Union Council – October 2026

Date & time	**27/10/26 16:00-16:30**
Location	**Founders Large Boardroom**
Attendance	Matthew Paterson (President) – Chair Josh Walker (VP Education) Bana Asqalan (VP Wellbeing & Diversity) Nathan Linde (VP Societies & Sport) Yasin Dahir (Black & Global Majority Students Community Officer) JJ Littleton (Disabled Students Community Officer) Farha Faizal (International Students Community Officer) Derwen Fay (LGBTQ+ Students Community Officer) James Lock (Mature Students Community Officer) Amelia Baxter (Women Students Community Officer) Mackenzie LeVernois (PGR Students Community Officer) Henry Li (Societies/Media Rep) Noor E Kainat (Sports Rep) Lauryn Fleming (Change & Insight Manager) – Secretary Dan Curran (Head of Community Engagement)
Apologies	Eton Holloway (Commuting Students Community Officer) Harleen Kamboz-Rana (Parent & Carer Students Community Officer)

ACTIONS

Item	Action	Responsible	Due
2	Dan Curran to meet with students impacted by resource booker and event confirmation issues.	DC	ASAP
4	CJ White to reach out to staff on London Campus to encourage more comms for their students to engage with the campaign.	CJ	ASAP

MINUTES

Item	Notes	Action
1. Welcome & Introductions	Union Council training took place prior to the meeting and introductions were made. MP outlines that it's the first ever Union Council meeting so any feedback is welcome to make improvements for future.	
2. Officer Updates	MP outlines concept of Priority 8 including background of how the priorities are selected and the context of research and insight across the SU. MP gives updates on Safety & Security – action plan is presented and discusses progress on each area. Accessibility of campus lighting on campus is now in progress even though action plan states it is not yet started. Going to do night walk with University SLT to give an idea of how campus feels for students on campus late at night and what action can be taken to make it feel safer. Local Community Improvement Plan (LCIP) work taking place, road safety conversations. Consequences for reckless driving being introduced. ML asks what is being done about foliage on A30. MP states that this will be included in the conversations and how it has grown around streetlights near Podium therefore making it less safe. YD asks about security cameras on campus and where they reach. Cameras are inside and outside of SU building but there is a line between where Uni security starts, SU are working in collaboration with campus watch to help reporting speed etc. JJ asks if there are any updates on training that staff receive, what is available to them, how is it delivered? Eg on neurodiverse students etc, is training in person or not? MP confirms that an external company used NEK asks whether this priority is specific only to physical safety and security as lots of students suffer from poor mental health. Students are being signposted to academic staff/personal tutors and wellbeing teams. MP – something we're working on with the university is the 'never ok' campaign, MP is going to advertise RHBeHeard process further moving forward. MP gives updates on affordability of food on campus – joint loyalty scheme for coffee outlets on campus. Union shop essentials brand now complete, action plan states it is in	

	progress. Around 40 items of household and kitchen basic items at near cost value. JW gives update on deadline stacking – presented 9 recommendations to academics, focussing on deadline stacking while protecting student choices and to help them manage them. Created student support leaflet which was distributed at start of this term and will be around exam season too. JW gives update on the quality, consistency and accessibility of teaching priority– he is running a policy forum on 10 November about education experience at RHUL. Going to create a making the most of your education guide and break down barriers to make it more accessible. BA gives update on support around Extenuating Circumstances (EC)– met with some Uni staff about ECs, it is difficult to understand the EC process fully as often receiving different information from different people. Going to integrate EC support into already existing campaigns such as Wobble Week and Stressbusters. Support leaflet has been distributed. ML states that PGR ECs are handled by Doctoral School specifically and asks whether that is being considered as part of this work. BA- the Uni triage the cases to different departments, and each department has their own rules and regulations depending on panel. NEK – what is the university doing in terms of mental health on campus and is there any accountability for individuals causing harm? BA- the EC process does accept mental health as evidence, students can email the wellbeing team and speak to their tutors to help provide advice on how to work through it and more specific departmental support. SU Advice Centre drop ins and bookings available too. BA gives update on diversity of food on campus – working with outlets on campus to provide more diversity. Policy forum took place and she will be presenting findings and recommendations to catering steering group. Worked on market day meal deal with MP. Campus Unity Week offered students up to £20 to provide food and currently working with ISoc on food event offering a variety of dietary options. Working on community cupboard longevity highlighting non-	

	perishable foods and other household items. Working on exploring options for raw halal meat in Egham. DF – question about food range and diversity, requiring more 'bland foods' for some dietary requirements. BA states it will be raised at Catering Steering Group. NEK asks about timing of event with ISoc, BA states that it will not specifically be during Ramadan so it's open to all students once or twice a term. NL gives update on student friendly timetables - he states that he has created a system to decide what a student friendly timetable is and looks like. There is a general consensus of what students want but system has data points and weighting scale considering factors about what an ideal timetable looks like. Going to meet with department reps and course reps to identify consensus for each department. Met with University timetabling staff to discuss these issues and potential actions. NL gives update on daytime events- reviewing survey data and last year's daytime events, there's no way of seeing numbers of attendees but working on ways to decide what are popular. Going to do 'this or that' style poll for current and new events to understand students' thoughts and preferences. Going to create clearer information on website to help students identify what is available. Working on making SU more of a social hotspot to ensure students know they can work, study, socialise in the building and encourage event attendance while in the space. JL – in regard to understanding what events students want, they often say they want a specific event and when it is run, they don't attend. What is NL prioritising? NL is looking at statistics and ensuring voices are heard. Having to listen to students and offer the events if the demand is there . DF – is there any scope for getting more daytime events for London campus? MP – Sabbs met yesterday and are working with the University to hopefully receive some more funding to use on London Campus for bigger, daytime events. Ensuring they belong, there is a focus on growing the London Campus with the launch of new accelerated degrees, the number of London students has increased recently over recent years. DC explains that we are working in partnership with other London SU's, Imperial has a satellite campus near RHUL,	

	allowing associate membership with each other's instructions and going to get a process in place. JJ asks if is there any way of opening timetabling data event to student groups to understand best times to put on a specific event in relation to their department's timetable and student availability. NL – there are some limitations on student bookings, going to put information and data publicly. FF outlines issues around double bookings with Community Officer and Socs events, needs to be a clearer process. YD agrees that student groups need support for room booking etc. having a way for students to receive support and their events to exist. FF thinks it can be a resource booker issue. JJ- doesn't feel like there's enough people to approve events for quantity and demand. Response time on Freshdesk often slow. NL – can be a communication piece between SU and resource booker. AB – resource booker often gives confirmation of events once the event has taken place. DC- offers to meet with students who have faced issues with resource booker etc – the team have already processed 2,500 tickets this term but if the process can be made better then we will look into options. YD – also experiences issues around sports bookings with spaces. DC- sport review survey currently live, encourages students to complete survey to give as much feedback as possible. MP- bring sport review results to next Union Council. JJ asks that the finance system doesn't change after training takes place. There were frustrations amongst student groups after Student Leader Conference in 2025. DC- encourages students to come and give direct feedback, any further questions can be sent afterwards.	
3. Policy Forum Updates	BA- Hosted an affordable diversity policy forum, a few students attended and also gathered feedback from students at Market Day and through Instagram stories.	

	The main theme is affordability being biggest barrier, food variety and communication is also an issue. Eg lots of students don't know about RHSU Rewards App, The Hub, Founders Dining Hall menu changes and options will be brought to Catering Steering Group. Issues raised for catered students. Food diversity – lots of awareness and education needed, which outlets provide foods with these various requirements, recommendations around clearer stickers and signage of what food is available. More affordable 'grab and go' options for students to utilise across campus. MP states that the catering steering group is taking place soon where other information will also be presented eg feedback from last year's Cost of Living survey and recommendations and joint commercial review from 2024 between SU and University.	
4. Speak Week Update	CJ gives background on Speak Week and states that it's currently taking place this week. Students are encouraged to answer 'what issue around your student experience would you like to be prioritised by our Sabbatical Officers?' Instagram, website and in person engagement is going well. Feedback is collated, themes are identified and feedback combined with other results from National Student Survey, Rate Your Union, and action logs. This helps form the top 20 list and then the next 8 priorities are voted on in Elections in March. 184 responses so far this week, majority comes from in person responses. Academic Reps volunteering to go out on campus to encourage students to engage with the campaign later in the week. Members are offered to sign-up to roam and get involved in collecting feedback and encouraged to reshare information on social media accounts. AB asks is there any plan to get feedback from students on London Campus? CJ says that there are lots of opportunities for students to submit feedback, the website has been updated to make the submission page more obvious. CJ will reach out to staff on London Campus to encourage more comms for their students to engage with the campaign.	

5. Turnitin	JW thanks those who contributed to conversations around Turnitin earlier this term. Turnitin have not used any RHUL work to train AI models, the University are committed to involving student voice and feedback into these conversations. If Turnitin do try to continue with this proposal in future, the University will consider using alternative platforms.	
6. Parking	MP states that last year, parking was included on Priority 8 but it was not added to ballot this year and ticked off as we had received guarantee from University that the Park and Ride scheme would continue. Last year's work resulted in students with permits being allowed to park in all car parks on the Egham campus. A busy time infographic was also created to understand where students are most likely to find a space at certain times of day/week. The University are no longer running the scheme as uptake was low but there are currently no alternative arrangements in place of this. The SU will be lobbying the university to increase parking options both in the short and long term. We will also seek student feedback on the issue in addition to those we have already received to help our argument. MP opens the conversation to members about concerns, feedback, suggestions. YD- parking for 9am is okay but 11am is difficult. Last term it took over 2 hours to find a parking space. Parking near Hox Park. No suitable place for cars in general. MP – more commuting students means more difficulty in finding space, it's also acknowledged that exiting campus is also difficult. YD asked about Runnymede car park as space is being used as storage for contractors. JL mentioned multistorey car park, and asked where the proposed site is. MP states that the proposed site is not identified but agrees that it would alleviate issue in future. There is a multi-storey on campus but it's not open or able to use as there is no safe access. HL asks if the footbridge can be used?	

	DC states that there are issues across campus and want to gather information so can be discussed. DF asks what is happening with Kingswood MP states that the issue is that the difference between Kingswood and campus requires a shuttle bus. Could Hox Park bus increase frequency? DC states that Kingswood is currently for sale but the site is currently locked down for security reasons. MP explains that there have been suggestions of allowing places that aren't currently being used. JJ asks if there has been any communication from the University about shutting down car parks. Eg construction taking place on car parks removes disabled space accessibility. Is there any consequence for people using disabled spaces who do not require them? MP confirms that there are consequences, MP, BA, DC and TL sit on a weekly working group which monitors different types of poor behaviour on campus. The University are starting to issue fines and points on licences for repeated behaviour and student misconduct panels etc. AB states that there was no clear, visible communication in advance of the car park closure for the part time job fair. MP agrees that the university should involve the SU in these communications so SU can relay information where there is engagement through social media etc. YD asks what advice is being given to students who drive and can't park on campus and experiencing late attendance/nonattendance to lectures. MP encourages students to complain both to the SU and premises teams at Uni. DC encourages students to submit official complaints to the University; Officers are lobbying the university and actioning as much as possible to tackle the issue. YD asks why the library car park is closed again. It was useful last year but now it is closed and students don't know why. MP reassures members that it will be mentioned as part of wider conversations with the university. JJ asks if there are any considerations around parking issues impacting student friendly timetables?	

	MP shares that staff are also facing the same issues, lecturers who drive understand the issues and needs to be fixed for everyone. DC states that in 2019 the commuter population was 22% on the Egham campus but we are now sitting at 46% (approx. 6,000 students). There is also less car parking available than in previous years. ML asks if it would be possible to set up a carpooling scheme to support students who live relatively closely? The University aren't funding the omnidrone centre, so what happens with spaces there? MP – Carpooling options have been considered but there are reservations around safety concerns for those students. YD comments on the number of speedbumps on campus and asks if there is anything that can be done to mitigate reckless driving without causing damage to car suspension as they are expensive? MP states that options have been discussed and an external provider suggested speedbumps but they are not a sole solution. Conversations about vehicle management board implementation have been taking place which would highlight the number of spaces available to prevent students driving around when no spaces are available.	
7. AOB	JL mentioned NL work on utilising social media to advertise events. Asking for Community Officers feedback. AB- if there is a Community Officer event, let Community Officers know through calendar invite so they know to attend and support where possible.	