



Location: The LCR Chair: Chanel Munroe

Date: 21/03/2024 Deputy Chair: Ali Sabba

Time: 5pm

DPC: Serene Shibli Sexton, Erin Whitby, Oscar Welchman, Harvey Rose, Josh Bell, Charlotte Miller

Useful Information:

Code of conduct

All students are members of the union, and so should behave appropriately in line with our Code of Conduct.

<https://www.ueasu.org/union/memberscodeofconduct/>

Expenses

Remember – the Union (of UEA students) may be able to reimburse you for travel or career expenses that you incur attending this meeting. Please contact su.voice@uea.ac.uk for more details.

<https://www.ueasu.org/democracy/unioncouncil/councilinfo/>

Articles of Association and Bye-laws

The Union's governing document, the Articles of Association, and its rule book, the Bye-Laws, can be found by here:

<https://www.ueasu.org/union/governance/constitution/>

Support for writing policy

Information on how to write policy and the policy template is available here:

<https://www.ueasu.org/democracy/unioncouncil/writingpolicy/>

How to access the online meeting facility

If you cannot attend in person on Thursday and would like to use the online facility, please join via the Teams link in your Outlook calendar. If you have any issues accessing this, please email su.voice@uea.ac.uk.

Attendance

Full list of union councillors can be found here:

<https://www.ueasu.org/democracy/unioncouncil/listofunioncouncillors/>

Quorum

“1.15 Business shall not be conducted by the Union Council:1.15.1 unless over 40 representatives are present at a meeting;”

Agenda

SECTION A: Standing Items

001 Statement from the Chair

To receive statements from the Chair.

002 Approval of the Minutes from the Last Meeting

Approve or make amendments to the Minutes.

The previous meeting was held on the 22nd of February 2024.

003 Matters Arising

To consider any matter arising.

To review the action log from the previous meeting.

- To receive an update on actions from the motion: Bursary for MPharm students

SECTION B: Reports

004 Officer Updates

An opportunity for all Officers to verbally update the Committee on their work to date and their plans for the term ahead.

005 Trustee Board Report

The Trustee Board is the governing body of the Union and is responsible for setting the strategy of the Union, ensuring its good governance, overseeing its financial performance and its legal compliance. The Board is made up of Student Officers, Student Trustees elected by Union Council and four outside external expert Trustees. The Chair who is a Student

Officer reports to Council and you can scrutinise the work of the Trustees and hold them to account.

A verbal report to be given

Approved minutes of all meetings of the Board can be viewed online here <https://www.ueasu.org/union/governance/trusteeboarddocuments/>

006 Student Officer Committee Report

A verbal report to be 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

A verbal report to be given

Campaigns and Democracy Officer – Serene Shibli Sexton

A verbal report to be given

Postgraduate Officer – Elise Page

A verbal report to be given

Undergraduate Education Officer – Taylor Sounes

A verbal report to be given

Welfare, Community, and Diversity Officer – Nathan Wyatt

A verbal report to be given

SECTION C: Open Discussion

008 Open Discussion Topics: Course Closure

Taylor Sounes and Emma Smith to bring discussion topic to council.

SECTION D: Policy Making

009: Why'd you have to go and make things so complicated? Just elect the Chairs earlier!

Motion title: Why'd you have to go and make things so complicated? Just elect the chairs earlier!
(Amendment to Bye-Law 2.3)

Proposer: *Mx Chanel Munroe – Chair of Union Council*

Seconder: *Serene Shibli Sexton – Campaigns and Democracy Officer*

Summary: To change when the chair and deputy chair of union council are elected, in order for a smoother transition into the new year.

Union Notes:

1. Currently, the Union Council Chair and Deputy Chair are elected at the first UC of the year as per Bylaw 2.3.
2. Bylaw 2.3 is: Code of Conduct for Union Meetings - A Chair and Deputy Chair for the meeting shall be elected by the voting representatives in attendance at the first meeting of the academic year, subject to Clauses 81 to 82 of the Articles of Association. In their absence the meeting can elect its own Chair, who must be an Ordinary member of the Union, subject to Clauses 81 and 82 of the Articles of Association.
3. Clauses 81 to 82 in the Articles of Association have nothing to do with chairing Union Council

4. Training for both the chair and deputy chair is integral to a smooth running of UC.

Union Believes:

1. Electing these roles at the first Union Council of the year does not allow for maximum time to train and prepare individuals for all UC has to offer.
2. It seems odd that all newly elected Union Council representatives elect their chair and deputy chair despite not knowing them and potentially having zero experience of how Union Council works.
3. We should change the timings of election of chair and deputy chair of Union Council to allow current (this academic year) Union Council reps to vote as they have been part of this year's process.
4. This will allow more time for sufficient training over the summer period as we do with most other student group representatives as normal procedure.
5. That the bye-laws shouldn't be overly confusing and site the Articles of Association unnecessarily

Union Resolves:

1. To amend bylaw 2.3 to state:
A Chair and Deputy Chair for the meeting shall be elected by the voting representatives in attendance at the last meeting of the academic year. In their absence the meeting can elect its own chair, who is an ordinary member of the Union.

010: Trans Rights are Human Rights

Motion title: Trans People Deserve to Feel Safe – A Response to Transphobia at UEA

Proposer: Fenugreek Llewelyn (He/They) – LGBT+ Part Time Officer

Seconders: Patryk Szalanski (He/They) – School of PHA Convenor

Alice Bethell (She/Her) – Ethical Issues Officer

Chanel Monroe (They/Them) – Chair of Union Council

Summary: Transphobia is rampant within our society, and students deserve safety and security in their place of education. Decency and respect within a place of education is vital. Trans and gender non-conforming people have the same right to safety and security as anyone else – we should not be allowed to be open to attack in a space that is supposed to be safe and accepting. Open conversation is the only key to mutual understanding; not attacks in public spaces which incite hate and possible violence against one of our marginalised groups on campus. We must continue working to make trans and gender non-conforming students feel safe at UEA.

Council Notes:

- There were 4,732 recorded transphobic attacks in the UK in 2022/23 – according to the UK Home Office. This has risen from a total of 313 in 2011/12 – (1)
- According to the Concrete Sex Survey 2024, 6% of participants self-identified as non-binary. The Survey received a total of 565 responses from the UEA student community – (2)
- There has been an increase of 11% in hate crimes against trans and gender non-conforming people in a year, as of October 2023. The increase is by 186% over the last five years – (3)
- Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming individuals are ‘more likely to experience threats of physical or sexual harassment or violence compared with the LGBT community as a whole – (4)
- There has been a recent increase in anti-trans motivated incidents on campus – such as leaflets being distributed throughout the UEA Sportspark changing rooms and stickers places in the Hive toilets – reported by a member of Staff Pride and a student, respectively. There have also been anti-trans protests held on Campus (February 10th) and there are plans for another to be held in May – (5)

- The Union of UEA Students is committed to equality of opportunity for all. We will campaign against discrimination, promoting a community in which all individuals may contribute without the fear of discrimination – (6)
- The Union of UEA Students is committed to pursuing 'equal opportunities by taking positive action within the law to facilitate participation of groups discriminated against by society' – (7)
- The safety of trans and gender non-conforming individuals has been under attack for years – the most recent attack being the governments new guidance on 'gender questioning' students under the age of 18. This new guidance suggests teachers must disclose if a student has come out as trans to parents without consent, as well as giving schools and staff the right to 'refuse' a child's name and pronouns – (8)

Council Believes:

1. Students require a safe environment to excel academically.
2. UEA Staff should be impartial about political beliefs when teaching, for their own safety and security, and for that of the students.
3. UEA is a place of diversity and inclusion, we are proud as Council to provide spaces for trans-people to be able to voice their concerns.
4. Non-elected and non-UEA-affiliated persons who do not have the right to represent student majorities or minorities should not incite immoral and undemocratic conversations within SU spaces.

Council Resolves:

1. Mandate the Welfare Officer to campaign against transphobic staff at UEA.
2. Student welfare as a priority, giving support to trans and non-binary students.
3. Press for UEA to continue working with the Union's LGBT+ Officer and Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer to improve EDI and Sensitivity training for University Staff – This includes opening a dialogue surrounding what training is already provided and what can be done to make it better.
4. Campaign for full introduction of staff to be common practice (name, pronouns, position) as well as the normalisation of students disclosing their pronouns – if they feel it is safe to do so.
5. Encourage all those running for and holding the position of SU Officers to include their pronouns on their SU accounts and posters.

6. Mandate the SU to put out a statement against these actions taken by peoples who do not want to communicate in a mannered and respectful way, and who do not align with UEA or SU values.

Sources:

1 – <https://www.statista.com/statistics/624011/transgender-hate-crimes-in-england-and-wales-by-offence-type/>

2 – https://issuu.com/concreteuea/docs/concrete_399

3 – <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/new-data-rise-hate-crime-against-lgbtq-people-continues-stonewall-slams-uk-gov->

4 – <https://www.stophateuk.org/about-hate-crime/transgender-hate/>

5 – Other Union Officers can corroborate these statements as well as members of UEA Staff Pride and Sportspark Staff – whom the report about the flyers was made to, as it is a hate crime.

6 – <https://www.ueasu.org/union/governance/constitution/> - Union Council, Byelaw 8: Equal Opportunities Regulations

7 – <https://www.ueasu.org/union/governance/constitution/> - UEA SU

Articles: B – ii.

8 – <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gender-questioning-children-draft-schools-and-colleges-guidance>

011: Governance Restructure of the Trustee Board

Motion title: Governance Restructure of the Trustee Board

Proposer: Taylor Sounes, UG Education Officer, Chair of the Board

Seconder: Serene Shibli Sexton, Campaigns and Democracy Officer

Summary:

Following a recent governance review from a sector expert, the board has agreed in principle a number of changes to our governance structure. In order to implement these, we need to make a series of changes to our Articles of Association which must come to Union Council for initial approval.

Union Resolves: *(What do you want to happen. Tell the Union what actions you would like to be taken by the organisation. Such as mandate officers to speak to college/external or what resources (time or physical) allocated.)*

To amend the articles to reflect the beliefs noted above as outlined in the Appendix.

To amend the articles where relevant ensure good governance practices

To remove Byelaw 11, Subcommittees of the Board, in its entirety.

To amend Byelaw 10.4 as follows

1.10.4 to receive information on the appointment of student members of the Trustee Board, nominate members to relevant board sub committees and to approve the arrangements for the election or

1. appointment of members to University Boards, Committees and Working Groups.

Appendix: Feb Revision of the Articles of Association: See Additional Documents

012: UEA bursary for final year medical students

Motion title: UEA Bursary for final year medical students

#liveablenhsbursary

Proposer: Mikey Umney, he/him. MED Convenor

Seconder: Adam Syed he/him. UEA Medical Society (MedSoc) UC rep

Summary: Currently, final-year medical students face a significant drop in funding as they switch from a traditional student loan to the NHS bursary. Nationally the BMA is working for a liveable NHS bursary. However, in the meantime, the union feels that the university should acknowledge the drop in funding experienced by medical students moving on to the NHS bursary and extend the UEA bursary for the duration of their course.

Union Notes:

1. This motion is being proposed on behalf of George Bell & Carla Bodagh, the British Medical Association Reps at Norwich Medical School
2. Final-year medical students face a significant drop in funding as they switch from a traditional student loan to the NHS bursary.

3. A student can expect a maximum of £5,673 as a combination of NHS maintenance bursary and reduced SFE maintenance loan. This is a reduction from £9,978 available from SFE in previous years.
4. MBBS students on years 1-4 of their course are eligible for extra financial support in the form of the UEA bursary. This can be up to £2500, forming a vital boost for students who do not receive financial support from parents.
5. However, in 5th year, as these students experience a severe drop in funding, they are no longer eligible for the UEA bursary.
6. This shortfall means that many students have to work long hours to buy essentials and pay rent whilst studying for their final exams
7. Nationally the BMA is working for a liveable NHS bursary to address this issue.

Union Believes:

1. Whilst students can apply for extra support, this is generally not enough to make up for the loss of income compared to previous years
2. The university should acknowledge the drop in funding experienced by medical students moving on to the NHS bursary and extend the UEA bursary for the duration of their course.
3. The current funding situation is prejudiced towards students from widening participation backgrounds.

Union Resolves:

1. To lobby the medical school, FMH and the UEA executive board for a temporary UEA bursary for final year medical students to cover the general cost of living
2. To mandate the SU, particularly the undergraduate officer and/or the welfare FTOs, to take this issue head on to the NHS and the government for a liveable NHS bursary

References:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/news-and-opinion/funding-gap-threatens-future-for-medical-students>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-61302377>

<https://www.dauk.org/liveable-nhs-bursary/>

013: Let All Candidates Campaign Equally

Motion title: Let all candidates campaign equally (Changing bye-law 5.12.8)

Proposer: Serene Shibli (*Campaigns and Democracy Officer*)

Seconder: Luke Johnson (*Activities and Opportunities Officer*)

Summary: This motion seeks to change the byelaws to recognise officers running elections as candidates first and officers second, giving the deputy-returning officer more flexibility election rules, and enabling candidates to campaign as any other candidate would. Bye-laws restricting officer involvement exist to ensure free and fair SU elections. Many officers are able to re-run in SU elections and so bye-laws that are overly prescriptive hamper innovation and change in election rule that would benefit candidates across the board.

Union Notes:

1. The bye-laws on endorsement currently state:

“5.12.7 Student Officers are prohibited from endorsing electoral candidates.

‘Endorsement’ is defined as showing support for candidates through attempting to persuade or dissuade persons to vote for a candidate. This may be through writing, creating and distributing a candidate’s campaign materials and manifesto.

5.12.8 Student Officers that choose to re-stand for a second term are exempt from self- endorsement. ‘Self-endorsement’ is defined as showing support for candidates through attempting to persuade or dissuade persons to vote for oneself. This may be through writing, creating and distributing their own campaign materials and manifesto.

2. The current election rules currently allow for slates. (For more information on slates please see the election rules:

<https://www.ueasu.org/elections/home/rules-and-faqs/>)

3. Bye-laws 5.12.7 and 5.12.8 would mean that current officers would either be breaking the bye-laws by engaging in slates or are potentially putting themselves at a campaigning disadvantage by not doing so

Union Believes:

1. Union elections should be free and fair
2. All candidates should be considered the same and able to participate equally in election

Union Resolves:**1. To change bye-law 5.12.8 from:**

5.12.8 Student Officers that choose to re-stand for a second term are exempt from self- endorsement. 'Self-endorsement' is defined as showing support for candidates through attempting to persuade or dissuade persons to vote for oneself. This may be through writing, creating and distributing their own campaign materials and manifesto.

To

5.12.8 Student Officers that choose to stand in elections shall be considered candidates, beholden to election rules as laid out by the deputy and returning officers as any other candidate, and officers second

SECTION E: Approval of Society and Peer Groups

No societies for approval

SECTION F: Any Other Business**SECTION G: Date and Time of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 25th at 5pm.