



**BIRKBECK
STUDENTS'
UNION**
HERE FOR YOU

MIRIAM SWAN

Woman's Liberation
Leader



About Miriam's Role:

Miriam is a **Woman's Liberation Leader**. The purpose of this role is to represent the needs and views of all women students at Birkbeck. You will work on behalf of Birkbeck students to improve the student experience; lobby the University to make positive change at Birkbeck, attend University committees and meet regularly with leadership and create a Birkbeck community.

Her main responsibilities include:

- Represent the views of students at Birkbeck.
 - As a representative of Birkbeck students, be the face of the Students' Union
 - Be a point of contact for Birkbeck students
 - To proactively collect feedback and input from students regularly to ensure work is representative.
 - Attend University meetings and committees, elevating the student voice at these levels
 - Sit on Academic Panels
 - Meet regularly with key leaders in the University
- **Work with Birkbeck University to ensure their work meets students' needs, and improve the student experience.**
 - Chair and organize the Women's Network
 - Create initiatives to improve the student experience for women students at Birkbeck
 - Lobby the University for change
 - Negotiate best outcomes for students
 - Run campaigns, events and activities to benefit and enhance the student experience
- **Develop a community for Birkbeck students.**
 - Create initiatives to improve the student experience
 - Create opportunities for students to network with other students, or to increase engagement with Union activity
- **Attend Student Union meetings.**

Manifesto:

“My top 5 priorities for the year are:

1. Create a guidance pack that focusses on opportunities exclusively open to women.

Nowadays, there are several internships, scholarships, and graduate opportunities available to women specifically. These are incredibly helpful to progress to leadership positions. I want to create a guidance pack that contains access information, deadlines, and eligibility.

2. Create safe and inclusive spaces for women to connect.

Maintaining coffee afternoons and light activities that everyone can attend.

3. Improve communication and feedback channels.

Create feedback polls to be sent out every end of term with student feedback and ideas.

4. Fortify the Women's Network, making it more vibrant and interactive.

Measure signups, create regular email communication. Implement regular workshops around certain agenda points regularly (once a month or such)

5. Organise events focussed around strong female role models, sharing their experiences and advice.

Invite 2 guest speakers and interact with the University of London Women's network to collaborate on guest speaker events.”

Committee Attendance Stats:

Board of Trustee Attendance:

Term 1: 3/3

Term 2: 1/1

Student Parliament Attendance:

Term 1: 1/1

Term 2: 0/1

Executive Committee Attendance:

Term 1: 3/4

Term 2: 2/2

Recommendations from Scrutiny Term 1:

Satisfaction - No recommendations

Report

Name: Miriam Swan

Role: Women's Liberation Leader

Term: 2

Manifesto Related Projects Update:

1. Create a guidance pack that focuses on opportunities exclusively open to women.

Update:

- The guidance pack is still under development. The release is scheduled ahead of the next recruitment cycle. The Guidance pack will be my focus in Term 3.

2. Create safe and inclusive spaces for women to connect. Maintaining coffee afternoons and light activities.

Update:

- I have initiated regular coffee afternoons every Monday at BCB G07 which aims to provide a supportive community. We have just completed our 5th meeting. The meetups have become a cornerstone for engagement among members. Attendance varies from 4-10 attendees currently. With consistent promotion, I predict an increase in regulars.

- In collaboration with colleagues, I have been instrumental in establishing a temporary Students' Union space at G07. This space serves as a frequent hub for student meetings.

3. Improve communication and feedback channels. Create feedback polls to be sent out every end of term.

- All major decisions concerning the Women's Network are decided via polls on our most efficient communication channel (WhatsApp Group).

- I concluded that feedback opportunities should be available as and when needed, which is why I always invite members to share their ideas and concerns as they arise.

- Student feedback resulted in a small change to the International Women's Day event and urgent questions concerning academics and student support being directed to the right places.

4. Fortify the Women's Network, making it more vibrant and interactive. Measure signups, and create regular email communication. Implement regular workshops around certain agenda points regularly (once a month or such)

Report

Update:

- The engagement within the Women's Network has significantly increased among students and college staff alike. I am seeing demand for staff members to join the network.
- I am encouraging members to register on the SU website. This initiative aims to accurately reflect our network's size in the university's statistics.
- We regularly discuss network-relevant events and initiatives during our coffee afternoons. At our last meeting, we discussed literature for the Library Book Display.

5. Organise events focussed on strong female role models, sharing their experiences and advice.

Update:

- Feedback from the Women's Network indicated that the tentative guest speaker for International Women's Day did not meet the needs of our current members. Most active members have a strong interest in arts and humanities, which does not align with the proposed speaker's background. I will make sure to organise an event that our students will want to attend.

Other Projects:

Athena SWAN Project Involvement

- As a member of the Athena SWAN project, I am engaged in promoting gender equality within our institution. This involves contributing to the development and implementation of strategies that ensure fair representation, progression, and success in higher education and research.

Collaboration with Student Support

- In partnership with SU Student Support, I am developing a tutorial focused on mitigating circumstances, addressing a primary academic concern for women students.
- We are also working on an upcoming student support campaign.
- I have contributed my most successful revision tips for the assessment guide update.

SU Awareness Initiatives

- Actively promoted and participated in World Book Day events.
- Engaged in the book swap initiative by contacting book shops for donations.
- Contributed to William's campaign addressing student loneliness, highlighting the importance of mental health and community.
- Contributed an introduction to the women's network for Lily's BAME guidance pack.

Representation at College Programmes Committee

Report

- I attended the most recent College Programmes Committee, where I represented student experiences and perspectives. I initiated a conversation among the committee members regarding continued access to certain modules after programme withdrawal.

Cost of Living Working Group

- I have taken over and led the conversation regarding the lack of sanitary products on campus. (See achievements)

Achievements:

International Women's Day Event

- The International Women's Day event is predicted to be very successful, selling out all 35 tickets with an overwhelming demand. The event's popularity has significantly improved my visibility on campus among both students and staff.

Sanitary Product Supply

- Through my persistent advocacy, the college now provides these essential items. I have negotiated for the SU to control 10% of the stock, ensuring consistent availability. While the issue is currently considered resolved, I remain vigilant in monitoring the situation.

SU Awareness

- I have started to receive requests from college departments to collaborate with the Women's Network rather than us reaching out first. Staff members mentioned our successful Social Media and on-campus promotion efforts as the reason they noticed us.

Photos

