

Better Forums (May): 12/05/26

Panellists: 16 Panellists [2 withdrawn, 4 no-shows]

Exec: Katrina, Amara attending virtually for Exec updates

LUU Staff: Aden, Emily, Fabiha, Lukas (+ Yandan and Zane from Marcomms)

Student Leaders: Nour Kasasbeh (SoM PGR Rep)

## Ground Rules:

1. Everyone should have an equal opportunity to have their voice heard
2. Raise your hand if you would like to speak
3. Be respectful and do not interrupt anyone
4. Stay engaged and listen to people when they speak

Panellist questions (pre)

- what constitutes a “political” issue and how the union takes a stance on things explained the need for a student mandate for decision (regarding making misogyny a hate crime)
- Asked about 3 year renew of policy (and how that works)

## Idea 1: Childcare Needs

### Discussion

[What is the price for the average nursery fee in the area? Is this in line with Bright Beginnings Nursery]

- Emily explained typical fee in area based on her research – said that BB typically on the higher end of private nursery fees in the area

[Based on comments: Extra funding might not be fair/backlash? Suggested amendment for a direct subsidy (same as university grant and choice of how it is used)

- Katrina says typically a payment cut for staff, could this be replicated for students?
- PGR stipend

[BB do they run as a for profit organisation] [ would costs be subbed by the university?]

- Under the university as a charity

[Parent/child study rooms – distracting for students]

- Doesn't need to be fancy – not just in libraries – dedicated space with accommodations and signs that say to expect noise/disruption

[How to adapt timetable for PGR commitments – how to ensure someone is looking after child e.g. for conferences]

- Extend BB to playgroups with dedicated staff member

Exec: no risks identified

**Vote:**

Consensus needed: 12

Yes: 15

No: 1

This idea DOES reach consensus.

Panellist question particular on point 3 stipend allowance and whether it needs to be means-tested (rather than just open to everyone) – will be passed on to Katrina for further/future amendment.

**Childcare amendment** – addition of “means-tested” to additional funding for Point 3 - idea holder says yes, panellists also say yes

**Exec Updates:**

- Katrina – PGR concerns, host PGR Cafes, Passport to Culture, anti-immigration/international student sentiments, cultural awareness training (microaggressions) - China trip, presenting awards, open meeting on international student experience, LUU strategy
- Shivani – Diversity Blog, panel for partnership awards, financial guide (RGSU)
- Lydia – Varsity, £10,000 inclusivity fund (e.g. BSL interpreter at the Rileys)
- Amara – misogyny a hate crime campaign (to be debated in parliament), SASHA accreditation for student leaders (around 20 societies), democratic engagement model and elected officers, LUU strategy and student voice, civic engagement
- Safiyah – Inter-faith Iftar, Women's Day rally/talk, sanctuary scholarship
- Eden – Cambridge conference on decolonising higher education, LibCon at Warwick, award from WYCA for “breaking bread” initiative

## Idea 2: PGR Eye Tests

### Discussion

[Seems rational and fair, especially if other unis are doing it – Why not consider Masters or undergrads]

- Lots of them, uni probably wouldn't agree – more likely to pass

Encouraged panellists to look at student leader feedback as not further questions.

Exec: liked idea, used to be a thing, no risk

### Vote:

Consensus needed: 12

Yes: 14

No: 2

This idea DOES reach consensus.

## Idea 3: Tuition Fees

### Discussion

[Clarification – for home and international e.g. for those not using SLC)

- Was originally advocating for both but university more hesitant – more conversations needed

[Negative comment – assume not relevant because people going through SLC wouldn't be concerned by this policy]

- International student levels dropping, they provide a lot of income, reputational issue, funding, research

Exec: No risk

## Vote:

Consensus needed: 12

Yes: 16

No: 0

This idea DOES reach consensus.

## Additional Comments

- School of Education – offered a volunteer job in local academy afterschool club – has existed before but has been cancelled for next year – maybe link to passed idea – maybe offer internship or scholarship opportunity
- Fabiha notes: refresh of panellist training, particularly the online voting/Menti system and what it means to vote on a “political” issue