



**BIRKBECK
STUDENTS'
UNION**
HERE FOR YOU

ELLIE RIVERA

Education Student Leader



About Ellie's Role:

Ellie is an **Education Student Leader**. The purpose of this Education Student Leader is to be the lead officer for students on educational policy development. They ensure students get the highest academic quality areas including teaching, feedback and assessment and timetabling. This elected student will also work closely with Course Representatives/Academic representatives to improve education issues in the University. As well as to work on behalf of Birkbeck students to improve the student experience; Represent the needs of students in all areas of work, including University committees and leadership.

Her main responsibilities include:

- Represent the views of students at Birkbeck.
 - As a representative of Birkbeck students, be the face of the Students' Union.
 - Empower Course Representations/ Academic representatives to gain an understanding of education issues students are facing and campaigning for change.
 - Be a point of contact for Birkbeck students.
 - To proactively collect feedback and input from students regularly to ensure work is representative.
 - Attend University meetings and committees, elevating the student voice at these levels.
 - Sit on Academic Panels.
 - Meet regularly with key leaders in the University.
 - Be a Governor at Birkbeck University.
- **Work with Birkbeck University to ensure their work meets students' needs, and improve the student experience.**
 - Create initiatives to improve the student experience at Birkbeck.
 - Lobby the University for change.
 - Negotiate best outcomes for students.
 - Run campaigns, events and activities to benefit and enhance the student experience.
- **Develop a community for Birkbeck students.**
 - Create initiatives to improve the student experience.
 - Create opportunities for students to network with other students, or to increase engagement with Union activity.
- **Attend Student Union meetings.**

Ellie's Manifesto:

"1. Altering the AI policy to work better for students.

I would like to ensure that the AI policy is given enough consideration to take into account students with all levels of ability in order to provide fairness. This would be done by meeting with the drafting members of the AI policy and other officers - especially the disability officer.

2. Create guidelines for lecturer's assignment feedback.

When feedback to our assessments is limited, how are we supposed to improve when we do not understand what we can do better or what we did wrong? With this in mind, I would like to create guidelines for lecturers so that students get feedback relating to assessments giving opportunities to improve grades in future assessments.

3. Campaign for suitable timetables with consideration to travel time for each term.

During my studies, I had 1.5 hour lectures one after the other. On certain occasions I had to be in the main Mallet Street building and straight after in the Euston Road building. I thought this was unfair as the walk would take up to 15 minutes. I did not think this was fair and it would definitely not be fair for students who may have mobility issues. For this reason, I would like to ensure that at least every subsequent lecture, should take place in a nearby classroom. This would avoid missing the start of a new lecture or having to rush from one to the next lecture.

4. Adjustments on assessments covering topics that are not taught due to strikes.

As your student officer, I will liaise with our students, lecturers, and the heads of Birkbeck to come to the best outcome for students, so that the best decisions are made. This would require collaboration on your side so when you are supposed to be assessed on something that you were not taught. Then I could write to the decision makers who can get reduced questions or more fairer ways on how you are being assessed.

5. Creating an education learning page for education-focused events and resources.

This would give students clear guidance on who their relevant Learning Development Tutor are. Also, clear access and links to pre-recorded sessions on academic goals. For example, how to be more critical in essays or how to reference correctly. Also, links to future sessions are provided by the Learning Development Tutors. More information on what is and how to access Studiosity, its limits and how to use it."

Ellie's Additional Postings:

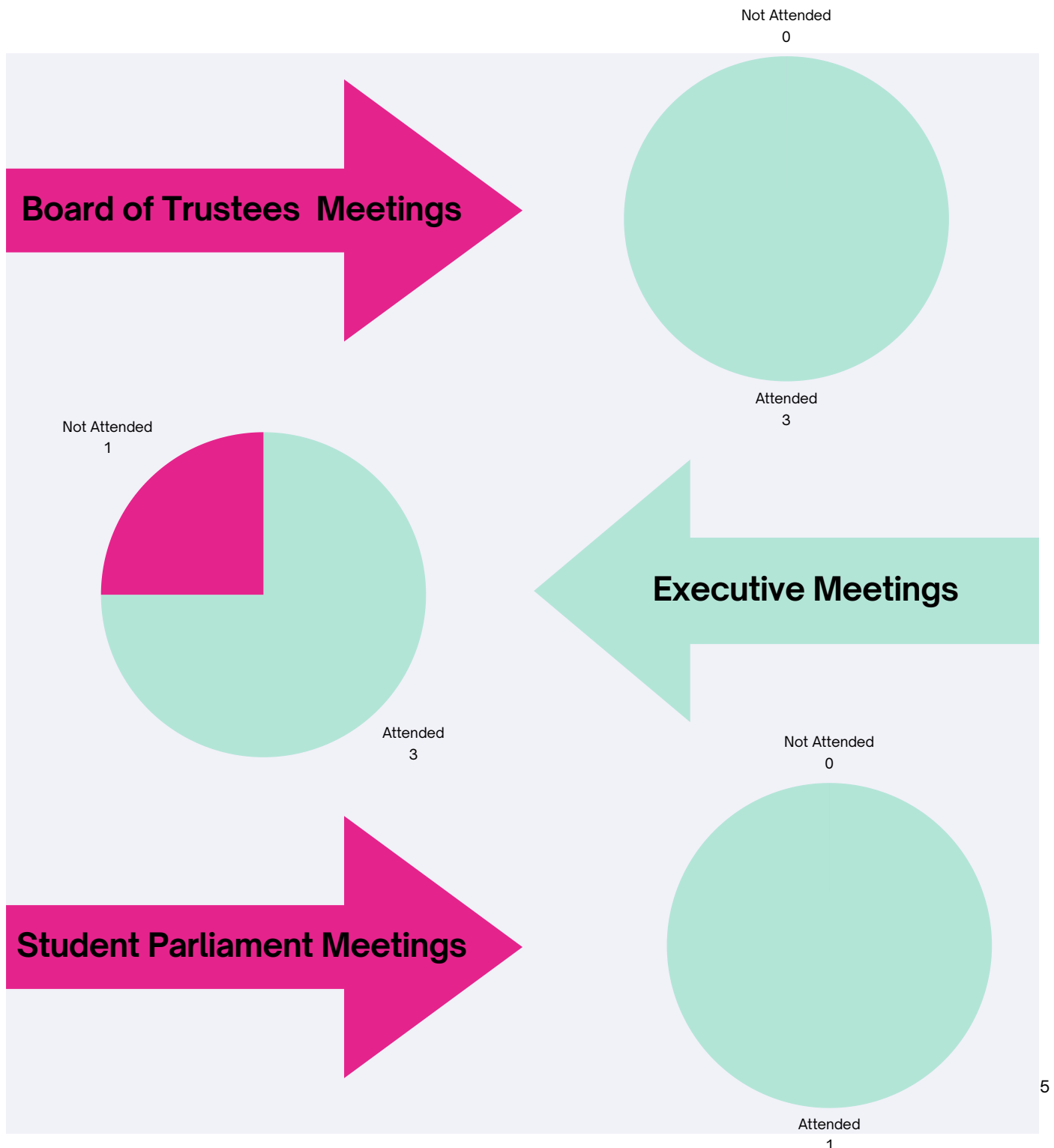
In addition to her role as education student leader, Ellie has taken on partial responsibilities as an **International Students Liberation Leader** due to the previous incumbent stepping down.

This role is split with a second officer and take up approximately three hours per week.

The purpose of the International Students Leader role is to represent the needs and views of all international students at Birkbeck. she works on behalf of Birkbeck students to improve the student experience; lobby the University to make positive change at Birkbeck, attend University committees and meet regularly with leadership and create a Birkbeck community.



Committee Attendance Stats:



NAME: Ellie Rivera
ROLE: Education Student Leader
TERM: 1

INTRODUCTION:

I have taken my role very seriously and dealt with every issues presented to the best of my abilities. Due to personal circumstances I was not able to work the first month and a half of my tenure yet once these were resolved I have been attending near to 100% of meetings and carry out not only my manifesto objectives but also take on issues that have come up which have not been planned.

MANIFESTO OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES:

1. Altering the AI policy to work better for students

- There is a working group in place which has been set up after meeting with various college key players in drafting the AI policy.

2. Create guidelines for lecturer's assignment feedback

- After raising the current state of some feedback given, especially relating to the law school, a 10 step plan which was written and accepted years ago has been brought back to the memory of college leaders and is being looked at by them to ensure feedback is in line with what students need.

3. Campaign for suitable timetables with consideration to travel time for each term

- This is an ongoing point. Meetings have been held to discuss the use of the Euston Square Building and I have raised the timetable conflict which exists when commuting to and from the Malet Street building and Euston Square.

4. Adjustments on assessments covering topics that are not taught due to strikes

- Since the strikes are now on pause, this point is not relevant; however, if the strikes were to resume and students were to complain in relation to strikes I would be happy to ensure this point in my manifesto is carried out.

5. Creating an education learning page for education-focused events and resources

- I have added two tabs on our website. For the first one 'Succeeding at Birkbeck' is a guide to studying in Birkbeck with tips given for students to academically succeed at Birkbeck. This includes a picture of the academic skills book display which I put together in the library. The second tab 'Subject-Specific Tutors and Resources' which is a page which gives information in this topic for all students in the university about who their Learning Development Tutors are. It also includes useful online resources for students to progress academically.

OTHER OUTCOMES:

- Law department issues related to solving issues relating to timetables and lecturers.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Course rep structure changed.
- Attended welcome week to increase visibility of myself amongst students

Role: Co International Student Leader

6. Ensuring a smooth transition from elected leader to joint leader role

- Drafted a letter which addressed the issue of changing leaders to share through the student union to students

7. Creating events

- Attended an event at The George in which I gathered information about what students would like to see more from their leaders.