

**Student Panel 1 Minutes**  
**Wednesday 12th November 2025**

No.	Item
1.	<p><b>Quorum &amp; attendees</b></p> <p>Quorum Established (31/30 Student Panellists)</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b></p> <p><b>Staff:</b> Freya Askwith-Martin- (Acting Union Chair) SU President Hamish Wilkinson – Democracy Coordinator &amp; Student Panel Secretary Heather Wade - Voice &amp; Representation Manager</p> <p><b>SU Officers</b> Dobby Dey - Equity Officer Bethany Murphy - Activities Officer Irfan Rashid Rather - Education Officer</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Rae Ellis-Barron - Operations Manager James Bartholomew - Sports Development Coordinator Becky Whyley-Smith - Subject Librarian</p>
2.	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Apologies were given by Caroline Devenport – Union Chair</p> <hr/> <p>The Union Chair welcomed attendees and introduced the panel's rules and role at the Students' Union. The Chair introduced the purpose of the Student Panel, explaining that it serves as the main decision-making body for Huddersfield Students' Union. Members were informed that they would be discussing a series of "Big Ideas" submitted by University of Huddersfield students via the SU's online platform. The aim of the session was to consider each idea, share honest views in group discussions, and collectively decide whether each proposal should be taken forward as Union policy. The process for the meeting was outlined: each idea would first be presented briefly, followed by 20 minutes of table discussions supported by facilitators. If all tables agreed, the idea would automatically pass and become SU policy. If opinions were split, further discussion would take place to seek consensus; if disagreement remained, the idea would not pass but would be revisited in the future. Participants were reminded to speak up if they disagreed, to respect differing opinions, and to focus on whether they supported each idea rather than the logistics of implementation. The Chair concluded by encouraging open, respectful debate and invited the group to begin with the first idea.</p>
	<b>Ordinary Business</b>

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3.	<p data-bbox="220 309 523 342"><b>1. Meat Free Mondays</b></p> <p data-bbox="220 353 1401 465">The Chair introduced the idea, on behalf of Jayne Clegg. After discussions in groups, the Student Panel did not reach a consensus, and the idea has <b>Fallen.</b></p> <p data-bbox="220 510 778 544"><b>Panel Comments/Amendments included:</b></p> <p data-bbox="220 555 1473 813"><b>Group 1:</b> We did reach a consensus during our initial discussions. Many students had mixed views and sat 'on the bench' in terms of whether Meat Free Mondays should be taken forward. There is certainly a place for this idea in some capacity at this University. There should be considerations on how it is promoted, and we believe that it should be trailed before being rolled out (once per month). Questions were brought up around how this policy could impact food waste, and the group felt that additional research would be needed. There should be an opportunity for more meat free options at university, and we are very much open to that.</p> <p data-bbox="220 857 1465 1081"><b>Group 2:</b> At first, the group was split on this idea. The positive environmental impact of this policy was a big area that was noted. However, the group did feel that taking away freedom of choice from students would be negatively seen. There should be more vegetarian/vegan options available for students across all the catering outlets. The group in the end did reach a consensus and we would like to see this idea become policy. There should be more meat free options available for students.</p> <p data-bbox="220 1126 1425 1283"><b>Group 3:</b> The group couldn't reach a consensus during our discussions. Students made good points on both sides of the argument. The environmental and animal welfare aspects were strongly fought against the freedom of choice stance. Having more options available for students would be great. Whilst ensuring choice is available for all.</p> <p data-bbox="220 1328 1449 1440"><b>Additional 10 Minute Discussion took place;</b> it was suggested by the Democracy Coordinator that the groups could suggest different menu items that we could take forward to university catering:</p> <p data-bbox="220 1451 1473 1709"><b>Group 1:</b> The group suggested that taster sessions from university catering could influence future catering options. Better advertisement outside of student central would be good, as there are lots of buildings on campus and not everyone will know what food options are available at the International Kitchen. New food items or a meat free day should be promoted in advance. Food should be inspired by our international student communities. Vegan options tend to be quite basic, and attention should be made to ensure the meat and vegetarian/vegan options are the same level of quality.</p> <p data-bbox="220 1753 1473 1865"><b>Group 2:</b> The group made similar remarks as the previous group. Vegetarian/vegan food can be viewed as inferior to the meat options. Inspiration from international cuisine could help with this.</p> <p data-bbox="220 1910 1449 2022"><b>Group 3:</b> The group said that more sustainable meat could be utilised (free range and organic sourced within the local area). The range of sandwiches in the SU shop and increasing options available would be good. Vegetarian curry and chickpea dishes are a great option (in terms of</p>

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	<p>high protein content). Informed choices should be promoted, telling students that meat and vegetarian/vegan dishes have the same level of protein, along with carbon footprint differences etc. More additional Information on the dishes can support our students in making informed choices.</p> <p><b>None of the tables could reach consensus, but feedback will be taken back to the Idea proposer and University Catering.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>2. Get Starbucks out of University Cafés</b></p> <p>The idea proposer Fiona Buckmaster briefed the panel on their idea. After discussions in groups, the Student Panel did not reach a consensus, and the idea has <b>Fallen.</b></p> <p><b>Panel Comments/Amendments included:</b></p> <p><b>Group 1:</b> The group came to a consensus on the idea. The price of coffee is an issue for students and allowing for cheaper options on campus is a positive. The ethical and political concerns around Starbucks is something that students are aware and concerned by. The removal of the 'proud to serve' outlets should be easy to undertake for the university. Local coffee providers/suppliers are something that students care about. We all want to remove Starbucks from the University</p> <p><b>Group 2:</b> We did not reach a consensus on the idea, and many different views were noted. In terms of support for the idea, the environmental impact is a big issue raised, and it was favourable among many students that we should support local coffee suppliers. Better advertisement of different cafés across campus is useful. However, the argument against this idea is that Starbucks is a recognised brand, and students know what they are getting when they purchase one of their products.</p> <p><b>Group 3:</b> We did reach a consensus on this idea, but we did have good arguments both for and against. Starbucks have a strong brand identity and despite challenges, there is strong support for the brand. They have a greater variety of options available, and the quality of the product is noted. However, the Cost, ethical and sustainable arguments were stronger, and we should highlight and focus local options that are available instead.</p> <p><b>Additional 10 Minute Discussion took place, to see If an agreement could be reached.</b></p> <p><b>Group 1:</b> The group says that students care about convenience over what brand of coffee is available on campus. Other big coffee brands are available around Huddersfield. Daphne Steel Building does have good quality coffee products available. Maybe we should promote this outlet better to students?</p>

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	<p><b>Group 2:</b> The group did not reach an agreement fully on the idea. Having other options available is still a good thing. It would be interesting to run a test, so we could see if students prefer big brand or local options.</p> <p><b>Group 3:</b> The group still agrees with the idea from a sustainable and cost point of view. We talked about how a variety of products could still be made available, even with a local coffee supplier. On a practical level, the rollout of new outlets should be done slowly.</p> <p><b>None of the tables could reach consensus. But feedback will be given to the University Catering manager.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>3. MyHud Calendar Syncing with Outlook</b></p> <p>The Idea proposer Tyler McCluskey Briefed the panel on their idea.</p> <p>After discussions in groups, the Student Panel did not reach a consensus, and the idea has <b>Fallen.</b></p> <p><b>Panel Comments/Amendments included:</b></p> <p><b>Group 1:</b> No consensus could be reached by the group. Good discussions took place, and a mix of views were noted. We did not look at the logistics of the idea, but just purely on the idea's values. At the start of the discussion, we did think it was a good Idea, in terms of syncing full schedules and ensuring student's stay organised. However, as discussions went on, we started to ask if this idea is worth pursuing? Some students don't use outlook at all. Personal details and information being available to other people is a concern. The priority should be to improve Myhud, compared with syncing outlook and myhud together.</p> <p><b>Group 2:</b> We spoke about Myhud not being reliable. It would be good to have all information in one place. It would be convenient to have one calendar, However, like what the other group mentioned, it was noted that personal details on display could be an issue. Having two main platforms to check in on could be confusing. However, we did reach a consensus, and we would like to pass this policy.</p> <p><b>Group 3:</b> We were initially in favour, and we did agree that the idea should be passed along with the noted concerns. Having personal, work and university events all in one place could be helpful for some students. Office 365 could be better utilised within the university. A subscription feed to the native calendar that lists student's events could be a potential solution. Potential concerns around incorrect syncing is a noted issue. We do not know the tech limitations of the university, it's a complex process of organising the timetable, let alone the technology that accompanies it. Myhud could be more reliable at the least.</p>

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	<p><b>Additional 10 Minute Discussion took place, to see if an agreement could be reached.</b></p> <p><b>Group 1:</b> The group said that a consensus still was not reached. Priority should be Improving the Myhud app experience for students. As for other suggestions, students should be able to edit Myhud calendar and be able to import data. Another layer of tech is not necessary.</p> <p><b>Group 2:</b> The group reached a consensus on the proposal. This Idea could be an option. Issues around Myhud being slow and not showing that you've enrolled is a concern. The app is worse than the web version and should be fixed</p> <p><b>Group 3:</b> The group still agrees with the Idea. Technical limitations are a potential Issue. A subscription feed to the native calendar is a good solution to help students keep on track, while avoiding more technology or apps to check in on. We talked about Myhud and its failings, especially around speed of use etc.</p> <p>None of the tables could reach consensus. But feedback will be given to the big idea proposer.</p> <p><b>4. Quiet Graduations</b></p> <p>The idea proposer, Jamilah Hussain, provided the panel with an overview of their proposal. The idea has already been approved by the University and is currently in development, with implementation planned for the July 2026 graduation ceremonies. Today's Student Panel was used as an opportunity to gather further feedback and insight from students to help shape the rollout. Flipchart paper was provided for groups to record their thoughts, which will be shared with the SU President and the idea proposer for consideration.</p> <p><b>Each table filled out a flipchart paper with feedback; therefore, we did not ask the facilitators to read out feedback in the room.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>End of Student Panel.</b></p> <p><b>Formal Feedback</b></p> <p>The Union Chair made note of the feedback forms, once filled out the panellists can receive their payment card and lanyard.</p> <p><b>Charity brief</b></p> <p>The SU Activities Officer briefed the panel on charity work that she has been looking into and asked the panel to help suggest a charity the SU should support.</p>

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	<b>Close of Student Panel</b> The Union Chair thanked students and staff for attending the event today.
4	<b>Date of the next meeting</b> The next Student Panel will take place on Wednesday 4th February 2026