

Minutes

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 25 January
Paper:	UC 2 18 1
Author:	Tony Moore
Purpose:	Record of decision making

Key Points

Approved new Student Opportunities Groups: **Living Wage, Northern Society, and Queer Review**

Debated Policy Lapse (where all Union policies over two years' old lapse unless Council decides to keep them).

Agreed all the recommendations but voted to retain Policy 1633 on **drop-out rates of poorer students**

Council separately debated whether to lapse **1714 (In support of international law and human rights in Palestine)** which includes an academic boycott and boycotts Israeli goods. Council rejected an amending emergency resolution that would have replaced 1714. Council then approved the retention of 1714.

Council approved two emergency resolutions:

- Opposing the closure by the City Council of the **Haymarket food stall** for homeless people
- Supporting the UCU's (the lecturers' union) **industrial action** over changes to their pensions

Council approved four regular resolutions:

- Supporting a counter demo against a **US anti-abortion group's** proposed picket of a Norwich family planning clinic
 - Trying to prevent prejudice against **working class students**; improving access and support for working class students and building links with and volunteer projects in deprived areas of Norwich
 - Lobbying to get **soundproof study spaces** – available for all students but focused on use by students within the autism spectrum
 - Lobbying to change the **inflation measure used to calculate the interest on student loans** from the RPI to the CPIH unless the accuracy of the RPI is improved
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Union of UEA Students Purpose:

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"

Minutes of Union Council

25 January 2018

Voting Members present:

Abdul Razak, Haqqeem (Malaysian Society), Ahmed, Imran (Buddhist Society), Al Wazir, Khalil (People and Planet Society), Alhasan, Mohaned (International Students Officer (Non-EU)), Anna Deas (Lit Soc), Atkinson, Amy (Women+ Officer), Auger, Lucy (Non-Portfolio Officer), Bailey, Jemma (Non-Portfolio Officer), Ball, Chris (Non-Portfolio Officer), Ben Hickling Smith (Boxing), Berardi, Erica (Holistic), Bingham, Heather (Conservation and Wildlife Society), Blackburn, Holly (Trampolining, Booth, Eddie (Politics Society), Box, Daniel (LDC YR3 UG) Braddick, Thai (Momentum Society), Bugg, Emilia (Umbrella Liberations Society), Bustamante, Apple (Shotokan Karate Club), Capar, Rutkay (Kurdish Society), Capek, Oldrich (Rock and Alternative Music Society), Carolina Strom (BEAT), Cascarini, Tom (Glee Showchoir Society), Chamberlain, Jacob (The Broad Magazine Society), Clare, Lottie (Women's Association), Clarke, Shannon (Dance Squad Club), Colledge, Maddie (Postgraduate Education Officer), Court, Amelia (Publishing), Crowther, Chloe (Nelson Court), Cutler, Emily (Students with Disabilities Officer), Dalton, Alex (Hip Hop Society), Deary, Liam (LGBT+ Officer (Trans & Non-Binary)), Dewar, Lucy (Language and Communications Studies) D'Hondt, Chloé (Philosophy Society), Dominic Milham (UEA Surf), Doormann, Abbey (Disabilities Liberation Soc (SPLPD/ Autism)), Edwards, India (Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer), Edwards, Omari (Kett House), Eldar, Michael (School Convener (ECO)), Elmes, Kit (Men's Health & Welfare), Fajardo, Meljude (Compass), Freeman, Zoe (AMS YR2 UG), Frost, Katherine (Headlights Comedy Society), Galley, Ruby (Gymnastics Club), Goddard, Jake (Nightline Society), Goldberg, George (Live Wire), Goldman, Adi (Hickling and Barton) Hampton, Caitlin (Cancer Support), Hawkins, Emily (Concrete), Healy, Oliver (Liberal Democrats Society), Hewardine, Luke (Fencing), Houghton, James (Rock Climbing Club), Iqbal, Mohib (Indian Society), Jordan, Ryan (Roteract) Kabore, Mae (LGBT+ Officer (Open Place)), Katherine Edwards (LDC School Convenor), Klim, Rob (Ethical Issues Officer), Koosyal, Camille (Activities & Opportunities Officer), Kyriacou, Michael (PG Assembly), Lam, Sean (Lacrosse Club), Lucky, Lipa (Islamic Society), Mahmoudi, Matin (BIO SOC), Marko, Martin (Mature Students' Assembly), Martin, Lewis (Mature Students Officer), Mathurin, Amanie (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Mehta, Rahul (Pakistani society), Mohamed, Rafah (Pal Soc), Mulcairn, Abbie (Leeway Society), Mulligan, Matthew (ENV SOC), Norman, Charlie (PSY Other YR UG), Northrop, Finn (Non-Portfolio Officer), Osman, Fatima (Somali Society), Pearsall, Georgina (Ostarine Society), Rahman, Anika (Bengali Society), Raymond, Georgina (Sailing and Powerboat Club), Reeves, Ellie (LGBT+ Liberation Society (Women's Place)), Richardson, William

(Economics Society), Ritchie-Yates, Sophie (Women's Association), Robinson, Jack (Campaigns & Democracy Officer), Scott-Carter, Aaron (AMS YR3 UG), Self, Liam (Opera). Shapland, Imogen Claire (NATSCI Society), Sibley, Sophie (Rugby Women's Club), Squire, Jonathan (School Convener (NAT)), Stothard, Rebecca (LDC YR2 UG), Taylor, Orla (Amnesty Society), Uthayakumaran, Mayura (South Asian Fine Arts Society), Wilson-Bhattacharya, Ananya (Feminist Society)

Attending online

Aldridge, Luke (School Convener (PPL)), Chapman, Jenna (RAG Society), Eldar, Micheal (School Convener (ECO)), Finden-Browne, Hywel (Windsurf & Paddleboard Club), Flaherty, Ruth (PG Assembly), Gurner, Eliza (Tap Club), Leslie, Freya (Ultimate Frisbee Club), Leviton, Siobhann (Mature Students' Assembly), Littolff, Naomi (Cheerleading Stunt Club), Purlil, Rhys (Environment Officer) Sterling-Manson, Andrea (Latin American Society), Von-Pratt, Diem (Mature Students' Assembly)

Chair: N Stokes

Deputy Chair: S Lam

In Attendance:

E Folan (Campaigns and Democracy Policy Analyst), Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive), J Clare (Head of Campaigns and Policy), A Bickersteth (Student Support) and T Moore (Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator)

Section 1 – Housekeeping

Quorum

Chair noted the quorum count of 88 Councillors

2185 Membership

Council noted the new members added to the Register.

2186 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 November

Minutes agreed.

2187 Matters Arising

None noted.

2188 Club, Society, and Peer Support Group Constitutions

Chair ruled that, as there was a full recommendation from Societies Executive, Council would move straight to a vote on the proposed constitution of Northern Society.

Council approved Northern Society: 73 votes for, 6 votes against with no Councillors abstaining from voting.

L Martin (Mature Students' Officer), on behalf of Living Wage, noted that the group proposed to work with a wider group of people who had come together to press for the Living Wage to be paid in Norwich and this would directly benefit many student workers. ML noted that the group would be politically non-partisan.

Council approved Living Wage: 60 votes for, 14 votes against with 4 Councillors abstaining from voting.

A Councillor from the floor, on behalf of Queer Review, noted that they produced an innovative magazine including television and book reviews.

Council approved Queer Review: 66 votes for, 5 votes against with 8 Councillors abstaining from voting.

2189 Appointments

Chair asked any Councillors interested in the PG positions on the Senate Disciplinary and Appeals committees to contact the Democracy and Governance Coordinator.

No Councillor put themselves forward and appointments were deferred to another meeting.

Section 2 – Reports

2190 University Committee Reports

There were no reports received.

2191 Student Officer Committee (SOC) Report

C Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer), as Chair of SOC, gave a verbal report highlighting the work of the Full Time Officers and Part Time Officers.

CB reported key actions and areas of focus had been:

- meeting with Heads of Schools
- consultation over Building Zero
- rent levels
- lecture capture
- taking part in interview for the appointment of a new University Registrar
- Islamic Prayer Space
- Guarantor Scheme
- Mental Health Campaign
- Do Something Different
- Relaunch of Never OK/Changing the Culture
- Sportspark accessibility issues

M Kabore (LGBT+ Officer [Open Place]) reported a key focus for several PTOs had been the arrangements for LGBT+ History Month.

2192 Policy Lapse Report

J Robinson (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) made a presentation on their recommendations for Policy Lapse and on the process for how Council would consider the recommendations.

The recommendation 1a in the Report to keep listed policies was adopted by 66 votes for, 10 votes against with 7 Councillors abstaining from voting.

Chair noted that, unless there were any objections, the recommendations in 1b of the Report would be taken as approved and the policies listed in 1b would lapse.

The recommendation 2a in the Report to keep listed policies was adopted by 73 votes for, 3 votes against with 5 Councillors abstaining from voting.

On proposal 2b, J Read (Men's Health and Welfare) wondered as to the reasons for the recommendation to lapse Policy 1633: 'Access is not the only issue'.

J Robinson (Campaigns & Democracy Officer) noted they could not remember the discussion at DPC but as the Councillor had raised concerns there would be no objection to keeping the policy.

The proposal to keep Policy 1633 was adopted by 63 votes for, 3 votes against with 4 Councillors abstaining from voting.

Chair noted that, unless there were any further objections, the remaining recommendations in 2b of the Report would be taken as approved and the remaining policies listed in 2b would lapse.

There were no further objections.

There was a pause in the meeting as Chair took advice from the Chief of Staff as to the legality of Recommendation 3 in the Report concerning Policy 1714: 'In Support of International Law and Human Rights in Palestine.'

Chair ruled that, after taking advice, they were ruling that it would be out of order for Council to debate whether to keep Policy 1714.

A Mulcairn (Leeway Society), challenged the Chair's ruling.

Deputy Chair took over the chair.

A Mulcairn (Leeway Society), in support of the challenge, noted that 1714 had been Union policy for two years and that the Trustee minutes of the meetings, when they reviewed the policy after it had first been passed, showed that the Trustees had been satisfied as to its legality. AM wondered why the Union could hold LGBT+ and Black History Months but not be allowed to hold an Israeli Apartheid Week.

Deputy Chair asked Councillors when showing appreciation for a speech to not do so by clapping or cheering but by the accepted form for meetings: 'jazz hands'.

N Stokes (Chair of Council), against the challenge, noted that under Bye-Law 2.13.2 it was the duty of the Chair to rule an item of order if it sought to commit the Union or its resources to an illegal act. NS argued that the policy might be revised so that it enabled a Union Society or Societies to undertake its provision but that as it stood under the advice they had received the attempt to keep the policy was out of order. NS noted that the next meeting would be in only two weeks and a revised, legally compliant policy might be submitted then.

Council accepted the Challenge to the Chair's Ruling by 50 votes for, 19 votes against with 9 Councillors abstaining from voting.

Chair resumed the chair.

Chair noted that an emergency resolution which provided an alternative approach to human rights and international law in Palestine had been submitted prior to the meeting. Chair ruled that Council would first debate whether to consider the emergency resolution and, if were accepted, then composite it with 1714.

E Cutler (Students with Disabilities Officer) proposed a procedural motion that consideration of both 1714 and the emergency resolution be deferred to the next meeting. EC noted that the vast majority of Councillors had not yet seen the emergency resolution and, as a matter of accessibility, it was not fair to ask Councillors to make an instant judgement on a text that they would only have a few minutes to read. EC argued that, in accessibility terms, this would be disproportionately unfair to disabled students and those with mental health issues as the debate, as well as being complex, would also be heated and emotional. EC noted that the next meeting was only two weeks away.

Chair noted, in clarification to a questioner from the floor, that 1714 would automatically lapse if the present meeting did not vote to retain it.

A Mulcairn (Leeway Society), against the procedural motion, argued that the arguments over policy would be the same at the next meeting and that many Councillors wished the debate to be had without delay; AM believed that many Councillors had come to the present meeting specifically to contribute to the debate on 1714.

E Cutler (Students with Disabilities Officer), in favour, argued that nothing would happen in the coming two weeks and reminded Councillors that many would only have a few minutes to consider a text over which there would be a complex debate. EC reminded Councillors of their past commitments to make meetings accessible.

R Mohamed (Palestine Society), against, noted that they understood the concerns over accessibility and over mental health and agreed the debate could be emotional but argued that 1714 was such a key Union policy that it could not be allowed to lapse for even two weeks.

The procedural motion fell by 18 votes for, 55 votes against with 4 Councillors abstaining from voting.

Chair ruled that Council would proceed to consider whether to accept the emergency resolution for debate.

J Robinson (Campaigns & Democracy Officer), proposing that the emergency resolution be considered, argued that the resolution would provide Council with a nuanced option for dealing with an extremely complex issue that could not adequately be dealt with in black and white; JR believed that the proposals in the resolution were neither pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian.

L Auger (Non-Portfolio Officer), against, noted an understanding of the listening to two sides argument but believed that acceptance of the emergency resolution for debate would merely confuse what otherwise would be a straightforward debate on the Union's existing policy.

J Robinson (Campaigns & Democracy Officer), in favour, reiterated that the resolution would provide a nuanced approach and would make it far easier for Jewish students to understand and support. JR believed that the resolution was not pro-Israeli: it condemned the Israeli government's action but in such a way as to not make Jewish students feel uncomfortable or under attack.

K Al Wazir (People and Planet Society), against, argued that 1714 could not be seen as attacking Jewish students. KW argued that 1714 was non-discriminatory: the words 'Jewish' or 'Jew' did not appear in the text. KW believed that the conflict 1714 addressed was political and not religious in nature. JW noted Jewish Society members had been invited to meetings of the Palestinian Society which had had, as guest speakers, distinguished Jewish historians critical of the Israeli government but that no Jewish students had attended. KW believed that 1714 was in no way Anti-Semitic.

Council agreed to accept the Emergency Resolution for consideration by 45 votes for, 39 votes against with 8 Councillors abstaining from voting.

Chair, in clarification to a questioner from the floor, noted that consideration of the Emergency Resolution, as it deleted the Resolves in 1714 the legality of which had been questioned, would not be problematic.

E Cutler (Students with Disabilities Officer) proposed a procedural motion to move several items up the agenda. EC noted that there were three time sensitive resolutions to be heard and that these should be considered before the complex debate needed on the Palestine issue.

M Colledge (PG Education Officer), against, noted that there were resolutions close to their heart but that any delay on hearing the Palestine resolution would risk disappointing so many Councillors who were interested in this particular debate.

E Cutler (Students with Disabilities Officer), in favour, noted the motion was not an attempt to block the Palestine debate: consideration of the time sensitive resolutions would only take a matter of minutes.

L Martin (Mature Students' Officer), against, reiterated the argument that any delay would be unfair to those Councillors whose primary concern was the question of Palestine.

The procedural motion fell by 22 votes for, 50 votes against with 11 Councillors abstaining from voting.

K Al Wazir (People and Planet Society), in favour of the original 1714, noted the importance of allowing policies that had become irrelevant to lapse but KW believed that BDS was even more relevant than when it had been passed two years earlier. KW believed that the rise of

Trump, the expansion of the illegal settlements, the apartheid Israeli state, Zionist imperialism, continuing crimes against humanity and the oppression of millions, all needed to be publicised, opposed and condemned. KW believed the amendment to be apathetic: it tried to be neutral when a stance of neutrality equated to that of silence in the face of oppression. KW believed silence meant one chose the side of the oppressor. KW asked Council to reject the apathetic line; KW trusted in Council's sense of justice.

W Richardson (Economics Society), in favour of the emergency resolution, drew Council's attention to the rise in Anti-Semitic hate crime in the UK and a parallel rise in fear amongst Jewish citizens and visitors to the UK. WR noted that polls showed that many Jewish students felt uncomfortable with the BDS policies. WR noted that the same polls showed that Jewish students felt NUS was not doing enough to protect Jewish students. WR believed Council should not question the feelings of Jewish students; it should tackle the atmosphere of intolerance that led many Jewish students to feel uncomfortable and unable to speak at Council. WR noted the reports of a Jewish Councillor at the original 1714 debate who had been brought to tears as they felt the speeches had been made against them as a Jew. WR believed in the importance of the Union maintaining genuinely progressive policies. WR noted that the Union had a long list of boycotts against corporations related to tax avoidance and fossil fuels yet the one state actor against which the Union had a boycott against was Israel. WR noted that this was in a world of unspeakable state tyrannies and far worse human rights violators such as North Korea and the Peoples' Republic of China; WR asked was it any wonder that Jewish students felt discriminated against.

R Jordan (Rotaract), in favour of the original 1714, argued that support for BDS was not anti-Jewish: the issue was not about religion. The Councillor argued that BDS gave a voice to those denied opportunities and it separated support for Zionism from support for the Jewish people. The Councillor noted that UEA took pride in being open minded and believed students should support the cause of Palestinians with no schools and no running water and with their human rights denied. RJ argued that BDS was a demand for the Israeli state to reform itself. The Councillor believed that the present human rights crisis had been caused by greed for control of resources. The Councillor concluded that policy 1714 was even handed and was not about picking sides.

A Councillor from the floor, in favour of the emergency resolution, noted that the issue under consideration was extremely complex and had stirred up deep passions amongst the SU membership and believed it had disturbed many of Councillors' fellow students. The Councillor argued that the provisions in 1714 for boycotting Israeli universities was particularly misguided as academics were a key part of society and a chance to engage with academics and fresh thinking would be one of the best ways to resolve a horrific situation. The Councillor believed that the Union had to address the fact that it only had a boycott in place for one country, Israel, even though countries

with a far worse record of violations of human record were not subject to any action. The Councillor believed the Union had to deal with perceptions of Anti-Semitism and the emergency resolution would allow the Union to take a stance on human rights whilst listening to the concerns and fears of its Jewish students.

R Mohamed (Palestine Society), in favour of the original 1714, agreed with the previous speaker as to importance of academic discourse but argued that by engaging with Israeli universities would be, in effect, be mainstreaming a discourse that underpinned hatred and ethnic cleansing. RM noted that previous speakers had raised the question of Jewish students feeling uncomfortable and afraid due to the BDS policy but noted reading historical accounts of whites in America's Deep South during the 1950s feeling uncomfortable at sitting on a bus next to a black person. RM believed it crucial that all students felt safe on campus but that BDS was not aimed against anyone because of their religion. RM recalled attending a London national demo where they had marched with students of all religions and none. RM noted they would never want any student to feel uncomfortable but believed it important to be proud of who one was and personally they were proud of being a Palestinian and wondered why they should have to justify themselves in their own University. RM reminded Council that Palestinian students were exiles and had no home to return to.

A Dalton (Hip Hop Society), in favour of the emergency resolution, noted that they were a Jewish student from London who was not particularly religious but being Jewish was part of who they were. AD noted they had walked into the Hive and been confronted by a BDS Israeli Apartheid Week poster which had made them feel extremely uncomfortable in their own Union. AD believed that academic discourse should not be about political partisanship it should be about acquiring knowledge and the debate should be conducted with respect for both sides.

K Al Wazir (People and Planet Society), in favour of the original 1714, noted the poster, the previous speaker had mentioned, referred to Nakba Day, the Day of the Catastrophe, which marked the nearly seventy years since the destruction of Palestine and the expulsion of the great majority of Palestinians from their homes. KW argued that the boycott was not Anti-Semitic: they, like all Palestinians, were a Semite. KW argued that the Israeli state, itself, was Anti-Semitic, being based on ethnic cleansing. KW noted that their own village and own family had been ethnically cleansed. KW noted that Israeli historians had exposed the systematic ethnic cleansing that had taken place in 1948 when hundreds of Palestinian villages were destroyed.

A Councillor from the floor, in favour of the emergency resolution, argued that, in Israel, Jewish religion and nationality were intertwined. The Councillor argued that the emergency resolution would allow open debate whilst looking forward to building solutions whilst condemning human rights violations.

A Councillor from the floor, in favour of the original 1714, noted they were a Jew from Afghanistan and observed that it was not within the teachings of the Jewish religion for a Jewish state to exist before the incarnation of the Messiah. The Councillor noted there were many Jews living outside of Israel: being Jewish did not necessarily make one Israeli. The Councillor argued that Judaism should not be equated with Zionism and noted that the word 'Jew' was nowhere to be found in policy 1714. The Councillor called for Councillors to support the policy as action was needed to stop the Israeli state's actions: people were dying.

J Robinson (Campaigns & Democracy Officer), in summation of the emergency resolution, thanked Councillors for the better atmosphere that had surrounded the present debate compared to that which had pertained during the debate when 1714 had been first passed. JR argued that the debate was fundamentally about religion as Jewish students had been made to feel uncomfortable and threatened by BDS. JR asked Councillors to vote for the emergency resolution that criticised Israel but looked for solutions. JR pointed out that Jeremy Corbyn, the present leader of the Labour Party and a champion of Palestinian rights would not be in support of 1714 nor would a majority of the wider student body.

The amendments to Policy 1714 contained in the Emergency Resolution fell by 24 votes for, 43 votes against with 14 Councillors abstaining from voting.

A Councillor from the floor, for clarification, wondered whether it would be possible to have a wider debate on the issue which would involve wider consultation with students.

Chair, in clarification, advised the Councillor to canvass other Councillors before the next meeting.

A Councillor from the floor proposed a procedural motion to move to a vote. In favour, the Councillor argued that there was a general consensus in the room that all sides to the discussion had had their say.

J Robinson (Campaigns & Democracy Officer), against, disagreed and noted that only a few minutes before a speaker had been asking for more debate on the matter.

Council agreed the procedural motion to move to a vote by 52 votes for, 15 votes against with 8 Councillors abstaining from voting.

J Robinson (Campaigns & Democracy Officer), for clarification, reported that they had just received a complaint from a student outside the chamber that 1714 as it stood was Anti-Semitic.

Council agreed to retain Policy 1714 by 44 votes for, 19 votes against with 17 Councillors abstaining from voting.

Chair noted that the decision would be referred to the UEASU Trustee Board for review.

Chair stepped down for the remainder of the meeting which was chaired by the Deputy Chair.

2193 Trustee Board

Council noted the Chair of Trustees' written report without comment.

2194 Reports from Representatives

There were no reports.

Section 3 – Open Discussions

Due to time consideration, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Section 4 – Policy Making

Chair noted that two emergency resolutions had been received and they had ruled that these should be accepted for debate.

Emergency Resolution: Stop the Demolition of the Haymarket Food Stalls

L Martin (Mature Students' Officer), proposing, noted the issue addressed in the resolution had arisen in the last 48 hours: Norwich City Council had announced the closure of one of the two stalls used by local community organisations to feed destitute and/or homeless people. LM reported that without the main stall the provision of food would become impossible. LM argued that the Union should encourage its Societies and activists to support the grassroots campaign to overturn NCC's decision and the Union should condemn the Council's actions.

There were no speeches against.

The emergency resolution was adopted by 55 votes for, 0 votes against with 6 Councillors abstaining from voting.

Emergency Resolution: Backing UCU in the Pension Dispute

M Colledge (PG Education Officer), proposing, noted the Union worked in close partnership with academics. MC reported the UCU (the lecturers' trade union) had just voted to strike over a pension dispute with university employers. MC noted that the employers were proposing to move staff from a final salary pension scheme to a defined benefit scheme. MC explained that this meant that, rather than getting a higher, guaranteed pension, staff would receive a lower pension subject to the vagaries of the stock market. MC argued that the change could mean that academic staff would face poverty in their

retirement. MC believed that pension provision should not be a race to the bottom and that the change would impact on younger staff disproportionately. MC noted that the resolution was supported by the Faculty Convenors and MC had received an eloquent letter of support from the MED School Convenor. MC believed that the UCU did not take the decision to strike lightly and reminded Councillors that the UCU had been supportive of Union actions in the past.

There were no speeches against.

The emergency resolution was adopted by 60 votes for, 0 votes against with 5 Councillors abstaining from voting.

2195 Norwich Stands Against 40 Days for Life

M Colledge (PG Education Officer), proposing, noted that there were plans for a picket of a Norwich abortion clinic by a group called 40 Days for Life. MC noted that the group were not from Norwich: they were a politically far right group from Texas. MC pointed to the distress that patients, including students, would, inevitably, feel when confronted by a picket line. MC noted the resolution would encourage support for a counter-picket to show solidarity with the women patients.

There were no speeches against.

The resolution was adopted by 60 votes for, 1 vote against with 5 Councillors abstaining from voting.

2196 Making good on the working-class promise

J Read (Men's Health and Welfare), proposing, noted that the resolution, if passed, would bring parity between the support the Union gave to working class students and that already available to the Liberations sections. JR noted it would bring better access to funding and encourage wider participation by working class students in Union activities.

JR noted that the aim of the resolution was to get the Union and University to engage far more with the local community. JR noted that parts of Norwich contained some of the most deprived areas in the UK. JR believed it important for the Union to enable students to get out into the poorest communities and bring change and improvements. JR thought the involvement could be similar to the buddy scheme that JR's Society currently ran where students with mental health issues helped support each other and get through their degrees; the same principle could be used to help poorer learners engage and think about going to university.

There were no speeches against.

The resolution was adopted by 58 votes for, 0 votes against with 8 Councillors abstaining from voting.

2197 Study Space for All

E Cutler (Students with Disabilities Officer), proposing, on behalf of their constituents , noted that there were at present no facilities on campus that provided silent study space. EC reported that a number of student were on the autism spectrum and found it extremely hard to study in an environment with sensory overstimulation. EC argued that every student should be able to study on campus and the special lighting provision for the silent space would provide the right study facilities for this group of students.

There were no speeches against.

The resolution was adopted by 59 votes for, 2 votes against with 5 Councillors abstaining from voting.

2198 RPI'ing us off

W Richardson (Economic Society), proposing, noted the current method used by the government for the calculation of inflation was the RPI and studies had proven that this method was not as accurate as the wider in scope Consumer Prices Index. WR noted that the RPI overestimated the inflation rate and, as the government used it to fix the repayment on student loans, this meant that students were paying far more than they should do. WR argued that a switch from the RPI, which the resolution would lobby for, would be fairer and cheaper for students.

There were no speeches against.

The resolution was adopted by 59 votes for, 2 votes against with 6 Councillors abstaining from voting.

2199 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting

Chair noted the next meeting would take place on Thursday 8 February.