

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 22 nd February, 5pm
Author:	Beth Plant
Purpose:	Record of decision making
Status:	For approval

Union Council Minutes

SECTION A: Standing Items

001 Statement from the Chair

- Quoracy Check

Meeting is quorate with 48 voting members present.

- An update on voting procedure

AS gives an update on the voting procedure and explains the rationale behind this.

- Emergency motion

CM states that the Emergency motion has been pulled from this agenda and will be on the March Union Council agenda.

002 Approval of the Minutes from the Last Meeting

CM asks for approval of minutes from the previous meeting.

Minutes are approved with 89% of the vote.

003 Matters Arising

- DPC Vacancy: Elections to DPC.

AS invites nominations for DPC.

One nomination is received from Olivia Mukiibi.

Olivia Mukiibi is elected to the Democratic Procedures Committee with 93% of the vote.

SECTION B: Reports

004 Officer Updates

None given.

005 Trustee Board Report

Report not given.

006 Student Officer Committee Report

Report not given.

Approved minutes of all meetings of SOC can be viewed online
<https://www.ueasu.org/officers/>.

007 Full-time Officer reports

Activities and Opportunities Officer - Luke Johnson

LJ's update was given in written form via the chat.

Night bus is going well and I am still finalising finances and in talks with various stakeholders as required.

Nathan and I have been to Parliament twice to represent you recently, once as the officer team for the NUS Manifesto Launch and just yesterday too for a second APPG hearing on the renters reform bill.

I'm finally getting to cut into the bane of all of our lives at the moment - beurocracy. I'm writing policies for the Opportunities department which should hopefully be accessible and allow students to easily find answers to the most confusing problem without waiting for email responses.

I'm also reviewing how our execs are utilised at the moment in a bid to drive engagement next year.

I've also been doing some BUCS (Sport) things recently, sitting on some Code of Conduct panels and attending the area meetings.

I've also been inputting on the proposed changes to committee training for next year ensuring student voice is put first.

I'm hoping coming towards the end of my term my thoughts looking forward are how can I ensure the next round of committees and leaders have a smooth experience built on a stable foundation. The revamp of byelaws, departmental policies, and other projects are all working towards this to ensure a better student experience.

Campaigns and Democracy Officer - Serene Shibli Sexton

SSS has submitted a written report via the chat.

My priority has been on the elections so I've been:

- meeting with potential candidates for the election supporting them with manifestos and campaign tips, if anyone is thinking of running and don't know where to begin drop me a teams message and I'm here to support you and we'll talk it all through!
- helping out with the election candidate drop-ins
- supporting with generational change and trying to empower students of colour to run for leadership positions including meeting officers and past

officers from all over the county and the world

In the Union I've been:

- helping run the Student of Colour Ambassador interviews,
- been working on Union Council motions
- Attending our internal meetings: Pg committee, the SU Trustee Board, SU Finance Committee
- Supporting PTOs with trying to complete their Manifesto goals

With the University:

- Attended University Council
- Working with the University on their review of non-academic student representation
- Meeting with the UEA BAME Staff Network
- Attended Estates Committee

Nationally:

- I was invited by the Vice President for Education for the National Union of Students to speak at the NUS manifesto launch at the house of commons where I spoke about the issues faced by living be that cost of living, rising rents, or the Universities passing on cost to students like the reduction of the PG scholarship and called for a change to maintenance loans and how Universities are financed
- I've agreed to facilitate the NUS Easterns meet up that, full credit to Nathan has been so diligently been working on
- And I've been trying to get more opportunities for Student activists beyond campus.

Postgraduate Officer - Elise Page

EP states that they have been to parliament to inform on manifestos from a student perspective.

EP states that they have been working with the Social Sciences Faculty as a lot of PGRs have been promised an office desk but that they were moved out of those offices.

EP has connected students to the right people in senior management to ensure that PGR students are heard.

EP also states that the finance team will relocate to reduce queues.

EP states that PG Assembly will be next Tuesday.

EP says that PG committee wants to do a cultural exchange event.

EP notes that the PG bar is looking to run more events for PG and mature students.

EP has an early draft for an idea for an interfaith event as part of women's history month and invites anyone interested to contact them.

EP notes that there is a social media post about the fees for graduation tickets and encourages people to engage with this post.

Taylor Sounes- Undergraduate Education Officer

Taylor's Update

Lecture Recordings

Practice on Lecture Recordings remains inconsistent, but we are trying to encourage more academics to take up this practice. There are a few issues being worked through on the technology side but things are progressing.

Transforming Education Awards 2024 (TEAs)

This event is progressing well, we have over 175 nominations (at time of writing) and in nearly every school. We are looking for people who are willing to shortlist nominees for us and you can register interest on this form [here](#).

Rep elections Update

We successfully recruited over 320 academic reps this year, including convenors across nearly every school and faculty. Convenors for next year can be nominated as part of the upcoming Elections cycle and nominations for that close on the 29th February. We are not currently in planning for course rep elections as we expect that the process for this will change significantly in the review but we will pick that up as we get closer to the end of the review and the start of the next academic year.

Projects + Priorities Summary

Last updated: 13/02/24

Union council members and Students are encouraged to reach out or ask questions at Council and discuss why I am listing each of these things as the priority that they are and if anyone believes something should be a higher priority, please reach out.

Project	Status	Priority	Date	Latest Update
Timetables	Concern	Urgent	13/02/24	We are once again receiving reports of issues with timetables (who'd have thought!) particularly relating to the volume of changes that are being made, often at the last minute. Advice to students is still to check Timetabler before any session for the most up to date info as there is ongoing issues with Outlook sync. I'm pushing UEA to

				try and find solutions to this ASAP but there are wider issues at play. The system remains not good enough and negatively impacting student experience.
Academic Reps	Ongoing - Action Req.	High	13/02/24	The ongoing review of Academic Representation continues. Education Committee discussed some of the recommendations from the review last week and we are continuing work on pulling these together into an outline of the new system, ready for approval by UEA before the end of the Academic Year
Transforming Education Awards	Ongoing - Action Req.	High	13/02/24	Nominations are now open - nominate here . I am extremely happy with progress and we are continuing work on shortlisting criteria, shortlisting panels and

				pulling the event together. We're looking for people to sign up to be on the shortlisting panels - you can express interest here
University Council	Ongoing - Action Req.	High	13/02/24	UEA has recently announced its new Strategy for 2030 which can be found on the my UEA website. I'd encourage everyone to read the outlines as it tells an interesting story about where UEA hopes to go in the next 6 years.
Curriculum Review	Ongoing - No Action	Medium	15/11/23	UEA are beginning to review their courses, with some schools Piloting the changes this year. Reps and Convenors should be asking for details to be brought to SSLCs where they are piloting.
UCU	Ongoing - No Action	Low	13/02/24	Over Christmas, there was a few terse emails sent from the UCU again criticising my Lecture

				Recordings position. I remain committed to this position as it is a fundamentally good thing for students
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TS notes that there are a few changes to the lecture recording policy.

TS states that people still have to record the lecture but that a sign will be on the door to make people aware.

TS notes that they have received 200 nominations for TEAs.

Nathan Wyatt – Welfare, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

NW explains that he is currently at the University of Herts for the Southern SUs conference.

NW explains that he and Luke went to parliament yesterday and that he met with Clive Lewis in parliament to discuss student housing, including St Crispins.

NW explains that there are plans to turn Debenhams into expensive student accommodation which does not solve the student housing issue.

NW states that Clive Lewis has agreed to work with them to find affordable accommodation options.

NW notes that he and Luke have been a part of the renters reform.

Question: PS asks if NW has mentioned guarantors.

Answer: NW notes that the guarantor system is flawed and that he has been in talks with the university to set up a guarantor scheme. NW states that he is keeping up with this and will speak to Lucy Kemp shortly.

CM calls a short break.

- Quoracy Check

Meeting is quorate with 41 voting members.

SECTION C: Open Discussion

008 Open Discussion Topics

- Elections- Serene Shibli Sexton

SSS introduces themselves. They state that they ran here to get here on time as they were at a lecture.

SSS notes that voting opens on the 11th of March.

SSS states that 3 out of 5 officers will not run again so there is no incumbent. SSS encourages people to nominate themselves.

SSS encourages people to come along to manifesto writing training and drop ins that are being run.

SSS notes that being in your final year is the best time to run for the elections as you come into a full time job.

- SU Suggestions Forum- Chanel Munroe

MU asks that Union Council is transparent as much as possible and asks that everyone be made aware of all the motions that will be heard.

MU asks for clarity on who to send motions to.

AS clarifies that motions should be sent to Beth Plant (UEASU staff)

MU asks what constitutes an emergency motion.

AS explains that emergency motions are things that had to be submitted late due to unforeseen circumstances.

- Graduation ticket prices

NW explains the situation around graduation and states that he will be in touch with the university next week.

CM notes that MU has messaged stating that 'UEA like to make their financial issues their students issues.'

MW states that he works for Ede and Ravenscroft, the graduation company.

MW explains that the free ticket scheme being scrapped decreases accessibility as parents of students from lower income backgrounds may no longer be able to attend.

MW states that graduation is already a stressful event and that this makes the situation more stressful.

NW thanks students for their feedback.

AS notes that students already pay a lot of money for the university and that charging them extra seems unfair.

OM states that she has previously graduated and that the cost of gown hire is already excessive and that the additional costs would have meant her family could not attend.

LJ adds that he is a first-generation student and that the university experience was new to him.

LJ states that his family would not be able to attend if the tickets were priced.

LJ states that people did not sign up for this and encourages students to keep the momentum up.

Question: EH asks if there is enough time to change it.

Answer: NW believes that there is enough time to find an alternative.

Alex adds that she is a masters student and that the ceremony is underwhelming and that the food and drink is expensive.

ML asks if there will be any additional things for students at this year's graduation.

NW notes that he believes it will be the same as last year.

AS reads statements from the chat where members agree that it is unacceptable for the university to charge for tickets.

AS notes that it is difficult for international students as they have to manage flights and accommodation.

Question: Member ask if the university will reimburse travel costs etc.

Answer: NW notes that they won't as graduation is not mandatory, but he promises to tackle the issue. He encourages anger and passion from students.

SECTION D: Policy Making

009: Eat a Lozenge

CM steps down as Chair.

AS becomes Chair.

CM explains that there are a few members of council that hold multiple voting positions and this leads to unequal representation.

CM states that with this motion passing it ensures that there will be somebody trained in attendance.

Question: ML asks about students that already hold three committee positions.

Answer: CM explains that this will come into play next year.

Question: BS states that societies might suffer if people aren't able to hold multiple positions.

Answer: CM states that they have held multiple committee positions and that it can be stressful and stops committee members spreading themselves too thin.

Question: MR asks how it would work with Sports Exec.

Answer: CM explains that you could only hold one of those roles.

Question: MR states that Sports Exec elections happen after committee elections so people may gain a sports exec role after they have a committee position.

Answer: CM explains that they would then have to give up their previous role.

Question: PS asks if bye-law motions need a 2/3rds majority.

Answer: AS confirms that they do.

Question: EF asks if this applies to other roles such as convenors.

Answer: CM confirms that it will.

Question: MR asks why CM believes that people should not be allowed to hold more than one voting role even if that is not the purpose of the role.

Answer: CM states that there would be a more diverse student community and student voice.

Question: LB asks whether it would be up to the student as to whether they can split their vote.

Answer: CM does not have an answer.

Procedural motion to take the motion in parts is passed with 75% of the vote.

Motion is split into parts.

Speeches

BS states that is people with multiple positions, clubs and societies may struggle to continue and be unable to find a replacement.

Meeting not quorate so business cannot be conducted.

Meeting concludes.

SECTION G: Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21st at 5pm.