

## Minutes: Student Council

Date / Time:	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024
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Location	Function room 1
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Attendee	Acronym	Role
Fazarna Sonir	FS	Chair
Hayley Gule	HG	Deputy Chair
Amir Iqbal	AI	Union development officer
Destiny Mazaiwana	DM	Academic officer
Komal Shahzadi	KS	Equality and diversity officer
Priya Karasala	PK	Opportunity and engagement officer
Chimdi Oriaku	CO	International students' Liberation officer
Judith Olurankinse	JO	Postgraduate Liberation officer
Nerissa Doran	ND	Disabled students Liberation officer
Muhammad Akbar Khan	MAK	BAME Liberation officer
Mahek Rijhwani	MK	Scrutiny panellist

Attendee	Role
Manuela Segorean	Committee member
Manav Madlani	Course rep
Muhammad Ibtesam	Course rep
Ally Ackbarally	Student participant (Want to be a voting member)
Avani mehta	Course rep
Lahek Batra	Student participant (Want to be a voting member)
Akansha Bihani	Student participant ( Observer - Don't want to be a voting member)
Paige Billings	Course rep
Olly Neska	Committee member
Parneet kaur	Committee member
Naffie Ngum	Student participant (Want to be a voting member)
Angel Dara Garvey-Hendrickson	Committee member
Thomas Dye	Student participant (Want to be a voting member)
Nicole	Committee member
Dol	Student participant (Want to be a voting member)
Mateusz de Sousa	Course rep
Lake Ding	Course rep
Jemima Sebastian	Course rep
Jessica Oakley	Course rep
Elouise	Student participant (Want to be a voting member)
Peace Jubril	Student participant (Want to be a voting member)
Francesco Sani	Course rep
Leon Hall	Committee member

Roz MacGregor-Devlin	Committee member
Nidhi	Course rep
Rushika	Student participant (Want to be a voting member)
Anotida	Course rep
Janelle	Course rep
Nyah Wells-Francis	Committee member
Vidhi Megchiani	Committee member
Ndina Daphne	Course rep
Manuela Segorean	Committee member
Manav Madlani	Course rep
Muhammad Ibtesam	Course rep
Ally Ackbarally	Student participant (Want to be a voting member)

## 1. Introduction and Apologies for Absence

FS	Apologies were received from [...]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluffy Adewola (Welfare Executive Officer)</li> <li>• Aria Dudhia (Women's Liberation Officer)</li> <li>• Toni Fazaeli – (Mature students liberation)</li> </ul> <p>Who could not make this event.</p>

## 2. Minutes from the Previous Meeting:

HG	<p>Previous student council meeting - topics which were touched upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected positions – 6 Scrutiny panel members, Student council chair, Student council deputy chair, student council voting members.</li> <li>• Officer updates highlights – Amir and Aria supported with two awareness stalls as part of honour base abuse awareness campaign collaborating with the Mandala team. Nerissa has gained a huge win with the development of an accessibility focused campus map. And lastly Destiny updated us about the deliverance of a 'Don't commit an offence' campaign and Course Rep training.</li> <li>• Trustee board highlights – Approving of annual audit accounts: The Trustees are looking at finalizing the annual accounts, reflecting on the financial position of the DSU, which has come back positive vs. previous years.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Planning for Annual Members Meeting is on the way alongside Freshers 24/25!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion highlights –</li> <li>- Changing weekly timetabling to be more flexible for part-time students.</li> <li>- Nursing course experiencing difficulty being taught in different buildings.</li> <li>- Inductions: Fresher's experience – It was really good, however there were often long queues.</li> <li>- Accessibility issues for Freshers were also raised.</li> </ul>
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### 3. Matters arising from the minutes

HG	N/a
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### 4. Student Council Membership

DM	<p>All voting members will receive a green card, all non-voting members will receive an orange card.</p> <p>Voting members consist of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course reps</li> <li>• Society members</li> <li>• NUS Delegates</li> <li>• Liberation officers.</li> </ul> <p>Elected Student voting members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abdool Mohamed Ally</li> <li>• Naffie Ngum</li> <li>• Elouise Shyntum</li> <li>• Lahek Batra</li> </ul>
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## 5. Scrutiny panel update

MR	Scrutiny panellist	<p><b>MR</b> discussed function of Scrutiny Panel – More information can be found <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>MR raised previous Scrutiny Panel meeting key highlights and the scrutiny panel minutes were addressed. Find the minutes to Scrutiny Panel here</p> <p>No questions were raised.</p>
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## 6. Officer update

AI	Union development exec officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student flea market – reselling things, second hand goods. If you are interested in getting a stall it is a £5 deposit, which will be refunded if you show up.</li> <li>• Started training with NUS Delegates.</li> <li>• Delivering speeches for graduated students.</li> <li>• Graduation cost project – on pause because of the university but update will be coming soon.</li> </ul>
DM	Academic exec officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timetabling- this currently out of Destiny's hands, JEC (joint executive committee) -are looking into short time solutions to help timetabling but there is not much that can be this academic year. Destiny is looking to start a Campaign for students to suggest any short-term solutions.</li> <li>• Adobe access : The university leadership board made the decision for these cutbacks.</li> <li>• 4,000 licenses reduced after covid to 1,000, then brought up to 1,500 which is now split between ADH and CEM.</li> <li>• You can find on the DMU website that you can book computers which have the adobe software.</li> <li>• Library development project – Asking the university to bring back the licenses on all computers</li> <li>• Destiny is looking to launch a bootcamp for students who are transitioning from lv3 to lv4, look at study resources making this easy to access on the website and research in how to support the jump into independent learning from taught classes.</li> </ul>
KS	Equality and diversity exec officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodation forum – Priya and Komal have been running an accommodation forum to gain information about welfare in accommodation – how are students feeling, are they safe? What are students' expectations</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open air iftar – Komal in collaboration with Amir to provide a party for Muslim students at the end of Ramadan, aiming for 2-300 students. Hope to be a long-term event.</li> <li>• LGBTQ+ month – Launched in collaboration with DMU with a display in the student's union.</li> </ul> <p>What's your blood type event will be happening on the 21st Feb for those who want to donate blood.</p>
PK	Opportunities and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic societies- Priya would like to create more academic societies so it can be connected to DMU and part of every faculty.</li> <li>• Alternative sport spaces with DMU sport. Using DMU areas and using them as sport spaces which will increase more active session and students will become more active.</li> <li>• Volunteer opportunities - For students to get voluntary work, related to their studies.</li> </ul>
CO	International students' liberation officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chimdi is working with Komal to collaborate with DMU to put on a TED X – like event involving a guest speaker specifically for international students.</li> <li>• Chimdi is also looking into the student experience for international students, and improving visa support.</li> </ul>
MAK	BAME Liberation officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muhammad was hoping to make a video to cover grocery stores and restaurants however has now decided to condense this into a leaflet, which will include 10 different ethnic grocery stores, with opening time, a map, and what type of food they sell.</li> <li>• The change was due to cost, accessibility, and workload.</li> <li>• Muhammad will also be teaming up with Komal for opening air Iftar at the start of Ramadan.</li> </ul>
JO	Postgraduate liberation officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judith is looking to create a Postgraduate society; she feels that there isn't a community for postgrad students to come together and network.</li> <li>• Postgraduate day – This is in talks with the commercial team currently and more information about the date will be coming soon.</li> </ul>
ND	Disabled students Liberation officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability history month- Nerissa has collaborated, with Komal to put on a showcase called my disability = any capability to raise awareness of the endless possibilities that exists for disabled students.</li> </ul> <p>Nerissa was shown in the disability – visibility exhibition where she was able to share her story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year Nerissa got to give presentations to third education study students at DMU, where Nerissa discussed disability activism</li> <li>• Accessible Map launch – to help with accessibility for disabled students. Nerissa has produced a map which</li> </ul>

	<p>pin points all the access points clearly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movie night – This is in organisation and will take place after Easter. Nerissa would like feedback for what movie to choose and snack suggestions</li> <li>• Mental health campaign – on pause because of jury duty.</li> </ul>
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## 7. Trustee Board Update

AI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial update for the 1st quarter of the academic year – This looks into the financial performance of the union.</li> <li>• Amir delivered Impact report update – Which entails all the work the student union and officers have done this current year and last year.</li> <li>• Trustee code of conduct has been updated – This is to reflect DMU who have already updated theirs. This is because of new guidance which has been implemented into higher education.</li> </ul>
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## 8. Elections

AI, HG	<p>These are the positions available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• X 4 *New* Faculty lead rep – A chance for students to represent their faculty in lobbying change. If you are looking for a step up from course rep this is the role for you!</li> <li>• X 5 Executive officers - Full time paid officer position start at 24k. This entails leadership, making change and project management</li> <li>• X 7 Liberation officer – volunteer, part- time, student activist.</li> </ul> <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project management and leadership experience</li> <li>• Helps build cv</li> <li>• You play a part in change</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">You can find more information here</a></p>
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## 9. Open Forum

<b>Minimum wage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum wage is going up – what are the officers doing to make sure that students, especially international students are aware of this and are being paid correctly.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High risk for international students being exploited because they are not from the local area.</li> <li>• How will students be provided information about the law surrounding correct pay, breaks and exploitation and what to look out for?</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Union Development officer to raise with Careers. There is a possibility of starting an awareness campaign and students encouraged signpost to the advice team for the appropriate help.</b></p>
<b>BA Music tech</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The block teaching has caused a strain for these students.</li> <li>• Students have had to take time off due to stress because they have felt underprepared going into modules with a quick turnaround of information for the introduction period.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Academic officer will be following this up with a meeting with Hussain – academic representative .</b></p>
<b>MSC Health psychology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This course is due to be scrapped by the university, or if it gains the minimum requirement of students then the tuition fees for international students will be increased for the next academic year. Students wants to know if it will be increased, why is this happening and what is the status update?</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Academic officer Will be looking into this and communicating this back to them.</b></p>
<b>Timetabling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students feel that short term quick fixes will not address any problems or solve any issues regarding timetabling.</li> </ul>
<b>Demon media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have received little support from DSU.</li> <li>• They are wanting to have access to the website.</li> <li>• There is little communication between demon media and DSU.</li> <li>• Lack of communication from fresher's fair has meant that they did not have the stall for both Tuesday and Wednesday.</li> </ul>
<b>Committees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are having trouble electing themselves as one of the lead reps in a society. – they were told it was only for societies with missing lead members</li> <li>• Booking spaces have been slow and is going over the 72 hours response period</li> <li>• Reimbursements of money have not been returned to some societies</li> </ul> <p><b>Action – Opportunities and engagement officer will be informing the opportunities team. This will also be brought up in the committee chairs meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> to talk to all committee chairs and address these issues.</b></p>

<b>Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events are not being advertised well</li> <li>• There has been a drop-off of events in the past year. Boom is now where to be seen?</li> <li>• There is lack of engagement of all events held by the DSU</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Union development officer is leading on the student events committee - is an opportunity to encourage student led events.</b></p>
<b>Officers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is nothing being done which is up standard.</li> <li>• Poor communication with student body</li> <li>• Lack of visibility and awareness of who they are</li> </ul>
<b>Performing arts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of promotion towards the arts</li> <li>• No pictures or video during open days regarding artistic courses.</li> </ul>
<b>Uni temps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uni temps are not sending relevant jobs. They mostly consist of fulltime work. Which is not appropriate for a student?</li> <li>• Little communication about being successful and replies to queries</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sulets –Don't give an opportunity for a payment plan.</li> <li>• The exchange rate is not great for international students.</li> <li>• Students are finding it difficult to find housing</li> <li>• Guarantor – how can officers support with international students getting a guarantor.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Equality and diversity officers is gathering information through a form, and looking into temporary accommodation. This can also be raised at the JEC meeting.</b></p>
<b>Nintendo society</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Room booking – system is very difficult to find, they applied for rooms which was allocated to them and then some was taken from them, even though they have had the same room for many years.</li> <li>• Lack of communication about moving rooms</li> <li>• More clarity needed on this system and booking through DMU and/or DSU.</li> <li>• Mandatory health and safety training for all committee members – to ensure that all members are safe.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action put forward as a motion</b></p>

## 10. Motions

AI	<p>Motions put forward:</p> <p><b>Nintendo society - Health and Safety Training for Society Committees</b>  <b>Passed:</b> A motion was proposed mandating that all society committees receive Health and Safety training to ensure the well-being and support of society members.</p>
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The Student Council motion calls on the Student Union to offer essential training to support society's functioning. This includes in-person sessions covering strategies for managing challenging individuals and basic medical training. Additionally, consistent communication with committee members on a termly basis is anticipated to facilitate ongoing development of essential skills and support the advancement of the society.

As this motion has been passed, the Executive Officer team will now work with DSU staff and undertake work to action the points raised.

*See motion A in appendix for full motion*

**Call for Reflection and Action on the Israel-Palestine Conflict *Passed*:**

Another motion called upon DSU to reflect on and take action regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict, advocating for peace.

This Student Council motion calls upon DSU to reflect the stances of DMU students at the NUS National Conference. It urges DSU to:

Condemn all hostage-taking and indiscriminate killing of civilians, destruction of property, homes, and essential infrastructure on all sides.

Call for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel-Gaza conflict, highlighting the destruction of critical infrastructure.

Demand an end to settlers' incursions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and condemn the bombing and occupation of medical facilities and universities.

Advocate for the protection of ambulances, healthcare professionals, and journalists under international law.

Call for the restoration of aid and amenities into Gaza and the unconditional release of all hostages and children's prisoners.

Uphold International Law, investigate alleged war crimes, and respect humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions from all parties.

Demand an end to the Israeli apartheid system on all occupied territories and cessation of business with entities supporting apartheid.

It goes on to call for DSU to take the following actions to promote peace and end hostilities:

Assist, support, and facilitate student organizations wishing to send aid to those affected by the Israel-Gaza war through reputable UK charities.

	<p>Lobby DMU to aid students affected by the Israel-Gaza conflict by facilitating enrolment in courses or online studies and providing access to university resources such as the online library.</p> <p>Support and assist students in lobbying local Members of Parliament to represent the opinions of DMU students regarding the Israel-Gaza conflict within the government.</p> <p>Increase awareness and provide information about support services available to DMU students impacted by the Israel-Palestine conflict.</p> <p>As this motion has been passed, the Executive Officer team will now work with DSU staff and undertake work to action the points raised.</p> <p><i>See motion B in appendix for full motion</i></p>
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### 11. General Discussion

	N/A
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### 12. A.O.B

DM	N/A
HG	Closed the meeting.

## Appendix

### POLICIES TO MOTION

#### Appendix A

##### Training + Medical training

We expect the Student Union to provide the basic training required to upkeep our society. In person session to provide information on dealing with difficult individuals as well as basic medical training.

##### Committee trading and development

We expect the Student Union to keep on contact with committee members on a termly basis, to ensure the progress and development of essential skills and to aid the society itself.

#### About us

We are Nintendo society, small gaming-based society with a brilliant core membership, we deal with a range of social skills throughout the club, ensuring that everyone feels like they have their place, and that itself is a safe space.

We require more attention the student union staff, with adequate training, in dealing with difficult individuals, safeguarding issues as well the basic medical training, due to absence of our health and safety officer.

We propose to move motions mentioned above in order to ensure the development of the society and its continued safety, as well as develop essential skills that come with this commitment.

#### Appendix B

##### Israel Palestine Conflict DSU Student Council Motion Amendment

DMU is renowned for its tolerance, diversity, unity, and its strong stance against all forms of discrimination, including islamophobia and anti-Semitism. This position enables DMU students/staff of different communities to live and work together harmoniously in our university and across its communities. At the same time, the current conflict between Israel and Palestine continues to cause much pain and concern in our university.

We note that on 6th November the UN Secretary General António Guterres described the situation in Gaza as a *“graveyard for children”* and that in comments made on 8th November the UN High Commissioner, Volker Turk, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) denounced *“Gaza collective punishment as a war crime, as is unlawful forcible evacuation of civilians.”* The UN Secretary General invoked the *“most powerful tool”* in Article 99 of the UN Charter demanding a ceasefire as this conflict is a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security. In the meantime, Gaza continues to remain under siege, hospitals, schools and UN shelters all protected under international law continue to be targeted by the IDF killing civilians, women and children in circumstances that many staff and students find especially distressing and unacceptable. We want DSU to clearly hear the words of the OHCHR who have reported the bombing of Gaza as a *“genocide in the making”*, resulting to-date in over 24,100 deaths, including more

than 10,000 children. Furthermore, South Africa has prosecuted Israel at the International Court of Justice on the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip. James Elder, the UNICEF Spokesperson has stated that *“this is a war on children”* and cannot be allowed to continue. Every 10 minutes a child is being killed in Gaza, 10 children on average a day are losing at least a limb in Gaza and including a new term in the WHO healthcare lexicon “WCNSF” (Wounded Child, No Surviving Family). Moreover, the Israeli government is preventing adequate aid, critical medical supplies, water, electricity and fuel from entering the area.

In this University we have schools and programmes delivering Nursing and Midwifery, Paramedicine, Pharmacy and BioMed Sciences. In our commitment to healthcare and developing health professionals, and on behalf of all health professionals, we call upon DSU to reflect these additional stances of DMU

Moreover, the silence of our institution is traumatic for many students and staff alike. We call upon DSU to reflect the below stances of DMU students at the NUS National Conference, in the spirit of protection of human life, public property and humanitarian infrastructure:

1. First, to condemn all taking of hostages and indiscriminate killing of civilians, alongside the destruction of property, homes and essential infrastructure on all sides;
2. Second, to call for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel Gaza war where critical infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, universities, clinics, nurseries, bakeries and markets are being indiscriminately bombed or destroyed, as reported by the UN and UNRWA, Red Cross, Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS)/Red Cross among others; and
3. Third, to call for an end to settlers’ incursions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, alongside a cessation of bombing of safe passages, refugee camps, places of worship and hospitals including the protection of healthcare staff and the release of kidnapped healthcare staff kidnapped in Gaza by Israeli.
4. Fourth, to condemn the bombing, destruction and the occupation of all medical facilities and universities.
5. Fifth, we demand the protection of ambulances and of all health professionals as well as the targeting of Journalists who are all protected under international law and the Geneva conventions.
6. Call for the unrestricted restoration of aid and amenities into Gaza.
7. Demand the unconditional release of all hostages on all sides.
8. All children prisoners/hostages from all sides must be immediately released including all non-combatants under international law.
9. Call for proactive upholding of International Law, investigation of alleged war crimes, and respect of humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions, from all parties.
10. Demand an end to the Israeli apartheid system on all occupied territories and ceasing business with all entities supporting the apartheid system.

We call upon DSU to take the following actions for the promotion of peace and the ending of hostilities:

1. Help, support and facilitate student bodies who want to send aids to those impacted by the Israel Gaza war, through UK vested charities.
2. The Executive Officer team will lobby DMU to support students impacted by the Israel Gaza war, by facilitating and supporting enrolment onto our courses/online studies and access to our resources such as DMU online library.
3. Help, support and facilitate student lobbying of local MPs, to reflect DMU students’ opinions on the Israel Gaza war within government.
4. Raise awareness and signpost the support services available for DMU students who have been impacted by the Israel Palestine conflict.