

Union Council Agenda

Chair: Laura Taylor

Deputy Chair: Jude Beckett

DPC: Serene Shibli, Sophie Atherton

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

New agenda template- this has been chosen to make it more accessible for anyone using a screen reader and to make it easier to read in general. If anyone has any feedback, then please let me know.

This is the first in person meeting since before the pandemic! We will have a quick overview of how the meeting will work and the differences compared to online meetings.

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. Reports

- a) Trustee board report

No report provided by the agenda deadline.

b) Student Officer committee (SOC) report

SOC and full-time Officer reports will be given together in the meeting in the form of a PowerPoint presentation

Part- Time officers

Sophie Atherton (Non-portfolio Officer)

- Has been working with DPC.

Megan Anderson (Invisible Disabilities Officer)

- Worked with a support group of disabled peers. They are going to drink coffee more often in the morning, they will work on more usual sports classes for students with disabilities. Right now they have sessions where they record films with disabled characters.
- Working with Lucy and Emma Kenney on the inclusive Sports Festival next week.

Miriam Hussein (International (Non-EU) Officer)

- Has been working on implementing the Manual scheme individuals and books with Lee from Buddy(SU) and UEA offices. (09/03/2022)
- Has been working on the International Students Assembly.
- Working on events for international students.

Patrycja Poplawska (Womens + Officer)

- been working on Womens History Month, mostly on the film screenings and the end of the month poetry showcase
- been working on the period poverty campaign. She's going to put forward a motion to the next Union Council about incorporating the menstruation station in the library into the long term budget.
- Has put a funding request under the project name "(Maintenance of the) Menstruation Station" forward and was approved by 9 votes during the SOC meeting.

c) Full-time Officer reports

Undergraduate Education Officer, Ivo Garnham

No report given before the agenda deadline.

Postgraduate Officer, Ayane Hida

Item	Update
Manifest Priorities	<p>Centralised function for Associate Tutors (AT) and PG international students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUM AT working group is working on a project • SSF needs to be pushed <p>Unconscious bias training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking the funding options and provider (still no response and need to be chased) <p>Developing Teaching Skills (DTS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UEA re-opened DTS in March and June <p>Increase diverse representation of PG student at UEA and SU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the Election 2022
Meetings	<p>Board matters/Aurora Students Scheme Planning/Aurora Student Council/Management Committee/Japan Country Dialogue Group/Senate/BAME Staff Network/Learning and Teaching Committee/ENV PG SSLC/PG Committee/Students Officer Committee/Meeting with Head of PGR office/Academic catch up/Meeting with Aurora Central Office/Meeting with UCU/Spring Biannual Catch up/NBS EDI meeting/Research Student Forum/Student Experience Committee/Engagement Working Group (sub group from the Forum for tackling bullying and harassment in Research and Innovation)/HUM AT Working Group/Meeting with Institutional Coordinator/Student Experience Catch up/HUM Decant Group/Graduate Centre Management Committee/Meeting with APVC Doctoral College/CHE PG SSLC/Doctoral College/Focus Group for UKRI Consultation (HUM&FMH&SSF)/Anti-Racism Working Group/Education Committee</p>
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular catch ups with PGTs and PGRs to see what they are feeling and issues in their course • Aurora Student Council Policy Making Trip • Interviews • SCI Associate Dean PGR • Associate Pro Vice Chancellor Global Engagement • Associate Pro Vice Chancellor for UEA Doctoral College • Speech with Ambassador of the Japanese Embassy • More opportunities/supports for PGs • PG Party • PG Cheese and Wine • PG Assembly • Loads of PG events coming • PG Yoga every Wednesday at 6pm • PG badminton* every Thursday at 6pm • PG mixed football* every Monday & Friday at 6pm <p>*PG badminton and mixed football have their own Whatsapp group. Please let me know if you would like to be added to the groups.</p> <p>For further detail, contact me at: a.hida@uea.ac.uk</p>

Activities and Opportunities Officer, Lizzie Payne

1. Meetings attended

- University Council
- University Finance Committee
- Student Experience Committee
- Civic Universities Agreement - working with local businesses across Norfolk, and how they can support students in return (eg club and soc outreach opportunities, volunteering opportunities).
- Welcome Week 2022 Implementation Group
- BUCS East Midlands Regional Meeting (a meeting with sports depts across the East Mids, raising concerns, best practices and discussion topics).
- Derby Day Management Group
- Student Sport and Physical Activity Meeting - look through Sport budgets, operational updates, strategy updates, manifesto aims related to sport/clubs.
- BUCS Student Networking Event
- Academic socs partnership meeting with University partners
- Inclusive Sport Development Strategy Presentation
- Mature Students' Sport programme meeting to discuss how we enhance the existing sporting offer for our mature students.
- Active Campus working group
- Sustainability in Sport working group
- Sports operations
- Meeting with Graduation Office and Alumni Office around graduation events
- Exec and Presidents meetings (Clubs and societies)
- Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor Interviews
- Meeting with Chair of UEA Council, and presentation at council on the SU

2. Student activities planned or held:

- Planning for Derby Day 2022!
- Working with UEA Sport on This Girl Can week

3. Manifesto Updates/what I'm working on:

- Continuing work on financial transparency of UEA Sport.
 - Constructed a survey to evaluate best practice and challenges of other HEIs which has been circulated through BUCS in order to shape our sporting offer at UEA and to look into the value for money for our members. Also looking at hardship funding options and alternative membership cost proposals throughout this research to see what more we can do to support those who find cost to be a barrier to getting involved with Club Sport. Survey results are in, and we are working through analysing these results.
 - Also looking at a comparison between the UEA Sport grant funding provided to our Sports Clubs and the overall cost of taking part in a specific sport through mapping out the "hidden" costs members often experience through the year. For example, this could include anything that you have to buy on top of your membership fee such as playing kit, additional equipment or officiating/match fees. Once feedback has been collated on these hidden costs (both recreational and competitive elements) we

can compare this data to the grant funding that Sports Clubs receive. This is a complicated piece of work due to the variety of budgets and cost variables involved. Most clubs have filled in the survey, there's still some to chase up, but analysis work on this will commence soon.

- Looking at PG and Mature Students Sport offer and improvements we can make to the programme (any feedback always welcome!)
- In discussions around Colney Lane Developments
- Creating a sports exec position for next academic year to represent students with disabilities
- Looking at an extension of the sport grant pot to help support clubs increase their inclusive sport offer
- Looking at increasing our support for apprenticeship students through Buddy scheme
- Working on an LCR student group booking process so clubs and socs can have the chance of having a confirmed dates for their events in the LCR at the beginning of the academic year – means its easier for committees to organise knowing they have a date
- Working with a company called Achieve Breakthrough on womens+ safety on campus
- For the first time ever, a society will be involved in Derby Day - this being VGS Soc partaking in an E-Sports Competition on the day.
- Graduation events (LCR, daytime, nighttime).
- Planning a Spring Showcase for Clubs who train in the Spring Gymnastics Centre
- Changing the name of STARs (student transformation awards to Society and Volunteering Awards)
- Working on a partnership document for Academic Socs and respective schools to ensure a co-relationship between the two partners
- Working on society to club transition, and aligning the process between the university and union
- Organised 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

4. Upcoming activities:

- Spring Showcase 1st May
- Derby Day 27th April
- Do Something Green Week - 21st - 25th March
- Societies and Volunteering Awards night - date TBC
- Sports Awards 6th May (get your nominations in!)

Welfare, Community, and Diversity Officer, Aaron Campbell

No update provided before the agenda deadline.

Campaigns and Democracy Officer, Hamish Williams

Key Meetings Attended

SU/UEA Student Experience Monthly Catch Up, Finance Discussions, Postgraduate Committee, Food Focus Group Catch Up, Management Committee, UCU Discussions, Sussex SU Harm Reduction meeting, Manchester SU Harm Reduction meeting, Charity and Venues Project Prioritisation meeting, Biodiversity Implementation Team meeting,

What I'm Working On

- **NUS Student Strike:** Worked to offer uea(su) support for the NUS Student Strike in London on 02nd March. As part of this I promoted the event daily on social media and got SOC budget approval for uea(su) to refund students travel expenses to and from the strike.
- **Student Drug Use & Harm Reduction:** Can we support students better on this front? What measures could we introduce? E.g. Testing Kits, Confidential Advice, Information on the website. As part of this I have met with Officers at Sussex SU & Manchester SU and have received advice and support from Newcastle SU.
- **Sustainability 1:** How can we as an organisation do better? How can we change our practices to ensure that we operate with sustainability in mind. Research into a Sustainability charter and how we can improve our procurement policies. Meeting with Sustainability SOC in the near future.
- **Sustainability 2:** Looking at sourcing some permanent litter picking equipment for the student union as it is something students often ask us for. I'll be drafting a SOC Budget Request for this.
- **Conflict in Ukraine:** Discussions with students regarding the conflict in Eastern Europe and how we might facilitate donations to the affected areas.

5. 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.

There are no constitutions to approve for this meeting.

6. 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: High Time for Harm Reduction
Proposer: Hamish Williams (Campaigns & Democracy Officer) Seconded: Sophie Atherton (Non-Portfolio Officer)
Council Notes <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.

Motion title: Change Bye-Law 9.5 to amend the establishment of new clubs at UEA

Proposer: Elizabeth Payne (Activities and Opportunities Officer)

Seconder: Kate Atkin (External Clubs Sports Exec)

Summary:

Student groups remain a core offering of the student union and will provide a key support network for students on campus.

UEA Sports Clubs are run as a partnership between the Students' Union and the University, a partnership that was formed in 2016 when previously sport was run solely by the SU. As such, an agreed approach for club sport has been developed over the past 6 years, however there are some bye-laws still in existence which do not reflect this move to a partnership model between the two organisations.

This motion sets out an amendment to bye-law 9.5 in reflection that societies who meet the criteria to become a club (eg classed as a sport by Sport England) will first be approved by council as a society and will have to exist for two years prior to a transition to become a sports clubs upon agreement with the society membership, the SU and UEA Sport.

Council Notes

The Bye-Laws were written before the partnership between the Students' Union and UEA Sport was put in place, and therefore they do not reflect a realistic process for clubs to be established.

UEA Sport set their budgets with club committees over Summer, meaning they are unable to accommodate for new clubs approved by Union Council mid-way through the year. New clubs need to be set up in agreement with UEA Sport by February so they can be factored into staff support and budget allocations for the following academic year.

We are proposing for potential new clubs to exist as a society, approved by Union Council, for the first two years of their existence to ensure that there is enough demand for the society to run as a club before assigning them formalised budgets, training spaces, and UEA staff support.

Once the society has existed for two years, there will be evidence to draw upon, such as previous year's spending and activities, which will help inform UEA Sport on whether it will be viable and worthwhile for that group to run as a club with their support.

Approval of societies and peer support groups occurs through a series of stages starting with an individual submitting an idea to the SU website. Once the idea has received 20 upvotes, the idea and constitution are taken to Societies Executive for their recommendations. These recommendations are then passed over to

Council for verdict. New club proposals will follow this process, however groups that have the potential to become clubs will be taken to both Societies Executive and Sports Executive for their recommendations as the decision will impact both Societies and Clubs.

Changing this Bye-law provides the opportunity for the group itself and their members to decide whether they want to be a club or remain as a society, rather than forcing all new groups with a National Governing Body to become a club, potentially increasing the costs and changing the style of activities members can expect to undertake.

Council Believes

Bye-Laws stipulate:

9.5 A club can be formed for any sport approved by Sport England that has a registered national governing body, provided that Union Council approve their Constitution. Clubs for sports not approved by Sport England or for sports without registered national governing bodies will not normally be accepted, but can exist with the special permission of Union Council.

9.6 A society can be formed around any issue, provided that Union Council approve their Constitution and that it isn't covered as a club under the above definition.

Council Resolves

Amendment to replace Bye-Law 9.5 with the following:

9.5 A club can be formed for any sport approved by Sport England that has a registered national governing body, on the provision that:

- a. *Union Council approve their Constitution*
- b. *The group runs as a society for the first two years of their existence*
- c. *The decision to transition the group from a society to a club is made in agreement with UEA Sport*
- d. *The decision to transition the group from a society to a club is made in agreement with group members in a Group General Meeting*

Clubs for sports not approved by Sport England or for sports without registered national governing bodies will be considered under the above parameters but will not usually be accepted.

7. 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.

- a) Open discussion on the topic of engagement in Officer elections.

8. Details of next meeting

Thursday 28th April 2022

6 pm

Lecture theatre 1

Deadline for item submission: 3pm on Thursday 21st April 2022

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