

## AGENDA

Annual Members Meeting, **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 16:00–19:00pm** in Harrington Lecture Theatre (HALT)/or via Microsoft Teams.

		<b>Format</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Presenters</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome</b>			
1.1	Chair to welcome members			<b>Chair</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Meeting Administration</b>			
2.1	Ratify the minutes of the previous Annual Members Meeting	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Ratify</b>	<b>Chair</b>
2.2	Presentation of the Trustees' Annual Report & Work of the Students' Union	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Elected Officers</b>
2.3	Presentation of the Financial Accounts	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Director of Finance &amp; Services</b>
2.4	Presentation on new Representation structures and discussion on communities	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Union President</b>
2.5	Notification of Appointment of Financial Auditors and Returning Officer	<b>Oral</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Union President</b>
2.6	Notification of intended affiliations for next year	<b>Oral</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Union President</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resolutions</b>			
<p><b>3.1 Enhancing Mental Health, Wellbeing, and Accessibility Support for Students – Cali Brown</b></p> <p>I would like to discuss ideas and improvements to the mental health and wellbeing for students with health issues and disabilities. Including reasonable/additional exam adjustments, attendance and ideas for future outings to improve mental health wellbeing , like the wellbeing walks but more accessible and improved.</p>				
<p><b>3.2 Expanding Work Hour Limits and Employment Rights for International Students – Avery Greatorex</b></p> <p>This Union Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Current UK visa restrictions limit international students to working only 20 hours per week during term time, with no access to self-employment.</li> <li>2. Volunteering currently counts towards these restricted hours, discouraging students from engaging in unpaid community work.</li> <li>3. The ongoing cost of living crisis has significantly impacted students, particularly international students who often face higher tuition fees and limited financial support.</li> </ol> <p>This Union Believes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. International students should not have to rely solely on personal savings, family support, or high-interest private loans to survive.</li> </ol>				

5. The restrictions on working hours, self-employment, and volunteering create unnecessary financial hardship and limit opportunities for skill development.
6. Many international students struggle to afford rent, food, and basic necessities, with some facing financial crises due to the instability of their home countries.
7. Allowing self-employment and removing volunteering from work-hour calculations would improve financial independence and community involvement without compromising academic commitments.

This Union Resolves:

8. To campaign for the government to increase international student work-hour limits beyond 20 hours per week during term time.
9. To advocate for the right of international students to engage in self-employment, freelancing, and gig work legally.
10. To push for volunteering to be excluded from work-hour calculations, encouraging students to contribute to their communities without penalty.
11. To lobby local MPs, the university, and relevant national bodies, collaborating with student and advocacy groups to demand these necessary changes.
12. To ensure international students at this university are informed about their rights and provided with resources to manage financial challenges.

This policy will support international students' financial security and ensure fairer treatment in a worsening economic climate.

### **3.3 Support for International Students on placement by Tin Chak Yee**

To lobby the University to explore the possibility of introducing a travel reimbursement scheme similar to NHS Learning Support Fund for international students with clinical placements.

To lobby the AR Placement team to consider international students' travel expenses when allocating clinical placements if professional requirements and placement capacity allow

Why?

Health students could be allocated mandatory clinical placements anywhere in the North West, and travel could be expensive. For example, commuting to Blackpool Victoria Hospital costs up to £17.5 a day. However, international students are not entitled to NHS LSF, which reimburses students' travel expenses for home students. This policy would ease their financial stress and enable them to focus on learning whilst on placement.

### **3.4 Campaign for Higher Education Funding Reform by Tin Chak Yee**

To campaign for maintenance loans to be set at a level that reflects the actual cost of living and updated in line with inflation

To campaign for the re-introduction of maintenance grants for the most disadvantaged students

To advocate for an alternative, de-marketised higher education funding model (e.g. phased abolition of tuition fees and re-introduction of teaching grants)

Why?

England is currently the only nation in the UK that does not provide maintenance grants for students from low-income backgrounds. Maintenance loans have not kept up with inflation, leaving many to rely on part-time jobs to survive. A decent maintenance support would help many UCLan students enjoy uni life without the financial stress.

Students shouldn't have £50000 in debt just for choosing education. The marketised HE system also leaves post-92 unis like UCLan in financial challenges. The SU should lobby the new government to honour the manifesto pledge and reform the funding system.

## **Action Explainer**

**Approve** = This action is used to approve matters that need a formal vote by members.

**Note** = This action is used for updates or papers that shouldn't warrant too much discussion or comment but are, however, still items that are important for Members to have awareness of.

**Ratify** = This action is usually attached to a paper that has been through one or two stages of prior approval. Ratification means to make something officially and finally approved.