

STUDENT EXECUTIVE MINUTES

MAY 2026

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT (6)

In-person: Isabella Cook (IC), Cameron Fields (President, chair) (CF), Holly McAdams (VP Academic) (HM), Vinny Pemberton (Sports Union President) (VP).

Online: Mayowa Okanlawon (MO), Emily Paton (EP).

APOLOGIES (0)

NOT PRESENT- NO APOLOGIES SENT (3)

Vignesh Kumar (VK), Simone Spence (SS), Meng Wu (MW).

IN ATTENDANCE

Eliot Wooding-Sherwin (SEC Projects & Campaigns, minutes) (EWS),

Kirsty McKeating (incoming VP Student Communities) (KM),

Joey Hunter (incoming VP Academic) (JH).

SUMMARY OF ALL MEETING DECISIONS

The Plant-Based Universities Union-Recognised Campaign application is **sent back to the students**.

HWUnion will **remain** in National Union of Students UK.

HWUnion will **remain** in National Union of Students Charity.

ACTION LOG

Action	Who?	Deadline	Update

Explore potential rewards for sitting on Student Executive.	EWS	01/08/2026	
Finalise Student Executive Review	CF	29/05/2026	

MEETING START

CF led introductions.

Approval of minutes: approved [April 2026 Minutes.docx](#)

REFLECTIONS ON EXEC

CF introduced and summarised previous democratic decision-making structure – Student Parliament. This was the first year of running Student Executive, seeking comments and questions around how we can improve it next year.

The success metrics for Student Executive:

- Members feeling able to debate and shape policy.
- Decisions being based on student evidence, not just opinion.
- A system that is democratic but still realistic, legal, and deliverable.
- Effective, streamlined and efficient.

[CF opens for questions and comments]

VP: Do you think the process will be more efficient in future?

CF: Yes. We think it will improve over time.

VP: Found the start difficult as felt less relevant to Sports Union. Now realise it's about having a wide variety of views on the team. Will be naturally smoother during handover to incoming Sports Union President.

Student Executive members agreed there should be greater visibility of Student Executive. The wider student body doesn't need to know the ins and outs of how it works but they should know it is something available to them and be able to find out how they can contribute. Members also note that students don't necessarily access

the website so utilising social media and other channels of communication to update on Student Executive would be beneficial.

Student Executive members discussed the idea of a 'mock meeting' as part of induction. Members also mentioned induction would benefit from drawing attention to the formatting of papers, such as 'this is where you will find the links'.

CF: Someone mentioned they wanted to be more involved in the delivery of actions, and we want to explore that idea a bit more with you. Is that something you have a view on?

Student Executive members agreed that it should be optional for members to get more involved in the delivery of actions, but it shouldn't be mandatory.

UNION-RECOGNISED CAMPAIGNS

PLANT-BASED UNIVERSITIES

Student Executive members discussed concerns around removing options for students. In particular, members discussed; gluten and soy allergies, athletes need for meat, and potentially increased food prices.

Student Executive members agreed they would be more in favour if the campaign was aiming to introduce one fully plant-based outlet or to increase plant-based food options, however, they are not supportive of a 100% plant-based campus.

Student Executive members also discussed the education aspect of the campaign and how there are other ways to encourage biodiversity and a more sustainable approach rather than just focussing on catering.

VP: Are there appropriate resources and equipment for vegans e.g. their own microwave?

Student Executive agrees there are concerns around the 100% plant-based.

Decision – SEND BACK TO STUDENTS

Consensus.

Student Executive invites the campaigners to address their concerns and to resubmit at the following meeting.

AFFILIATIONS

CF: Student Executive alone cannot decide for us to disaffiliate. If we vote to disaffiliate it will trigger another all-student vote.

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS UK

CF: We affiliate to the National Union of Students UK (NUS) as it is a national lobbying body for Student Unions. They advocate for the better treatment of students across the UK. We pay an annual fee for 2025/26 of £15,132.

KM: What does HWUnion receive in return?

CF: The amount comes from our block grant from the University. NUS UK doesn't receive additional funding; their member's affiliation fees cover their operational costs such as staff salaries, training, resources, all of which we benefit from in turn.

VP: If we left NUS, would we still be able to go to them for help?

CF: probably not but we would still get support from other Student Unions. There are several student unions that are not affiliated to NUS.

Decision – REMAIN IN NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS UK

Remain – 4

Disaffiliate – 0

Abstain – 2

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS CHARITY

CF: This is a related but separate affiliation. Being a part of National Union of Students Charity (NUS Charity) means we get operational costs cheaper and we receive support with our membership services.

Decision – REMAIN IN NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENT CHARITY

Remain – 5

Disaffiliate – 0

Abstain – 1

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

MO: Wondering what privileges/access/rewards Student Executive members could have access to? For example, discounts at the shop or academic bonus points. Additionally, how could I prove my term? For example, could we get a certificate?

CF: We will look into this and explore for next year.