

**BIRKBECK STUDENTS' UNION
STUDENT PARLIAMENT**
17th JANUARY 2024

There will be a meeting of the Student Parliament on 17th January 2024 from 3pm-5pm on MS Teams.

Here is the meeting link: [Click Here](#)

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

- a. To receive apologies and proxies

3. QUORUM

- a. 9 members of the Student Parliament

4. MINUTES

- a. Minutes from the previous meeting are attached below.

5. CO-OPT TO VACANT POSITIONS

- a. To receive nominations for vacant posts
- b. To co-opt members into vacant posts

6. ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Date:	Action:	Responsible:	Progress:
15 th November 2023	Encouraging Societies to put on non-evening events	William Sarendon	Ongoing

7. OFFICER REPORTS

- (i) To receive a report for William Sarendon (Student Leader - Welfare)
- (ii) To receive a report from Ellie Rivera (Student Leader - Education)
- (iii) To receive a report from Miriam Swan (Womens' Officer)
- (iv) To receive a report from Ella Edwin (Disabled Students' Officer)
- (v) To receive a report from Lily Boodhoo (BAME Students' Officer)
- (vi) To receive a report from Artemi Falzon (Trans Students' Officer)



**BIRKBECK
STUDENTS'
UNION**
HERE FOR YOU

8. SUPPORT FOR STUDENT CARERS (MOTION ATTACHED) (Floyd Codlin)

9. FREE EDUCATION (MOTION ATTACHED) (Floyd Codlin)

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

a. The next Student Parliament meeting will be held on 13th March 2024 from 3pm-5pm

Motion For SU Parliament

Title: Support for Student Carers

That the Birkbeck student parliament explore ways in which students with caring responsibilities can achieve a work/life balance if studying at Birkbeck.

Proposer: Floyd Codlin (Environmental & Ethics Officer)

Seconder: Dean Ismay, Deputy Chair of Student Parliament

Council believes:

1. That the Student Parliament should see fit to offer as much practical support that it can for Birkbeck Students studying fulltime. Birkbeck is an evening university and promotes itself as a place to help balance work and study, and yet there is little support for people who work full time.
2. Students have had "optional" sessions (which were said to be optional but covered things that were really important to the course work) scheduled at 4:30pm.
3. This has meant in turn that lecturers only allocate 8 hours of pre session work, days before the lecture. We also note that for many students with caring responsibilities that work, where the groups are random has meant that no one can actually meet because of different work schedules.
4. Also, exams are not being given set days until the week before (way too late to book time off or change schedules). The nursery closing and not reopening also has an impact on working parents who see what could be a valuable resource cut off

Council resolves:

1. That BBKSU and Parliament, via the Woman's and Social Welfare Officers, creates Birkbeck policy with regards to social equality and career and study, seeking to make them more consistent and family friendly
2. That the BBKSU and Parliament, via the Woman's and Social Welfare Officers, work with UCU in a campaign to have the nursery fully funded and restored for all full time and part time parents

3. That the BBKSU and Parliament, via the Trade Union officer and Class reps, work with UCU in a campaign that gives lecturers time and space in pre-session work days before each lecture for proper preparation

Motion For Student Parliament

Title: FREE EDUCATION

That the Birkbeck student parliament issue a statement of solidarity for student organisations, including international students fighting for free education

Proposer: Floyd Codlin (Environmental and Ethics Officer at Birkbeck University)

Seconder: Dean Ismay, Deputy Chair of Student Parliament

Council believes:

5. That the ongoing and current cost of living crisis has served to exacerbate the precarious financial status faced by many students, especially international students.
6. The fee's for Birkbeck students studying part time is: £6,935 per year and for full time amounts to £9,250. For international students, it comes to £13,215 per year for part time and £17,620 per year for full time. Total first year tuition fee amounts to £19,200. Furthermore, international students will need:
 - + Total maintenance requirement: £12,006
 - - Deposit paid: £2,000
 - - Tuition fee paid in advance: £1,500
 - Total amount required to show: £27,706

Council further believes:

1. That it is on our interests to support the fight for free education at the point of use for both home and international students.
2. The government's push to marketise education is having a drastic effect on educational equality.
3. That international students have to pay outrageous tuition fees and have limits on the number of hours they can work.

Council resolves:

1. That the BBKSU will work with student organisations fighting for free education, such as the Student Cost of Living Campaign, for both home and International Students (<https://studentcostofliving.co.uk/>)
2. That BBKSU supports immediate cash payments to students and supports any campaign seeking to achieve this objective

3. That the SU campaigns for maintenance student loans to be replaced with living-wage grants and that tuition fees are abolished to be funded by a wealth tax (See Richard Murphy and his Tax Research Group)
4. To support the establishment of parity in the treatment of home and international students