

**Minutes**

**Ethics and Environmental Sub-Committee 16 10 18**

Committee Members Present: Karla Primc (KP), Jess Scragg (JS), Olivia McCue (OM), Ellie Reeves (ER), Tess Bonny (TB), Connor Bell (CB), Sophie Atherton (SA), Rob Klim (RK)

Chair: Fabrizio Contartese (FC)

Apologies: Lewis Martin & Tilly Norton

Staff support: Scott Arthur (SAA), Yasmine Haggar (YH)

1. **Statements from Chair and introductions**

FC: Introduced himself and explained that he was excited to be a part of the committee going forward.

1. **Terms of Reference of the Committee**

FC: Handed over to SA to explain terms of reference.

SA: Gave brief explanation of the terms of reference. Explained a few terms, such as quoracy and how this works.

Committee members representing societies introduced themselves, and what society they are representing.

Terms of reference were approved with no amendments.

1. **Plan for the Year Ahead – cycle of business**

FC: Handed over to SA to talk about and explain the cycle of business.

SA: Explained that the cycle of business acts as a rough guide for what the committee should be considering at any given part of the year. Highlighted sustainability boards and go green week as areas of particular interest.

CB: Added that officers should be required to feedback at every meeting regarding their work and progress.

FC: Raised the idea of forming an informal group to facilitate communication outside of meeting. It was hoped that this would lead to more sharing of ideas. Committee was receptive to this idea.

Cycle of business approved with the additional amendment suggested by CB.

1. **Budgetary concerns**

FC: Introduced budget, explaining how we have a budget of £2000 to be spent in the next academic year.

SA: Mentioned how the budget does not roll over, and is therefore ‘there to be spent.’ Explained that while SOC does have the final say over budget request, it was unlikely to reject legitimate requests.

1. **Shop|SU Policies (1.755 & 16.36)**

SAA and YH: Introduced the points, explaining what they were and why the committee needed to look at them.

FC: Highlighted that this was the first time he had encountered the policies, and that his scepticism around them should not be considered to be because he disagrees with them.

ER: Sought clarification as to how old these policies were.

SA: Explained that the policies were originally passed in 2015 and 2014 respectively. Explained how policy lapse works – informing the committee that policies expire after 3 years unless they are renewed.

FC: Highlighted how the wording does not mean that these policies have to be followed – suggesting that as they were only about exploring the feasibility of reducing food waste, as

SA: Pointed out that she was aware of the issue explored in 16.36, and that she will go to the sustainability board and raise this issue. Additionally she highlighted that within campus kitchen the range of vegan foods had increased since the policy was introduced. She also highlighted how vegan food was present in the new Union Shop, but commented that she was still in touch with the shop executive to ensure that this provision continued. Further pointed out that the shop does attempt to limit food waste where possible, although conceded that hse did not have the figures.

KP: Pointed out that foodcycle does not seem to receive food from the SU, due to the fact that they rely on using bicycles for transportation and that the University is too far way to make this viable. Then mentioned that it would be worth looking at other charities who could use this food.

RK: Highlighted that “don’t be a wasteman” can help in this regard.

CB: Said that he has a meeting coming up about the figures regarding food waste\*, and that Unio are taking positive steps to reduce it where possible.

SA: Added that she can find these figures if needed.\*\*

\*Action: CB to feedback on the findings from his meeting.

\*\*Action: SA to explore finding these figures and will report back.

1. **Waste and Recycling**

CB: Highlighted how progress is being made, with Unio is taking steps to introduce reusable cups (which will go on sale soon). Again mentioned his meeting to find the figures pertaining to usage and waste.

SA: Clarified how the reusable cups in the SU|Bar work – having cut down on the use of cups made from single use plastics, they now have reusable plastic cups available for a 50p deposit. Said how these single use cups have not gone away entirely but usage has been reduced substantially.

CB: Raised the idea of green flats, and enquired if anyone had ideas on how to make them more prominently advertised.

1. Statement on Saving Water

Following a vote by Committee, SAA read out the statement.

FC: Commented how the subcommittee’s budget is inadequate to achieve many of the things suggested in the statement.

SA: Suggested that while the taps in Union House are on timers, ones in other buildings are not. Fielded the idea of lobbying the University and Estates to see if this can be changed across the university.

FC: Said that while the idea of a campaign such as this is nice, perhaps starting on a smaller level would be a better idea, suggesting that the committee targets one particular building or area.

SA: Raised the possibility of a campaign in this area, and suggested that CB and herself have the right contacts in order to facilitate such a campaign.

JS: Highlighted that first years can be wasteful with water because they do not pay for it – so raised the idea of trying to change this somehow.

CB: Said Anglian Water are keen to provide water fountains across campus for no additional charge.

KP: Said that the new building might be a good place to start in regard to saving water because it is not finished yet.

SA: Said she can seek clarity on the figures regarding water use and wastage.

ER: Suggested that a policy of informing students on how much water they use could be beneficial.

FC: Suggested that the policy of tracking the water usage by every student, building and residence could be prohibitively expensive.

RK: Highlighted how some have taken the step of using timers to limit the amount of time they spend in the shower.

KP: Having lived in a green flat in first year, she mentioned how the University was able to track the figures around energy and water usage of her flat. Suggested that this could be used on a wider basis.\*\*

Action: CB to enquire about the methods for reducing water waste, and to feedback in the next meeting.

\*\* Action: KP and SAA to find more about green flats. To liaise with each other in this area.

1. Raising awareness about sub-committee

RK: suggested that students need have more of an input in regards to the environment – he argues that the University needs to spend less time telling people what they should do, and more listening to students in regard to what they want the Students Union and Committee to do. Explained that increasing participatory communication is a good idea, allowing people to interact with the communication will make the communication more interesting and make people more likely to interact with it.

Mentioned how there is a general need to raise awareness of what the Student Union are doing in the areas of ethical and environmental issues. Mooted the idea of promotion in the shop and other student enterprises.

SA: Highlighted how we need to work with the university, and stated that the university can be slow to introduce things. Attempted to temper expectations as change can take time, and we may not see the benefits until next year or later.

YH: Talked about the handover at the end of this academic year, and that these things can be managed then.

FC: Said how this shows massive promise, and can make a lot of positive changes if implemented.

1. **AOB**

SA: Talked about how implementation teams feed into the sustainability board – and that when the union officers cannot attend this committee has no representation. Raised the idea of sending the dates, times and locations of these meetings to members so that they can attend on behalf of the committee.\*

FC: Returned to the conversations regarding the use of a Facebook group to facilitate informal conversations.

RK: Said how teams is not the most engaging platform – and is somewhat awkward to use. Asserted that a Facebook group would be much better for getting in touch outside of meetings.

SA: Suggested that this would infringe on her work/life divide and would thus be unable to respond outside of working hours.

FC: Said that an email group can be sent round to get people to join the group.\*\*

FC: Explored whether a survey could be sent out gauging particular skills and interests

YH: Said that this can be done on her end.\*\*\*

Committee talked about the possibility of holding more regular meetings. 5 have been provisionally proposed, but several members expressed an interest in hosting more.

SA: Put forward the idea of forming a working group to focus on Go Green Week, and to ensure that it is planned fully.

FC: Proposed idea of meeting once a month.

CB: Asserted that a December meeting is not viable because of when University breaks up.

FC: Proposed a committee meeting in the middle of January and another one at the end of February.

\*Action: SA to share these events with members

\*\*Action: FC actioned himself to create this group and follow up on invitations

\*\*\*Action: FC and SA to liaise with YH in doing this

**10. Time, Date and Place of next meeting**

Date, Time and Location of next meeting to be sorted out via doodle poll.\*

\*Action: FC to liaise with YH and SAA in regard to setting this.