

# Minutes

Meeting:	International Student Assembly
Date:	Monday, April 11 2016
Paper:	Minutes
Author:	Breanne Schnell
Purpose:	Record of Decision Making

## Union of UEA Students Purpose:

“To enrich the life of every UEA student”

## Minutes of the International Student Assembly

**11 April 2016**

### Voting Members present:

Malaika Jaovisidha (Committee Chair), Oksana Shlonimskaya (Committee Member), Sheri Lau (Committee Member), Anastasija Sahovksa, Rajesh Kumar, Akone Matsumoto, Hussam Hussein, Chloe Zhu, Jasmine Liew Conroy, Kittanya Tiptanawadee

### Apologies:

Ting Ni (International Officer), Yinbo Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer), Jean Roeting (Committee Member)

### Chair:

Malaika Jaovisidha

### In attendance:

Tony Moore (Democracy and Governance Coordinator), Breanne Schnell (International Student Support – Student Staff)

### 1 Statements from the Chair

Chair welcomed everyone, and started the meeting.

### 2 Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes approved

### 3 Report from International Student Officer

Ting was not present.

#### **4 More inclusive LCR nights:** Hussam Hussein

Hassam discussed how not many international students attend the LCR nights because the music is primarily British songs, which they are unfamiliar with. He suggested that more international songs should be played at LCR nights, or the inclusion of international themes.

- Oksana expressed concern with cultural appropriation with international themed parties.
- The Blue Bar was suggested as a place for multi-cultural music.
- Tony said that we could collaborate with Zoe Phillips in the Union with how to integrate it into the club nights
- Hassam asked if anyone would want to bring the event to council. A few were interested.

#### **5 Two International Officers:** One non-EU and another EU

Malaika suggested that there should be two international officers instead of one: one to represent EU students and one to represent non-EU students as the international student populations face different issues and challenges.

- Oksana agreed that two heads are better than one
- Hassam had some suggestions on the language of the bill
- It was brought up if the vote should wait after the referendum was voted on
  - Tony said if the UK were to separate from the EU, than it was for all the more reason to have a EU officer during a time of transition
- Kittanya suggested that the International Ambassadors (EU and non-EU) work together more closely

#### **6 Easter break discussion**

Malaika opened discussion for how Easter break went for the international students still on campus

- Many voiced frustration about the hours places were open, especially the shop and Campus Kitchen
- Suggestion for more activities
- Suggestion for better posting of when places are open and nearby places to go for food
- Suggestion for the number of hours that the shop is open to remain the same, but to shift to a later time to be more convenient for students
- Suggestion to advertise INTO Café as alternative to Campus Kitchen when closed (many were unaware they were open)

#### **7 BBQ event**

Oksana explained the BBQ event that was to take place on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. She said that she needed help with advertising.

#### **8 Event with INTO**

Oksana explained that the BBQ event with INTO is to be a Union welcome party, along with an end of year celebration. Tony suggested that the full-

time officers should be invited along with the Opportunities team to explain what the Student Union does.

## **9 Open Discussion**

- International students struggling to connect with British students in classes
  - The problem was brought up of international students only hanging out with students of their own language. This is especially a problem in modules when home students do not want to pair up with international students with different levels of language skills.
- Discussion about the PAL/mentor program
  - Discussion about how to hold PAL mentors accountable to actually help international students
- Discussion about how to integrate international students into campus accommodation better
  - Suggestion about working on guarantor scheme
  - Suggestion to provide international students with documents about trusted agencies by the university if they don't want to use Homerun

## **8 Concluding statements**

Malaika asked if anyone else had anything to add. No one did.