RECEIVED]
- (iv) To receive a report from Fahmida F. (Postgraduate Sabbatical Officer) [N/A]

6. PURPOSE OF THE PARLIAMENT MOTION (ENRICO ROSSINI) [ATTACHED]

7. BAD TIMETABLE MOTION (ENRICO ROSSINI) [ATTACHED]

8. PHONES IN CLASSES MOTION (ENRICO ROSSINI) [ATTACHED]

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a. The next Student Parliament meeting will be held on the 11th of December 2024
3pm-5pm.

**Education Sabbatical Officer Report to Student Parliament
November 2024 – William Sarenden**

Apologies

Please accept my apologies for missing this meeting due to a scheduling conflict with my Philosophy of Science lecture.

Projects and Updates:

Positive Messaging Campaign

This campaign aims to promote positivity and kindness across campus, recognising that university life can be demanding for students at all levels. Through empowering quotes from students and alumni, along with interactive "Positive Messaging Walls," we are transforming previously underused spaces into areas of inspiration, kindness, and community connection.

Renovation of Birkbeck's Multi-Faith Room

In line with my commitment to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment, we have completed several key improvements in the Multi-Faith Room, including:

- Installation of comfortable carpeting,
- Energy-efficient LED lighting,
- Freshly repainted walls and door,
- Enhanced ventilation and air conditioning,
- New seating with integrated storage.

Additionally, we have added a selection of spiritual texts for communal use, and the website has been updated to reflect these changes.

Wobble Week

Wobble Week is designed to support students during the critical period a few weeks into the term when academic and social pressures can feel overwhelming. This initiative focuses on raising awareness of available support resources, normalising the challenges students face, building resilience, and strengthening community bonds. Working closely with the university, we have organised several events beginning on November 4th, with further updates to be provided at the next Student Parliament meeting.

Welcome Week Events

Welcome Week featured numerous events that I attended and helped coordinate. I hosted the "Afternoon Tea with the Vice-Chancellor" and a campus-wide Treasure Hunt, as well as leading the Pub Quiz and assisting with Karaoke Night. Additionally, I participated in the Freshers Fair, the "Big Birkbeck Welcome," and other activities to ensure a warm introduction to campus life for all new students.

Food Pantry Initiative

The Food Pantry group has held initial meetings to discuss its ongoing operations and future vision. Our first session this year saw high participation, highlighting the significant demand for this resource. Further updates on expansion and access will be shared soon.

New Student Spaces

Following my advocacy last year, new student spaces are now under construction. I continue to provide feedback and collaborate with the university to create welcoming, functional areas for all students.

Collaborative Efforts and Feedback

I have actively contributed to and provided feedback on:

- The Access and Participation Plan
- Education Committee's Risk Register
- Welcome Survey and Module Evaluation Questions
- Academic Board Review

Additional Responsibilities and Updates

- **Student Minds Update:** The Student Minds, Student Space webpage has been updated for the first time since 2020, providing more comprehensive information to support student well-being.
- **External Connections:** I have represented the student body in welcoming notable visitors to campus, including the Lord Mayor and a Labour MP, ensuring that the student perspective is shared.
- **Increased Union Responsibilities:** Due to current staffing shortages, I have taken on additional responsibilities within the Union to ensure continuous support and representation for students.
- **Social Media content:** I have been working on and creating many posts about welcome, the rep system and many more for our online audience

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to updating you further on these projects and initiatives at our next meeting.

STUDENTS' UNION PARLIAMENT PAPER

Written By: Vajayanti Inara Pirani

Birkbeck Students' Union
Welfare Sabbatical Officer

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Relationship building with Birkbeck University staff
- Successful completion of Birkbeck's 2024 – 2025 Autumn Term Welcome Week.
- Successful attendance and participation as an SU Officer during Autumn Term inductions and mixers.
- Collaboration with nearby universities' students' unions.
- Partaking in an ongoing outreach to local shops for donations to the Food Pantry and the donation of 'perishable' goods every 2 weeks.

* I will be taking on an additional 9 hours a week, to carry out part of the tasks of our current Postgraduate Sabbatical Officer's position as they are currently away until early January. *

ACTIVITIES

- Birkbeck Students' Union Sabbatical Officer Training.
- Lead & Change Sabbatical Officer Conference in Birmingham in July 2024.
- Birkbeck Governors 'Away-Day.'
- Meetings with the 'Vice-Chancellor,' Alumni Team and Student Advice Services Team discussing initiatives, collaborations, and campaigns.

INITIATIVES

- MOVEMBER Campaign throughout November.
- Collaboration with Wobble Week as well as event leading.
- The design of 2 new initiatives (initiatives will occur during Spring Term)

Motion n. 1

Title: Purpose of the Parliament

Proposer: Enrico Rossini, Mature Student Officer Section: Discussion about the mission of the Parliament

Because in my second year as a Mature Student Officer, I found the Student Parliament (SP) not very kind to listen to the student of this university. When questions and issues were raised, no action was taken. Also, in the last session of the SP, people made decisions unrelated to the university or the student's life at university.

This motion is to understand what this SP is for and what the officers and other participants what to do or expect from it.

My view is that the SP has to be here to help the every day life of the students at university, highlight good things that university is doing and require improvements if something can be done better. If someone was elected in this SP should take care of the student of this university and not talking or forcing political ideas unrelated to this community that is called university.

Motion n. 2

Title: Bad Timetable

Proposer: Enrico Rossini, Mature Student Officer Section: University improvements

I have received a lot of feedback about the timetable from students. I selected this message that summarizes the problem.

I had a bad experience with my timetable, I received very late like 2 weeks before starting my classes. As a mum of a 16-month-old baby, I need to arrange for someone to look after her, and it is not doable in 2 weeks, especially a Nany for the evenings. It would be great if we could have the timetable earlier than that so we don't stress ourselves to find someone. We need to come to class with a peaceful mind knowing that the baby is safe and comfortable with the person chosen, because with the short notice that we have we should accept anyone to do the job. "It is affecting me mentally and financially. I don't have time to see different candidates and I have to accept the price that they ask for. Also, in class, I'm not 100% focused, as I have to check from time to time with the Nany.

The general feeling is that this year the university has a lot of organization issues (and I have a very bad experience too). This is something that we have to tackle before it is too late.

Motion n. 3

Title: Phones in classes

Proposer: Enrico Rossini, Mature Student Officer Section: University improvements

I have received a lot of request about this issue. Students are not very concerned about other students. During classes, students forget to silence their phones with the consequence that all class is disturbed.

Like at the cinema, we should ask students at the beginning of the lesson to switch off their phone. This could be done from the teacher or the assistant when the lesson starts.



**BIRKBECK
STUDENTS'
UNION**
HERE FOR YOU