

# minutes

Meeting:	International Students Assembly
Date:	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Paper:	International Assembly Autumn 16 – 1 (IA100)
Author:	Muqaddam Malik
Purpose:	Record of Induction and Elections

## **Union of UEA Students Purpose:**

“To enrich the life of every UEA student”

## **Minutes of the International Assembly Autumn 2016 – 1**

**18<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Voting Members present:** 42 members

**Chair:** Malaika Jaovisidha (HIS[International Officer]) and Amanie Mathurin (DEV)

## **Apologies:**

**In attendance:** Muqaddam Malik (Assemblies Assistant) and Silvia Harvey (International and Postgraduate Activities Coordinator)

## **IA101      How was Fresher's from an international perspective?**

Malaika welcomes the new students and introduces the International Assembly and its function. Being the first meeting, Malaika assumed the role of Chair. Malaika presents on the union and its democracy.

The Chair opened the floor to the assembly to express their ideas on arrivals.

- Members expressed delight at the Carrow Road reception as all the International students got to meet and interact together.
- There was a suggestion to have more socials in contrast to all the parties during fresher's week.
- A Study Abroad student felt neglected as most events were based around fresher's and hoped to see greater

## **IA105\*      Elections**

Malaika opted to head into elections before the other agenda points as the assembly had made quorum. Malaika explained the procedure of the elections and Muqaddam outlined the roles of the various positions.

- Malaika opened nominations for the committee positions.
  - COMMITTEE ELECTION
  - Silvia Castro Torres, Oksana Shlonimskaya, Nick Peroulakis, Nazar Wernsing, Amanie Mathurin and Katharina Wodenitscharow self nominate. There are three open positions, each member can vote for two candidates out of the six.
  - Each of the candidates delivers a sixty second speech.
  - Silvia, Katharina and Oksana are elected with 36, 24 and 22 votes respectively.
  - VICE CHAIR ELECTION
  - Jean Roeting self nominates and delivers his speech.
  - Members can only vote once.
  - Jean is elected unanimously.
  - CHAIR ELECTION
  - Nazar Wernsing, Amanie Mathurin and Flora Mavri self nominate, each delivers a sixty second speech.

- Members can only vote for one candidate.
- Amanie is elected. The results are as follows: Amanie 19, Flora 12 and Nazar 11.

**IA102/103      How is Norwich as a student city?/How was your first month at UEA?**

Malaika recommended the agenda points two and three to be discussed together. Malaika then handed over the chairing role to the newly elected chair Amanie Mathurin. The Chair opened the floor to comments and points on the topics at hand.

- Oksana enjoys living and studying in Norwich as it is a small city thus makes its comfortable. Others in the assembly share this sentiment.
- Cecilia says the city is student friendly as it is easy to get around and the city is quiet.
- Members of the assembly have a generally positive outlook of the city in their first couple of weeks.

The Chair introduced the second topic and opened the floor for comments.

- Members felt that the Societies Fair was overwhelming but the various societies were very welcoming.
- A few members felt the need for more socials during fresher's week as opposed to numerous parties.
- Cecilia and Oksana raised the point that the stands at the societies fair need to be reorganized for efficiency and to reflect the sizes of the societies. This was an issue as the International Student Society (ISS) stand was placed in the final row of the fair despite being one of the largest societies on campus engaging with a large demographic of UEA students.
- A study abroad student pointed out that as an International it was harder to integrate with the local (British) students and suggested to have a week where Internationals could integrate with the locals.
- Liam, Jean and Cecilia suggested the need for a better induction for students who study in the Francophone high school system, as they are not used to independent study and coursework. It is harder for the to integrate and thrive in university as they need to catch up.

- Numerous students felt the International Workshop was not helpful and should be replaced with better inductions.
- Flora asked for the possibility of introducing better communication channels for internationals in their initial classes and induction week. This would allow more internationals on the same course to meet each other and interact.

#### **IA104      What do you know about CareerCentral?**

The Chair introduced CareerCentral and outlined the benefits of the service to international students. Malaika and Amanie explained it helps with CVs, Job Searches, Internships, Planning and Subject specific talks.

The Chair asked if the members of the assembly had heard of CareerCentral or used its services.

- A few members in the assembly have used it and are taking part in the UEA Award program.
- Some older members of the assembly encouraged the fresher's to make the most of the service.

#### **IA106      Open Discussion**

The Chair opened the floor to any other business. Malaika introduced Flora Mavri to the assembly, who had an issue to talk about.

- Flora Mavri spoke on behalf of a number of students and explained that they were racially attacked during a house party. The neighbor of Flora complained about noise before shining a light in the faces of the party goers and abused the students with the following terms:
  - \*F\*\*\*ing foreigners\*
  - \*House of ISIS\*
  - \*International whores\*
  - \*C\*\*\*s\*
- Flora explained that she trespassed on to the property and harassed the guests with a flashlight. Another person smashed the rear view mirror of a party-goers car. They did get the number plate and a partial description of the perpetrator. The woman then screamed at

party goes in Flora's house and only spoke to a Norwegian girl stating that they were "the right kind of foreigner" – the girl is tall and blonde as opposed to Flora and the other students at the party.

- Jean and Cecilia corroborated Flora's account of the incident and stated that Flora did not exaggerate at all. Jean arrived midway through the incident but received insults from the woman calling the party goes "F\*\*\*ing foreigners."
- Flora stated that the neighbor pointed to houses of international students on their street and referred to them as "Houses of ISIS."
- Flora wrote an account of this in Concrete and hopes to bring the matter to light and offer support to anyone who has suffered a similar incident.

After the account, the assembly thanked Flora for the narrative of the incident and offered their support. Malaika stated that the Student's Union would always offer international students support and assistance when required.

### **Time, Date and Location of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016, 6pm, Bookable Room 5.