



## **BIRKBECK STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

There will be an Annual General Meeting on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Please send any proxies to be sent to [su-committees@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:su-committees@bbk.ac.uk) 24 hours before meeting.

Meeting link: [Click Here to Join Meeting](#)

### **AGENDA**

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#### **1. WELCOME**

The chair will deliver a brief introduction to the meeting, rules and agenda points to follow.

#### **2. MINUTES**

To ratify the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM).

#### **3. TRUSTEE REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

To receive the report to the Trustees on the Union's activities since the previous AGM and the annual accounts of the Union for the financial year ended

#### **4. AUDITORS**

To appoint the auditors: Knox Cropper.

#### **5. AFFILIATIONS**

To approve the list of affiliations of the Union:

National Union of Students (NUS)

Advice UK

Archery GB

British Mountaineering Council

Inter Varsity Dance Association

Basketball England

The Football Association

British Universities and Sports (associate)

#### **6. QUESTIONS TO THE TRUSTEES**

Open questions to the trustees by the members.

# BIRKBECK STUDENTS' UNION

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024

**Present:** Danny Danquah, Floyd Codin, Evan Sedgwick Jell, Emma Badji, Alex, Zofia Wojcik, Agustina Cerda

**In attendance:** William Sarenden (Chair); Emily Wildash; Yousuf Joondan; Lily Boodhoo, Miriam Swan, Michael Jones, Salome Dore (minutes)

### 1 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed the members, trustees and staff members to the Annual General meeting. They talked the attendees through the agenda items and explained that there would be opportunities for questions throughout the meeting.

### 2 MINUTES

The members voted to confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.

### 3 TRUSTEE REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Yousuf Joondan (CEO) gave an update on the Unions financial performance for 2022-23.

He mentions the accounts have been independently audited.

Yousuf gives an overview of the staff costs for the financial year. Emma mentions that 'branded clothing' is not one of her priorities which is within the costs, she goes onto say that there should be better communal spaces for students. Furthermore, the student services on the left-hand side of the entrance of Malet street are inactive most of the time and this space feels wasted. William mentions that he has seen the plans for more communal spaces in Malet street and Birkbeck Central, but they haven't been approved yet, however he does agree that this needs to happen.

### 4 AFFILIATIONS

- NUS (National Union of Students)
- Advice UK
- Dancesport Association (IVDA) Committee
- British Mountaineering Council (BMC)
- British University and College Sport (BUCS)

Yousuf Joondan (CEO) informed attendees that there was a referendum on the SU's involvement with NUS but there are two aspects of NUS – NUS UK and NUS charitable services. The SU will be leaving NUS UK at the end of 2024 due to that being the result of the referendum, we will be staying with the NUS charitable services. Miriam asks if we pay for the affiliations, excluding NUS, Yousuf confirms that they all have costs attached but for the sports clubs, student's fees to join them covers this.

A student wanted to say there feels like there's no ownership of the space by students and that it feels like quite a sterile space compared to other universities. He said he found it hard to get replies from the student societies about getting involved. He expressed that he has heard other frustrations from fellow students. William echoes these points and says that it is a larger problem that him and other Student Officers are trying to combat. The same student said that there seems to be something wrong from higher up towards the students and the attitude needs to be changed. Miriam explains that she understands the student's point and explains that it isn't out of lack of things to do at the university but to do with the demographic. This student contested that the demographic is blamed continuously, and it can't be that. Miriam explains that as the head of the women's network, which is the largest network at Birkbeck, she organises a coffee morning every week and puts out a lot of communication, and whilst there are a lot of people that come, there is still very little engagement. Two students both explain that officers need to do more than just post on social media or put posters up, especially as there are a lot of older students who don't use social media.

Another student states that she is aware of student activities but it's the times and the locations that are hard to attend because of working and studying. She suggests that more activities should be arranged before classes. William states that the SU are looking at growing income to host more events and that the SU needs to make a note to take this forward into the next year. One comment in the chat said about students feeling lonely, William mentions that he has felt this himself as a student and has tackled this with the 'Birkbeck Cares: Student Loneliness Campaign' too.

A student mentions that the SU seems to be continuing with business as usual but there is no mention of Palestine. William mentions that the activities team and officers are working with the Palestinian society to get this set up properly and that there is a statement on the website. The same student says that it seems like empty words and not fair when some Palestinian students are dealing with a genocide of their people. William asks for suggestions as to what we should do, and that the SU hasn't received any suggestions from students or requests. A student says that whilst we might be doing something, it seems like the SU is staying silent. A student mentions that it seems as though the SU are cautious of saying anything about Palestine in comparison to their response on Ukraine.

William encourages people to bring a statement to Student Parliament. Emily says that there is a great power in Student Parliament and that there wasn't a huge turnout the last time but invited all students in the AGM to participate. Miriam states that there are a lot of things that happen in the background that people don't see, for example, not promoting the Eurovision Song Contest because it wouldn't be appropriate now.

A student asks that there are more spaces where people can express how they are feeling as students. She says that it is an empty voice coming from Student Parliament. William says that he agrees there should be a screen on campus showing what is happening on campus in terms of events or societies and that he will speak to Dan from Estates about organising this, as they have them for classes so it should be possible.

A student asks as to where to she can find out/request information about what companies Birkbeck invest in. William mentions that he will find an email address and pass one on.

A student asks to confirm next steps, and that Student Parliament is the next step for students to go to. Emily states that it depends on what you need support with, if there is an issue with keeping up with workload due to the effects of what is happening in Palestine then there are some great Course Reps that work really hard with the faculty, then there is Student Parliament where you can voice your opinion and contribute to making decisions.

A student says that he thinks it could be beneficial to promote Course Rep positions to bring awareness to the different positions and what the benefits are. William states that we are already working towards this behind the scenes to change the Course Rep system. Emily says that they are working towards changing the position to create more benefits for Course Reps.

## **6 QUESTIONS TO THE TRUSTEES**

Emily states that because Quorum hasn't been met, the meeting will be run again in two weeks time. The date for the meeting will be promoted on the website and Emily's email will be on the website.

A student mentions that the Palestinian flag should be flown at the SU. William states that because we don't own the space, we can't make these decisions, but these matters should be brought to Student Parliament and then they can be taken higher up. Miriam mentions that we don't have to ask to display other flags and she is finding it hard with the 'Freedom of Speech' act and why some rules apply to some things and not others. William states again that we must ask the University for permission for so many things and they are trying to find out what the solution is as well as developing a process.

A student asks the SU to advertise when students are sewing the Palestinian flag together outside the university to students as it would be good for their wellbeing. William mentions that there is a process for advertising events online and he will speak to Parwana to get in touch as she has the information. Another student says that there needs to be more visibility of Student Parliament because he has been within Birkbeck for 7-8 years and never knew much about it, he suggests that the SU should engage more with students in person on campus instead of being in the office. William says that he has raised an important point.