



students transforming

**SU council agenda**  
**Thursday 27 April**  
**17.00**  
**JSC - 3.02**







# housekeeping

- minutes of last meeting
- societies exec recommendation of new societies
- list of vacancies for council representatives on university and union committees



# SECTION 1

## HOUSEKEEPING

**073**            **Statements from the Chair**

To receive any statements from the Chair

**074**            **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting**

To approve:    The minutes of the previous meeting held on [23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023](#)

**075**            **Matters Arising**

To receive:    Any matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

**076**            **Club, Society and Peer Support Group Constitutions**

To note:        That there have been no society constitutions received for consideration

**078**            **Annual Report and Accounts for year end**

To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for submission to the University as required under the Code of Practice relating to Students' Unions at the University of East Anglia

[Link to view the Annual Report and Accounts](#)

**079**            **Appointment of Auditors**

To note the reappointment by the Trustee Board of Crowe UK LLP as the Auditors for the next financial year

**080**            **Financial Estimates and Approval of Budget**

To note that financial estimates have been deferred by the Finance Committee to the next meeting of Union Council

**081**            **Affiliations to External Organisations**

To approve the continued affiliations of the Union, on behalf of the generality of students, to the following organisations (costs in brackets)

Advice UK (£324)

National Union of Students (£13,205)

WonkHE

To note that UEASU has policy in place for the affiliation to the following organisations: Action for Trans Health and Norfolk People's Assembly, however there has been no record of any payment in affiliation fees to the above organisations in the financial year to 31 July 2022.



# reports

- reports and papers from student officers, committee meetings and councillor reports





# SECTION 2

## REPORTS

### **077 Student Officer Committee Report**

To receive: A verbal report from the Chair of SOC

To note: That the approved minutes of all meetings of SOC can be viewed online [here](#).

### **078 Trustee Board Report**

To receive: A verbal report from the Chair of the Trustee Board.

To note: That the approved minutes of all meetings of the Board can be viewed online [here](#).

### **079 Full-Time Officer Reports**

To receive: Written reports from each of the full-time officers

#### **Undergraduate Education Officer – Taylor Sounes**

No report has been received

#### **Activities and Opportunities Officer – Evie Drennan**

No report has been received

#### **Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer – Aaron Campbell**

No report has been received

#### **Postgraduate Education Officer – Elise Page**

- Officers (Aaron, Taylor and myself) and some career staff visited Cambridge Students Union. We had a tour of their offices, and learnt about their facilities and services. We got some good ideas about a number of things, including how to engage as many students as possible, as well as supporting students to organize and campaign.
- Aaron, Taylor and I also attended a conference at the University of Staffordshire Students Union. It was about LGBTQ+ issues, and I particularly enjoyed the presentation about Queer Britain, a museum in London celebrating Queer history of Britain and related to Britain.
- The UEA Green Film Festival group met to discuss final details of how the festival will run, sorting out some logistics and finalising the plan. Really

looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the festival, you can book FREE tickets here!

<https://www.ueagreenfilmfestival.co.uk/2023-programme>

- I was on annual leave from April 6th until April 13th.
- After the break we had a Postgraduate Committee meeting. One of the big discussions we had is how to use the rest of the PG Committee budget, including what sort of legacy the committee would like to have. We thought about the possibility of a bicycle hire scheme, but we don't know the feasibility or the technicalities yet. The committee has also been working on communication, and this week we got the university to send out a message to all UEA postgraduate students on our behalf. It includes a link to sign up to the PGSU newsletter – PGs, sign up!
- I met with career staff in the UEA Voice team to plan out some strategy for postgraduates at uea(su) for the rest of my term in office (until July 2024). Some of the key points involve: providing quality events, sport and societies that PGs want; engaging more postgraduates within postgraduate-only democratic spaces; developing postgraduate researcher communities and student-staff liaison committees, as well as all the points on my manifesto. I am always open to thoughts and change, because at the end of the day it's about what students want – we're here to represent you.
- I took part in a training session, run by Citizens UK and hosted by Civic UEA, about how to build communities of power and make change in the university and beyond. I'm really excited to be involved with this project going forward.

### **Campaigns & Democracy Officer – Serene Shibli Sexton**

No report was received due to illness – the Officer has sent apologies to the meeting



# open discussion

- a time for group discussions on key issues that can ultimately influence policy





# **SECTION 3**

## **OPEN DISCUSSIONS:**

**For this meeting we will be looking at:**

**Impact of upcoming Marking and Assessment  
Boycott action taken by UCU**



# policy papers

- all of the policy proposals that council will be debating



# SECTION 4

## POLICY MAKING

080

Zero Redundancies at UEA, Part II

**Proposer:** Joseph Williams (Postgraduate Committee)

**Seconded:** Pdraig Smead (Non-Portfolio Officer)

### Summary

This motion seeks to restore resolution 3 to Motion 065, thereby mandating the Full Time Officers to maintain a position of zero redundancies for the duration of the 'Accelerated Strategic Review Programme', and to make clear this position of zero redundancies in any decision-making process related to the Strategic Review Programme, especially committee meetings.

### Union Notes

1. Please refer to 'Union notes' 1-4 of Motion 065.
2. The SU is now mandated by Motion 065 (resolution 1), passed at the March Union Council, 'to take an explicit "zero redundancies" position and oppose the planned mass redundancies at every opportunity'.
3. The SU is now mandated by Motion 051 (resolution 2), passed at the February Union Council, to 'support UEA UCU's, Unison's, and Unite's demand of zero redundancies.'
4. The UEA Statutes, 1.2.5 (Approved on 12 July 2022) state that 'at least one member [of University Council] shall be a student of the University'. The UEA Ordinances, 5.1 dictate that membership of University Council will include 'two students nominated by the executive of the Students Union'. [1]
5. A mandate to take a zero redundancies position does not constitute a conflict of interest for any student representatives on University committees. The Ordinances 5.12 define a conflict of interest as 'a pecuniary, family or other personal interest, whether or not in common with others, in any matter under discussion at any meeting at which they are present'. [2]
6. Nowhere in the UEA SU Constitution (The Articles of Association and the Bye-Laws) or the UEA Constitution (the Royal Charter, the Statutes, or the Ordinances) is there any reference to a student representative being

forced to resign from a University committee due to a real or perceived conflict of interest resulting from a position mandated by Union Council.  
[3]

7. There is no precedent for a student representative being forced to resign from a University committee due to a real or perceived conflict of interest resulting from a position mandated by Union Council.

### **Union Believes**

1. Please refer to 'Union believes' 1-5 of Motion 065.
2. Student representatives are not invited to committee meetings to agree entirely with the decisions of the Executive Team or University Council. It is self-evident that student representatives are invited to these meetings to represent the interests of students.
3. Student representatives can, and must, hold the Executive Team and University Council to account in every committee meeting.
4. Student representatives can, and should, see these committee meetings as an opportunity to direct the conversation in the interests of the students they represent. To this end, Statute 1.2.5 and Ordinance 5.1 afford these student representatives a unique form of leverage within such meetings.

### **Union Resolves**

1. To mandate all five full-time officers to maintain a position of zero redundancies for the duration of the 'Accelerated Strategic Review Programme', and to make clear this position of zero redundancies in any decision-making process related to the Strategic Review Programme, especially committee meetings.
2. To mandate all five full-time officers to work with the three campus unions (UCU, Unite, and Unison) for the duration of the 'Accelerated Strategic Review Programme'.

### **References**

1. University of East Anglia Statutes 2022/23.  
<https://www.uea.ac.uk/web/about/university-information/university-governance/academic-calendar/statutes>; UEA Ordinances:  
<https://www.uea.ac.uk/web/about/university-information/university-governance/academic-calendar/ordinances> (accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023).
2. UEA Ordinances: <https://www.uea.ac.uk/web/about/university-information/university-governance/academic-calendar/ordinances> (accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023).
3. UEA SU Articles of Association and Bye-Laws:  
<https://www.ueasu.org/union/governance/constitution/>; UEA Royal Charter:  
<https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/university-information/university-governance/academic-calendar/charter>; UEA Statutes: <https://www.uea.ac.uk/web/about/university-information/university-governance/academic-calendar/statutes>; UEA Ordinances:



<https://www.uea.ac.uk/web/about/university-information/university-governance/academic-calendar/ordinances> (all accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023).

**Proposer:** Sophie Ciurlik-Rittenbaum (Environment Officer)

**Seconded:** Erin Whitby (Trans and Non-Binary Place Officer)

### Union Notes

1. The university banks with Barclays, one of the top financiers of the arms trade, including nthe arms trade with Israel.
2. As of 2008, Barclays held, "by far, the largest amount of shares in the global arms sector, with £7.3 billion invested in total" out of all British high street banks (3).
3. Career Central does not have an ethics policy that excludes arms companies or the banks that finance them from using Career Central.
4. The university declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019.
5. The United Kingdom's military and arms companies produce more carbon emissions than 60 individual countries combined.
6. Union Council has already passed a broad ethical careers policy, recognizing that the university's careers fairs are not ethical.
7. Union Council has already passed a currently active Divest Barclays motion, recognizing that UEA banking with Barclays is not in line with acting in accord with declaring a climate and ecological emergency.
8. Union Council has already passed a currently active ethical banking policy, mandating officers to lobby the university to switch its finances to a more ethical bank.
9. Union Council has already passed a currently active motion denouncing militarism and advocating for peace in the form of the "Remember--Don't Repeat" motion

### Union Believes

1. Higher education institutions hold a responsibility for forming tomorrow's leaders
2. Higher education institutions are at the forefront of innovation in the technology and research sectors
3. Militarism is incompatible with climate justice.

4. Student officers and the SU, as representatives of the students at UEA, have a responsibility to and as such should have a mandate to oppose UEA's complicity in the military industrial complex and climate injustice.

### **Union Resolves**

1. To mandate the student officers and the students' union to lobby the university to adopt the Demilitarise Education Treaty.
2. To mandate the student officers and the students' union to protest and take direct action against UEA's complicity in the military industrial complex and climate injustice.
3. To not allow military and arms company recruitment advertisements to be placed in SU controlled spaces.
4. To mandate student officer committee to keep the Demilitarise Education database for UEA accurate

### **References**

1. <https://waronwant.org/resources/barclays-arming-apartheid>
2. <https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Banking%20on%20Bloodshed.pdf>
3. <https://www.uea.ac.uk/news/-/article/uea-declares-a-climate-and-biodiversity-emergency>
4. <https://declassifieduk.org/exclusive-uk-military-and-arms-companies-produce-more-carbon-emissions-than-60-individual-countries>
5. <https://www.ueasu.org/pageassets/democracy/unionpolicy/1393-Ethical-Careers-Fair.pdf>
6. <https://www.ueasu.org/pageassets/democracy/unionpolicy/2432-Divest-Barclays-motion-SC-pdf.pdf>
7. <https://www.ueasu.org/pageassets/democracy/unionpolicy/1365-ethical-banking-policy-.pdf>
8. <https://www.ueasu.org/pageassets/democracy/unionpolicy/2006-Remember-Dont-repeat-.pdf>
9. [https://ded1.co/universities/university\\_db/treaty/](https://ded1.co/universities/university_db/treaty/)

**Proposer:** Ali Sabba (DEVSoc Union Council Rep)

**Seconded:** Nathan Wyatt (Non-Portfolio Officer)

### **Summary**

Despite being popular in European and Asian countries, bidets are not widely used in the UK. Yet they are cleaner, gentler, and more eco-friendly than toilet paper. Bidets would make UEA a more inclusive and open place for International students. They are a cost effective way of making the University accessible to its students, and the SU should be fighting to make UEA a home for everyone.

### **Union Notes**

1. Bidets are more hygienic than toilet paper.
2. Bidets are eco-friendly and economically efficient. While it consumes minimally more water, it saves a lot of toilet paper. Production of toilet paper is very energy intensive and uses valuable resources. 170 litres of water are needed for the manufacture of a single roll of toilet paper.
3. A bidet is an essential part of a washroom for Muslims, and there is a large muslim community at UEA and other cultures. 77% of Japanese households own a bidet, and they are also one of the largest communities in UEA.
4. International Students on average pay almost double the fees of UK students to go to UEA, and bidets would improve their time at university here, providing a home comfort.
5. There are only two bidet toilets available for students at UEA, and these can be a long walk away from lectures, negatively impacting international and muslim students' experiences.

### **Union Believes**

1. To mandate the Student Union to install bidets in the:
  - a. Upstairs toilets of Union House (Floor 1)
  - b. The disabled toilets of Union House (Ground Floor)
  - c. The disabled toilet in the Bar (Floor 01)
2. To lobby the university to install at least one bidet in all buildings in the short term
3. To lobby the university in the long-term to install easily accessible bidets in all toilets on campus



4. To lobby the University when making repairs of toilets on campus teaching areas to install bidets simultaneously
5. To mandate the Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer to work with the International Officers on bidet access at UEA.

### **Union Resolves**

1. To mandate the Student Union to install bidets in the:  
  
Upstairs toilets of Union House (Floor 1)  
The disabled toilets of Union House (Ground Floor)  
The disabled toilet in the Bar (Floor 01)
2. To lobby the university to install at least one bidet in all buildings in the short term
3. To lobby the university in the long-term to install easily accessible bidets in all toilets on campus, including accommodation
4. To lobby the University when making repairs of toilets on campus teaching areas to install bidets simultaneously
5. To mandate the Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer to work with the International Officers on bidet access at UEA.

# **SECTION 5**

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**083**            **Any other business**

To consider: Any other items or issues not covered elsewhere in the agenda

**084**            **Details of the next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm in LT3

The deadline for motions to this meeting is 16<sup>th</sup> May