

## Minutes



Meeting:	BME Caucus
Date:	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October
Paper:	03
Author:	Annie Bhila
Purpose:	Record of First Meeting of 2016/17

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

“To enrich the life of every UEA student”

### **Caucus Notes**

1. The Union stated that there would be increased resources for Part Time Officers for the current year.
2. That Black History Month is our most important awareness raising event and this occurs relatively early in the Autumn Semester.

### **Caucus Believes**

1. The Ethnic Minorities Officer has made every effort to promote a wide-ranging set of events for this year’s BHM.
2. That because of what we view as a lack of resources from the Union, our Officer has faced severe difficulties that, as a student volunteer, he should not have, in trying to promote a successful BHM.

### **Caucus Resolves**

1. To express our disappointment in the lack of resources given to our Officer.

## **Minutes of the BME Caucus**

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

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## **Chair:**

Hussam Hussein (DEV),

## **In attendance:**

Hussam Hussein (DEV), Tarun Sridhar (LAW), Bhavna Raghuvanshi (LAW), Khyatee Tewari (LAW) ,Chloe Alexandra Wint (PPL), Noura Khalil (BIO), Nyime Onene Akara(NBS), Skandan Skandan (BIO),Jessica Fong (BIO),Prudy Zheng (DEV), Seb Bekos (PPL)

### **1. Introduction by Officer**

- Officer began the meeting by introducing himself to the Caucus.

### **2. Election Of Chair and Deputy**

- The Officer explained the different roles within the Caucus and invited those in attendance to nominate themselves for the positions of Chair and Deputy.
- A temporary chair was elected. Hussam Hussein elected.
- Minutes of the previous caucus meeting have been approved.

### **3. Statements from the Chair**

- Hussam commenced chairing the meeting by explaining the role of union council reps and defining who can identify as an ethnic minority.

### **4. Election of Council Reps**

- Those in attendance were called upon to nominate themselves for the role of council reps.
- Three Council reps were elected. Chloe Wint, Khyatee Tewari and Bhavna Raghuvanshi elected.
- Caucus motioned that elections would be held online for the remaining positions.

### **5. Monday Night Projects not enough in terms of addressing the issue of LCR nights not being inclusive**

- Hussam and Tarun brought up that no one goes out on a Monday and advertising is poor.
- Caucus agreed that this was a poor response to the motion passed in the last meeting.

- Khyatee questioned if there were mechanisms in place to ensure that what we have asked the Union for is being implemented.
- Bhavna commented on the lack of transparency in the SU.
- Mandating Officer to express his and the Caucus' disappointment in relation to advertisement of these events to all SU democratic institutions.
- The caucus unanimously expressed strong concerns about the decision of the SU to give as an LCR Club Night for BHM a Thursday night and not a Tuesday or Saturday night. This shows again the interest of the SU to support the commercial side of events rather than the liberation and campaigning. Tarun has been mandated by this caucus to express concern about this decision of the SU to all democratic SU institutions.
- Motion passed and was approved with consensus.
- Tarun informed the caucus about the Club night in October for Black History Month.

#### **6. Black History Month update from Officer**

- Officer commented on the difficulties faced during his planning of Black History month in terms of advertising because it was a week after fresher's week.
- Khyatee suggests that it seems SU prioritises commercial projects over liberation projects like Black History month.
- Mandating Officer to work with ethical issues officer and campaigns and democracy officer to tackle such issues.
- Motion passed and accepted by caucus with consensus.
- Caucus informed of market on the 27<sup>th</sup> to showcase different cultures.

#### **7. Other campaigns from officer**

- "Why is my curriculum white" campaign discussed in detail.
- Officer informed Caucus of plans to work with the library to give out bookmarkers with information about the campaign followed by a profile of BME academic.
- Officer asked for contributions from the Caucus.
- Khyatee asked about the possible introduction of a few books by BME academics and more texts about issues of race being made available.

#### **8. NUS conference:**

- Chair informed us that NUS Black Students Campaign Winter Conference was the last weekend of November.
- Proposal of more people from caucus to attend
- Officer to bring it up in the next Students Officer Committee meeting.

## **9. Any other issues?**

- Comments from Skandan Skandan about how societies and clubs barely engage with community
- Issues of when the next meeting should be held. Chair will define this with the SU and Tarun