

<b>Date:</b>	<b>February 13<sup>th</sup> 2020</b>
<b>Room:</b>	<b>LT2</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6PM</b>
<b>Section 1: Housekeeping</b>	<p><b>A. Code of Conduct</b>  <b>B. Minutes from the previous meeting</b>  <b>C. Expenses</b>  <b>D. Online meeting facility</b>  <b>E. Articles of Association and Bye-Laws</b></p> <p>Chair introduced the meeting and welcomed councillors. Reminded people that why emotions may run high during the meeting it was important to remember to be respectful, and to use clear, concise and uncontroversial language.</p> <p>Chair moved a vote to allow the executive team, and other students in attendance to speak- instead of moving votes on an individual basis. Vote passes with 96% in favour, 2% against and 2% abstaining.</p>
<b>Section 2: Q&amp;A with David Richardson, Frances Bowen and Sarah Barrow</b>	<p>DRichardson (University Vice Chancellor) rose to speak, and expressed a desire to have open and clear dialogue with council in regard to various issues. Stated that this was a good time to speak to council as the current 5 year plan is coming to an end, so this represents an opportunity for council to help guide the development and implementation of the next plan. Cited their perceived record in positions of leadership in the Aurora Network, where they want to address sustainability, and building that into the curriculum. Reminded council that there was a new government in place, and that this would affect higher education in the United Kingdom in future years, especially with regard to the aftermath of Brexit.</p> <p>FBowen (Pro Vice Chancellor for something) rose to expand further on the work of the Aurora network, and referred to work on sustainability. Is hopeful that this will lead to opportunities in the future.</p> <p>Floor was opened to questions – these were taken in blocks of three:</p> <p>ATrew (Welfare, Community &amp; Diversity Officer) asked whether the VC agreed with the decision to allow Kathleen Stock to speak at UEA, and asked what plans there were to support the trans community at this time.</p> <p>CMatthews (Concrete) asked whether the university would address the funding shortfall that the SU suffers from.</p> <p>JAnnand (Cocktail Society) queried whether the funding shortfall is justified, and whether certain services should be cut to address this shortfall. Further queried whether the SU’s commercial model is sustainable in the long term.</p> <p>SBarrow (Pro Vice-Chancellor Arts &amp; Humanities) addressed the first question, stating that it was a delicate balancing act between the university’s legal obligations under the Freedom of Speech act, and not antagonising students. Stated that they are not being brought here to be celebrated, but are supposed to be debated and critiqued in their views. Perceives this latter part to be essential for the functioning of a university – while these views may be uncomfortable, it is important to debate and critique them. In regard to supporting the trans community, mentioned ongoing support for LGBT+ History Month, and is open to hear further thoughts and ideas in this area. Commented that student services are aware of this and will support students and staff should the need arise.</p> <p>DRichardson commented that he was aware of the petition in regard to this issue, and reiterated his commitment to addressing the concerns detailed within it. Recognised that there is more work that needs to be done, and is committed to finding out more in regard to it.</p>

FBowen commented that as a member of the LGBT+ community, they were committed to addressing these issues and stressed a need to focus on them over an extended period of time, and not just on an occasional basis.

DRichardson responded to the latter two questions, commenting that subordinates were liaising with the Students Union in regard to this. Stated that the executive team and the SU were looking at the structures of other Unions, and stressed the need to learn from these other structures. Stated that in the last academic year, the university did invest in the Union to make up some funding shortfall. Committed to not allowing the SU to run out of money.

LMartin (Postgraduate Committee) queried what the university are doing to address the issues of the trans community.

BPinsent (Postgraduate Committee) cited the example of the University of Sunderland closing its History and Foreign Language department, and asked what the university was doing to ensure the survival of departments at UEA.

MGallagher (Postgraduate Committee Chair) cited the VC's commitment to institutional relationships, and asked why the university has deducted wages from Associate Tutors, in contrast to past actions where they have not done this. Further queried where the money taken from the strike will be spent.

DRichardson thanked LMartin for their candidness, and commented that these are the areas where communication is of paramount importance; invited LMartin to have further conversations in regard to these issues. In regard to the second question, reaffirmed their commitment to the Arts and Humanities, and perceived a need to explore the role of degrees, and inform policy makers that there is more value in a degree than just employability.

SBarrow referred to the Sunderland example as shocking and 'awful' and reaffirmed a commitment to reviewing courses to ensure that they remain relevant and useful – cited the good work of the Languages department in this regard.

DRichardson commented that they want to build stronger relations with Associate Tutors, and has seen the list of concerns compiled by Postgraduate Committee. Stated that wages were deducted from Associate Tutors so all staff were treated in an even handed manner. Stated that they are having meetings with the local UCU representatives, and reaffirmed the need for both sides to compromise. Remains optimistic that some compromise can be found.

FBowen added that last time the money went to the SSS, and while the decision has not been made yet, the intention is to do the same this time.

EArmstrong-Mortlock (Trampoline) asked about the extent to which mental health will form part of the next five year plan.

EJohnson (No More) asked whether the institution has any intention to reform the system wherein victims of sexual assault and the perpetrators of it can still have to interact on a nearly daily basis.

LRamshaw (History Society) raised that the school of History does not have a blanket policy in regard to mitigating circumstances around the strikes, and wanted to know what the university intends to do about it.

DRichardson answered the first question, stating that the university has a mental health wellbeing taskforce which looks at issues relating to this, and intend to continue to embed health and wellbeing into departments and accommodation where possible. Reiterated the need for dialogue. In regard to the second question confirmed that the university are aware of this, and prompted more dialogue so they could better understand peoples experiences and make positive changes going forward.

	<p>SBarrow responded to History Society, stating that their letter has been read and they will receive a reply soon. Reminded them that extenuating circumstances are made on a case by case basis, but stated that contingency plans did exist to ensure that all students receive adequate levels of attention.</p>
<b>Section 3: Reports</b>	<b>No matters arising.</b>
<b>Section 4: FTO Reports</b>	<p><b>CPerry:</b> Took their report as read, briefly updated on his campaigns.</p> <p><b>MMarko:</b> Took their report as read. Updated on meetings.</p> <p>MGallagher questioned MMarko, requesting that they list the outcomes of their meetings in the future.</p> <p><b>APerez:</b> Took their report as read.</p> <p><b>ATrew:</b> Took their report as read.</p> <p><b>Satherton:</b> Briefly updated on democracy review, but otherwise took their report as read.</p>
<b>Section 5: Approval of Societies and Peer Support Groups + Election of Student Trustee</b>	<p>Chair gave members time to read the proposals.</p> <p>The representative of AMA explained that this proposal was designed to offer a place for the entire school, and not just for one set of courses.</p> <p>EWignall (Cheer Dance) asked whether they had been in touch with existing societies to work with them.</p> <p>The representative of AMA confirmed that this had not taken places.</p> <p>WRule (Societies Executive) clarified that the recommendation of the Societies Executive had been to approve this society.</p> <p>Chair moved a vote on removing this society from the block, with 63% of members voting to keep them in the block.</p> <p>All societies were approved by a vote of 83% approving, 9% rejecting and 9% abstaining.</p> <p>All peer support groups were approved with 92% approving, 0% rejecting and 8% abstaining.</p> <p><b>B:</b></p> <p>Chair explained that it was time for council to elect a new student trustee, and explained the role of a student trustee. Chair gave time for members to read the manifesto's of those standing.</p> <p>A vote was moved to confirm which individual would be elected, with 62% supporting A, 19% supporting B, 20% supporting C, and 8% abstaining.</p>
<b>Section 6: Policy Papers</b>	<p><b>Oh, the still beautiful guillotine (Amendment to Policy 1769A: 'Oh the beautiful guillotine.'</b></p> <p>JAnnand rose to support their motion, and explained their reasons for submitting it. Explained that having Council end at a reasonable hour was important for a range of reasons.</p> <p>No opposition arose, so a vote was held on passing the motion, which passed with 92% approving, 2% opposing, 4% abstaining, with 2% of votes rejected.</p>

<b>Section 7: A.O.B</b>	Chair reminded members to run in the upcoming elections.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	March 5 <sup>th</sup> 2020