

**Minutes**

**Ethics and Environmental Sub-Committee 21/11/18**

Committee Members Present: Tilly Norton (TN), Ellie Reeves (ER), Ian James (IJ), Karla Primc (KP), Rob Klim (RK), Sophie Atherton (SAT)

Chair: Fabrizio Contartese (FC)

Apologies: Tess Bonny (TB), Jess Scragg (JS), Olivia McCue (OM)

Absent: Connor Bell (CB), Lewis Martin (LM)

Staff Support: Scott Arthur (SA), Yasmine Haggar (YH)

1. **Statements from Chairperson and updates from members**

FC: Thanked all present members for attending. Explained the need to run an election for Deputy Chairperson. Briefly outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Deputy Chairperson and talked about how election would be publicised, and coordinated. It was settled that Facebook and email could be used to coordinate the election.\*

\*Action: YH to liase with FC in ensuring the election for Deputy Chairperson is held.

**2. Officer Updates**

SAT introduced her officer report, which was distributed around the room before the meeting. Committee was given some time to read the document at their own pace. Also offered brief updates as to the meetings she had held since the last meeting.

**3. Uni Solar**

SAT mentioned that she had meetings with a student led company – who wanted to talk about installing solar panels around campus. SAT offered to include committee members in the consultation and decision making process, and to keep the committee informed of what is happening.\* SAT clarified that the company can get funding through government grants, and that if members so wished, they could be involved in the meetings and consultations.

\*Action: SAT to forward email onwards to committee members, and to keep committee abreast of progress.

**4. Go Green Week**

RK: Highlighted the need to spend committee funds to assist in the creation of promotional material for Go Green Week.

SAT: Queried whether the production of the promotional material could be done in house.

RK: Clarified that he believed that it was not possible for these things to be made in house, and offered to make them himself, with assistance from UEATV. Asked for £50 in funding so he could get the appropriate computer programs to make this content.

SAT: Highlighted that the Committee need to start thinking about Go Green Week – and that it was urgent to identify goals as soon as possible.

KP: Queried what happened last Go Green Week

SAT: Explained that not enough was done last Go Green Week. Mentioned that £300 for a large reusable banner would be a good use of funds. Asked committee to think about what should be included in the schedule, and what societies can do to support the week. Floated the idea of a ‘mini Ethics and Environmental Societies Fayre’ to promote the work they do. Mentioned cooking classes/demonstrations during the week.

ER: Talked about getting food purveyors on campus to go veggie for the duration of the week.

TN: Asked about companies in Norwich who could help in regard to cooking and provision of vegetarian food.

RK: Said that his promotional stuff can help with all this.

SAT: Clarified that she needed ideas, or else the week would not happen. Talked about what happened last year in regard to campaigns, and highlighted fair trade week. Requested Committee to give her some ideas, goals and plans by the end of the semester at the latest.\* Additionally said that she can liaise with other staff members in regard to getting companies in during the week.\*\*

**Committee approved officers to liaise with SOC in regard to funding £50 for promotional material and £300 for a reusable banner.**

\*Action: Entire Committee to think about goals, events and general ideas for Go Green Week- Coming up with at least one idea each- ideas requested to be submitted by the 28th November, followed by 3 days for voting. YH to send email to chase this up and to remind members.

\*\*Action: SAT to liaise with other staff members and to explore the possibility of getting companies in during the week.

**5. Implementation Teams**

SAT: Talked about implementation teams, suggesting that she had sent out an email in regard to the dates of these. It was confirmed that this email was send out on the 22nd October.

FC: Expanded on the role of the implementation teams by naming each of the teams.

KP: Queried what the teams do.

SAT: Clarified that these teams feed into the sustainability board, and that because of her packed schedule and other commitments she would be unable to attend every time. Mentioned that committee members will be able to attend and that it would be beneficial for them to attend.\*

FC: Further stated that these would be good to attend, and that doing so would improve members understanding of issues and how they are dealt with.

\*Action: Whole Committee to explore the possibility of attending these meetings.

**6. Palm Oil**

KP: Introduced this item of the agenda – highlighting that Amnesty does a campaign on palm oil, which focuses on the environmental impacts of its use as well as the unethical labour practices associated with it. Mentioned that some cosmetics in the shop, and most desserts in Unio have palm oil in them. Floated the idea of a campaign in this area.

FC: Said this all sounds interesting, and is very relevant at this moment in time. Agreed that a campaign would be possible in this area.

SAT: Highlighted the fact that she has input into the practices of the shop and Unio, so would be able to push for some immediate changes. Said that a campaign would be possible alongside her actions – calling it a ‘two tiered’ approach.

TN: Said that this would be good for the new calendar year, as part of a ‘new year, new me’ pledge.

FC: Asked whether large scale goals were achievable.

SAT: Mentioned pushing for legislation via union council, as well as holding meetings with relevant indiviudals.

ER: Highlighted the difference between ‘certified’ and ‘uncertified’ palm oil, and suggested that a move from the latter to the former would be welcome.

FC: Talked about setting goals and project management – about working towards tangible goals and not just brainstorming ideas.

KP: Explained that her goals were to get rid of it from cosmetics and Unio desserts, as well as getting a possible ‘palm free aisle’ in the SU shop.

SAT: Mentioned she could talk to various relevant individuals about this.

KP: Clarified which brands do and don’t have palm oil in their cosmetics, pushing for the removal of those that do have it in them.

SAT: Said that these were entirely doable, and could be worked towards. Asked about a potential campaign.

*The Committee agreed that there wasn’t a need for a campaign*

TN: Said that Env Soc could collaborate and assist Amnesty with this.

**7. Period Poverty**

KP: Introduced this agenda item, suggesting that despite some attempts to make things better, things are still rather bad. She highlighted that ARTS runs a voluntary scheme, but is the only scheme of its type. Suggested that the committee looks into expanding this provision wider.

ER: Queried the relationship between the University and SU, wondering whether the only reason the hive had free period products is because it is an SU building.

SAT: Confirmed this suspicion, stating that the only reason they are in the hive is because the SU has control over that premises. Quoted union policy in regard to this, highlighting that it is up for lapse. Said that they are not in bar, but could potentially be. Additionally highlighted that trans+ students need to be included in this campaign. Highlighted the work the NUS does with its free periods campaign. Said she can send emails in regard to increasing provision on SU premises. Said that them being in Arts is a starting point for increasing provision across campus. Mentioned that she could have conversations with relevant individuals in regard to this.\*

KP: Mentioned that getting at least one toilet in each of the buildings would be a very positive step.

SAT: Said that this would be a very useful thing to be, and if implemented could become a policy precedent.

ER: Asked about the logistics of providing this across campus.

SAT: Said that she was unsure in regard to logistics and cost – but would still enquire about it regardless. Highlighted that as the SU have worked in this area before, it would not be unprecedented to push for further provision.

\*Action: SAT to find out more about the provision in the ARTS building and feedback at the next meeting.

**8. Mug Library**

KP: Introduced this agenda article, citing the example of an Australian university which has a ‘library’ of mugs, with the goal of reducing the amount of single use cups they use.

SAT: Said that this would be difficult to introduce at the moment as Unio’s dishwasher is broken. Said that Unio have looked at things similar to this in the past, but no progress was made. Suggested that it is a good idea, but may be logistically difficult to do. Said that until January Unio are looking into other methods of promoting sustainable usage.\*

RK: Floated the idea of using Committee funds on fixing the dishwasher.

SAT: Suggested that this would not be a good use of funds, as any dishwasher was likely to cost in excess of the budget.

*Committee to revisit this in January*

\*Action: SAT to enquire implementing this in the new academic year, and to find out more about Unio’s attempts to promote sustainable usage.

**9. AOB**

SAT: Noted that she had not had adequate time to go through her report, and would need to fill in the committee at a later date in regard to this.

**10. Date, time and place of next meeting:**

A date in January will be agreed upon by SA and YH in liaison with members.