

Union Council Agenda

Chair: Laura Taylor

Deputy Chair: Jude Beckett

DPC: Serene Shibli, Sophie Atherton, Kate Adler

1. Housekeeping

- a) Code of conduct

<https://www.uea.su/union/memberscodeofconduct/>

- b) Expenses

<https://www.uea.su/democracy/unioncouncil/councilinfo/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.

- c) Articles of Association and Bye-laws

<https://www.uea.su/union/governance/constitution/>

2. Statements from the Chair

This is going to be a busy meeting! The agenda has been rearranged slightly to try and get voting content finished earlier in the meeting for anyone who may need to leave early for Ramadan.

Reminder about behaviour in meetings- please treat other representatives with consideration and respect.

The Deputy Chair, Jude Beckett, will be chairing the society and peer support group constitutions to approve and the motion Amendment to “Policy to Establish a ‘Quiet Space’ in the former Nap Nook”.

This is the second to last meeting this year, so if you have anything you’d like to achieve in your role before the end of the year, please consider bringing it to the last meeting.

Student Trustee roles are available to nominate yourself for! This is a great way to stay involved in

helping uea(su) next year.

3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

Please check the minutes for accuracy in advance of the meeting.

<https://www.uea.su/democracy/unioncouncil/councildocumentsandnotices/>

4. Society and peer support group constitutions- to approve

After submission of the student group application pack, new society and peer support group constitutions are discussed at a meeting of the Societies Executive which makes a recommendation as to whether the group should be approved.

Council will vote on the following:

- i. Accepting the recommendations of the Societies Executive in block. Arguments can be made to remove a group from the block to discuss separately, which will result in this vote being rejected.
- ii. Considering a group outside of the block. Arguments can be made as to why Council may not agree with the recommendation of the Societies Executive, meaning the group should be discussed separately.
- iii. Approving or rejecting a group outside of the block. Arguments can be made as to whether the group should be approved or rejected.

Students who are not council representatives but are from a group being proposed can speak during this item.

Society	Constitution	Recommendation
BBQ Society	Provide a safe society in which students can socialise and share techniques for barbecuing meats and vegan and vegetarian substitutes. Host social BBQ by the lake by hiring out the available BBQ stations.	Approve - Execs thought the idea was appropriate and in line with union policy
Go Club	To have weekly in-person meetings to play the board game of Go in a safe, friendly social environment for fun and to improve members' playing quality. We will also hold in-house tournaments and take group trips to national tournaments where we will compete individually or as a team against players from other Go Clubs.	Approve - Execs thought the idea was appropriate and in line with union policy
Motorsport	To provide a friendly, welcoming, and inclusive environment for fans or aspiring fans of professional motorsport (primarily the Formula 1 World Championship) to meet each other and to share their passion through social platforms and events. The group will provide opportunities to meet likeminded students and the chance to participate in events relevant to the nature of the group.	Approve - Execs thought the idea was appropriate and in line with union policy
Asian Medical Students' Association	Connect Asian medical students in UEA through socials and academic events. Create safe spaces for new and existing medical students to come to for pastoral and academic support (e.g., Mock OSCEs, revision sessions). Network with other Asian medical students from other UK universities and beyond. Network with Asian doctors in NNUH/ Norfolk (as guest speakers and shadowing opportunities)	Approve - Execs thought the idea was appropriate and in line with union policy.
Radiology	A society to provide radiology teaching, revision resources and OSCE tips which will help significantly whilst on placement and also aid the understanding of data interpretation images. These skills are encountered in all medicine modules, meaning the society is beneficial to medical students of all years. Radiology and Interventional Radiology are up-and-coming specialities with new technology and reducing the need for more invasive surgeries. We hope to host conferences with various speakers to explore their career pathways within radiology and seminars on practical sessions on ultrasound and image guided interventions.	Approve - Execs thought the idea was appropriate and in line with union policy, providing a slight amendment of the constitution to remove the idea of the society providing the teaching of radiology.

Language Exchange Society	<p>Promote shared knowledge surrounding new languages. Welcome and celebrate diversity of cultures and nationalities at UEA. Empower international students and all/any students with an interest in learning new languages and learning about various cultures. Hold language sharing events each week to learn the basics of a new language as well as celebrate and teach any culturally related topics connected to that language such as traditional food, dances, music, etc. Help encourage positive, space and inclusive social spaces for students of all ethnicities, languages, cultures and family roots.</p>	<p>Rejection – Execs thought there was a conflict of interest with International Students’ Society.</p> <p>International Students’ Society constitution is ‘to celebrate diversity, discovering new cultures and languages’</p>
Hong Kong Public Affairs and Social Services (HKPASS)	<p>We are a student lead group form by Hong Kong students from UEA. We aim to enrich our members’ university life by holding academic activities with universities around the UK. We will reach out to the HKPASS of other universities nationwide to organize joint-university events, such as joint-university quizzes, academic forums, and charity balls. We will organize outreach social services via volunteering opportunities and charity sales, as well as career support for our members. We will also provide academic support and regular HK and UK news updates to members.</p>	<p>Rejection – Execs thought there was a conflict of interest with Hong Kong Society.</p> <p>Hong Kong Society’s constitution is ‘to provide support for Hong Kong students helping them settle, experience and enjoy life in UEA. Also to promote the Hong Kong Culture’</p>
Food and Socials	<p>The main aims of the group is to get students socials in a safe space and learn about different cultures.</p>	<p>Rejection – Execs thought there was a conflict of interest with Cooking and Tasting Society.</p> <p>Cooking and Tasting’s constitution is ‘to help students of UEA gain appreciation and the ability to cook for themselves and others, as well as cultivating and furthering a greater awareness of the diversity within food culture and Norwich.’</p>

5. Policy papers

Please note any policy paper proposing an amendment to the bye-laws must receive a two-thirds majority of the vote (bye-law 1.10.8).

Motion title: Amendment to “Policy to Establish a ‘Quiet Space’ in the former Nap Nook”

Proposer: **Laura Taylor (Disability Peer Support Group)**

Seconder: **Ivo Garnham (Undergraduate Education Officer) and Megan Anderson (Invisible Disabilities Officer)**

Motion Summary (250 words max)

The ‘Quiet Space’ has still not been established despite the vote to establish the policy mandating it open in the former Nap Nook by the start of this semester. This motion moves to amend the policy to establish the ‘Quiet Space’ to resolve issues arising from discussion in the Union Council meeting in which the policy was passed, and subsequent work towards the room. This will result in a change of full-time officers responsible for the project, a renewed deadline, and a resolve to establish the room in the former nap nook, with the ability to move the room elsewhere on campus when an appropriate alternative is found and established.

Council Notes

1. The ‘Quiet Space’ still has not been established in the former Nap Nook room, despite the vote at Union Council on 16th November mandating establishment by the start of second semester.
2. The former nap nook room is no longer being used as office space for staff, which was a barrier to establishing the ‘Quiet Space’ in this room.
3. Efforts over this semester to establish the ‘Quiet Space’ elsewhere on campus have not yet resulted in a space opening for students.
4. Despite the original motion mandating the Welfare, Community, and Diversity Officer to work on this policy, most of the work has been completed by the Undergraduate Education Officer.
5. No other policies have passed at Union Council specifically mandating use of the former Nap Nook room, and therefore the ‘Quiet Space’ takes priority over any other plans for this room.
6. uea(su) still has the furniture from the former Nap Nook which can be used to begin setting up the ‘Quiet Space’.
7. Disabled students have experienced enhanced issues this year due to the return to in person teaching which has had a disproportionately negative effect on students with some disabilities. A key

recommendation for supporting disabled students through these issues is by establishing quiet spaces on campus¹.

Council Believes

1. The former nap nook is not the perfect room for the quiet space due to size limitations and potential disturbance from Livewire next door.
2. There is an urgent need for this space to be established on campus quickly. Disabled students have suffered this academic year from returning to campus without the Nap Nook which previously supported their attendance and health.
3. There has been a clear demand for this space from disabled students over this academic year and it is clear that it would provide much needed support. Bureaucracy should not be the reason uea(su) does not support disabled students. With such a clear path available to establish this space, it would be a gross disservice to the disabled community to not take it.

Council Resolves

1. To replace resolve 1 of the motion with “mandate the Undergraduate Education Officer to work alongside part-time Disability Officers and the Disability Peer Support Group committee to establish the ‘Quiet Space’ in the former Nap Nook room by the end of this semester (20th May 2022)”.
2. To introduce a resolve 4 stating “Mandate the Full-Time Officer team to report to Union Council at the final meeting of this academic year to confirm establishment of the room”.
3. Introduce a resolve 6 stating “Mandate the Undergraduate Education Officer and Campaigns and Democracy Officer to work on finding and establishing a suitable alternative room elsewhere on campus”.
4. Introduce a resolve 5 stating “The mandate for use of this room as the ‘Quiet Space will be in effect until a suitable room elsewhere on campus is established, which must pass a vote at Union Council as a suitable replacement meeting the aims of the original motion”.

¹ Disabled Students UK. (2022) *Going back is not a choice- Accessibility Lessons for Higher Education*.
<https://disabledstudents.co.uk/not-a-choice/>

Motion title: High Time for Harm Reduction

Proposer: Hamish Williams (Campaigns & Democracy Officer)

Seconder: Sophie Atherton (Non-Portfolio Officer)

Council Notes

1. The safety of our students is one of our key priorities here at uea(su) and not taking “illegal” drugs is of course the safest way to take drugs.
2. However, some students do take drugs and some students are always going to continue taking drugs no matter what punitive “zero tolerance” measures or anti-drug laws are in place. So, what now? Should we just tell students no but let them get on with it?
3. It is clear zero tolerance measures do not always work, both in the microcosm of UEA and in the wider world. Since the start of the “War [on](#) Drugs” consumption has skyrocketed and in 2018 an NUS survey recorded that up to 56% of students interviewed had taken recreational drugs at some point in their lives, with 39% of them currently still regularly taking drugs.¹
4. Alternatively, the Harm Reduction approach to drugs recognises that some students will always use drugs. This approach seeks to provide open and direct information to students with regards to addiction, overdose, and other harmful consequences, including the provision of drug testing kits so that students can make informed decisions about what they choose to do.²
5. Indeed, according to the Union Council Motion No. 1935 *It’s Time To Legalise Cannabis* (which now acts as Policy Precedent) the Union already recognises that the personal use of drugs should not be a criminal issue and suggests that the aim of any drug policy should be to primarily reduce health risks in line with the harm reduction approach.³ Yet when it comes to drug and alcohol consumption amongst students at UEA, uea(su) does not currently offer anything in the way of harm reduction services.
6. On the other hand, many student unions across the UK offer harm reduction services to their students, providing relevant information on their website, wellbeing support and free drug testing kits. These student unions include:
 - Newcastle SU⁴
 - Leicester SU⁵
 - Leeds SU⁶
 - Anglia Ruskin SU⁷

- UWE SU⁸
- Bristol SU⁹
- Bath SU¹⁰
- Sussex SU
- Manchester SU
- Sheffield SU¹¹
- Cardiff SU¹²

Council Believes

1. That whilst uea(su) does not encourage drug use, we understand that some students do decide to take drugs recreationally and ignoring this use helps nobody.
2. More information and equipment should therefore be made available to students about the dangers of both illegal drug use/controlled drug use. Those students should be able to make informed choices about the substances they choose to take.
3. uea(su) therefore has a duty of care to its members to offer harm reduction services in the form of confidential advice, information on the uea(su) website and drug testing kits.

Council Resolves

1. To implement a harm reduction campaign regarding student drug use here at uea(su). This involves:
 - Introducing free drug testing kits at uea(su).
 - Introducing free and confidential advice for students, without the fear of judgement or repercussions from the University.
 - Updating the uea(su) website to include a support page on drugs & alcohol discussing the associated risks, harm reduction, links to support services etc.
2. To ensure that this service remains independent from the University and that the identities of students seeking these services remains anonymous if possible.
3. To complete the above in a manner that is compliant with the law and protects uea(su) as an organisation.
4. To mandate the Full Time Officers to both, continue research into this and to implement this.

<p>Motion title: Fund the Menstruation Station, Fight Period Poverty On Our Campus</p>
<p>Proposer: Patrycja Poplawska (Womens Officer)</p> <p>Seconder: Amber Sisson (Bloody Good UEA)</p>
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The menstruation station in the library was set up by Bloody Good UEA and former Women’s Officer Briony Randell in the 2020-21 academic year. In order to replenish the station regularly, for student use, this station requires consistent funding, donations and supplies. We cannot rely solely on the Student Officer Budget.</p> <p>The Union of UEA Students will be referred to as ‘the Union’.</p>
<p>Council Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Period poverty is the lack of access to menstrual products due to financial constraints. In 2017, a Plan International UK survey showed that 1 in 10 people who menstruate were unable to afford menstrual products. - Union Policy 2028 ‘Sanitary Products are not a Luxury’ which passed in December 2016, mandates the SU to ‘offer free sanitary products in accessible areas and in all gendered and non-gendered facilities’, which it does in the Union House building. - The Menstruation Station in the library was set up by Bloody Good UEA and former Women’s Officer Briony Randell in the 2020-21 academic year. Currently, this station relies entirely on student donations collected by Bloody Good and products bought using the Student Officer Budget.
<p>Council Believes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is understood that The Library is a university managed building, and the station sits within it, however we believe that regardless of where the station it is situated Union should still provide funding for its maintenance as this is an Officer led initiative. - Reliance on the Student Officer Budget, and the Women’s Officer putting in funding requests can be detrimental to the station as it can lead to scattered and inconsistent supplies as well as no supplies at all if no Women’s Officer is elected. In addition to this, the cost of menstrual product remains high so additional funding from the SU would make the station easier to maintain.

- The station in the library has received a lot of positive support online – such as on Concrete Confessions - and products are used quickly.

Council Resolves

- To mandate the Union to implement the Menstruation Station into their financial budget, in a way which ensures it has consistent and a wide variety of products. This shall not be detrimental to the provision of products in Union House.
- To mandate the Union to promote the Bloody Good donation point in the Shop at UEA, and set up additional donation points in Union House.
- To mandate the Union to continue lobbying and working with the University to fight period poverty, similarly to the University of York and YUSU, University of Edinburgh and Queen's University Belfast

7. Presentation and Q+A from UEA Vice Chancellor, David Richardson

There will be a vote to approve the Vice Chancellor to address Council.

There will be a short presentation followed by opportunity to ask any questions you would like to.

The Chair will allow students who are not Union Council Representatives to ask questions, so please invite anyone who may be interested.

Students who are not Union Council Representatives can speak during this item.

8. Updates from NUS delegates

The NUS delegates will give a short presentation covering this year's NUS conference.

9. Annual finance report - Lizzie Payne, Activities and Opportunities Officer

The report of the past year's finances and budget for the coming year will be presented. Council will vote to approve the report and budget.

10. Reports

a) Trustee board report

No report given by the agenda deadline.

b) Student officer committee (SOC) report

No report given by the agenda deadline.

c) Full-time Officer reports

Lizzie Payne, Activities and Opportunities Officer

Meetings attended

- University Finance Committee
- Welcome Week 2022 Implementation Group
- Derby Day Management Group
- Employability and Opportunities Senior Leadership Team - Discussion of Academic socs partnership meeting with University partners
- Sports operations
- Exec and Presidents meetings (Clubs and societies)
- Trustee Board Strategy Day

Manifesto Updates/what I'm working on:

- Continuing work on financial transparency of UEA Sport.
- Graduation events (LCR, daytime, nighttime) - Survey sent out in Alumni Newsletter collating insight in what 2020 and 2021 grads would like
- Planning a Spring Showcase for Clubs who train in the Spring Gymnastics Centre
- Working on a partnership document for Academic Socs and respective schools to ensure a co-relationship between the two partners
- Held a meeting with Cllr Alan Waters to discuss support for students in light of the increasing cost of living and the lack of support from the government for students
- Discussions with the University surrounding the staffing situation in Unio

Upcoming activities:

- Spring Showcase 1st May
- Derby Day 27th April
- Societies and Volunteering Awards night - date 19th May (get your nominations in!)
- Sports Awards 6th May

Ivo Garnham, Undergraduate Education Officer

- Attended PPL Fest, a series of evening events put on by the Philosophy, Politics and Languages and Communications Studies school, in which various speakers gave talks and interviews.
- Sat on interview panel for Associate Pro Vice Chancellor for Education and Curriculum role.
- Attended NUS conference.
- IT forum: the regular meeting where any recurring IT issues are raised and academic staff are updated on the university's digital transformation programme.
- Humanities Faculty Learning and Teaching Quality Committee: the regular meeting of representatives from each school within the humanities faculty. We discussed several issues including the timing of assessments and reading weeks in the Spring semester and how we could balance the workload better for students whilst also making sure academic staff are not overloading with marking whilst also trying to deliver quality teaching.
- Digital Transformation Steering Committee: the team in charge of planning how the university invests in digital technology. We discussed issues including cyber security and how we can ensure all university staff are competent in using modern technology.
- Chaired SU Management Committee: the meeting where we ensure effective day-to-day running of the SU.
- Meeting with Cllr Alan Waters where the officers discussed the cost of living crisis and how the city council can potentially support students.
- Capture Technology Steering Group: I attended the introductory meeting of the group in charge of ensure the effective rollout of capture technology, which will ensure that lectures can be automatically recorded and uploaded for student access at any time.
- Blended Learning Phase 2: the team have been receiving demonstrations of online assessment software from multiple potential providers. We intend to choose software based on which will be most suitable for the assessments likely to be completed by UEA students, and which will be most accessible to students with a range of learning needs.
- Annual leave for Easter break!
- Trustee Board strategy day: the current board members and incoming full time officers completed several activities to make the SU's values and strategy for the next academic year clear.

- Sat on interview panel for Associate Pro Vice Chancellor for Recruitment and Admissions role.

Ayane Hida, Postgraduate Officer

Item	Update
Meetings	Employability and Opportunity Catch up/Board preparation/Board Strategy day/UKRI Tackling Bullying and Harassment Forum/BAME Staff Network/HUM GSSF/DEV PG SSLC/AURORA WP3.2.1 meeting/Meeting with APVC Doctoral College/Code of Conduct Panel/Aurora Student Council/UKAT Annual Conference/Management Committee/Trustee Board/Meeting Cllr Alan Waters/Aurora Biannual Catch up/HUM LTQC/VC Taskforce on Tackling Racism/Earlham Hall Building meeting/NUS Conference/SCI PGR Committee/UDIPP meeting/Postgraduate Committee/UKRI Consultation
AOB	<p>Regular catch ups with PGTs and PGRs to see what they are feeling and issues in their course</p> <p>More opportunities/supports for PGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PG Yoga every Wednesday at 6pm - PG badminton every Thursday at 6pm - PG Mixed football every Friday at 6pm <p>For further detail, contact me at: a.hida@uea.ac.uk</p>

Aaron Campbell, Welfare, Community, and Diversity Officer

Hi, all hope everyone is well and had a good easter break, like most people I took some time off and so my updates will be rather short.

- Working on some of my projects including the inclusive language, beyond the binary, supporting international students and trans campaign (feel free to ask me about any of these).
- Attended tackling racism task force.
- Islamic prayer space working group.
- Dealing with various student requests,
- Attended Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion committee – working to support students.
- Met with Norwich Council regarding supporting students with the cost-of-living crisis.

- Attended Honorary Graduates committee.
- Began working with the Race Equality Charter team.
- Did 2 days of SU board strategy with current and future trustees.

If anyone needs anything, please feel free to reach out! Peace, love, and Blessings

Aaron

Hamish Williams, Campaigns and Democracy Officer

No report given by the agenda deadline.

11. Any other business/ open discussion

Union Council representatives may request items for open discussion with the Chair for the agenda deadline.

Any other business items are matters which representatives could not have become aware of before the agenda deadline. These items can be requested from the Chair up to 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

12. Details of next meeting

26th May 2022

6pm

Lecture Theatre 1

Deadline for item submission: 3pm on Thursday 19th May 2022.

If you will be unable to attend in person, please email su.voice@uea.ac.uk so we can arrange a meeting link.