

Date: 20th May 2021 MINUTES

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| UC01 | Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance at 46 at the start of the meeting |
| UC02 | Statements from the Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ZA- outlines the need to be fair and friendly during the meeting due to the nature of the issues/societies coming up. |
| UC03 | Minutes of the Last Meeting / matters arising from last minutes https://www.uea.su/democracy/unioncouncil/councildocumentsandnotices/ |
| UC04 | Cycle of business <p>a) Election of student trustees (Applications will be presented to council during the meeting and then voted on)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One application presented – Lucy Hawker Election of student trustee applicant 1 Accept 85% reject 0% abstain |
| UC05 | Reports <p>a. Trustee Board Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CP Board meeting in June• Meeting with external companies on how to improve and gain student insight <p>b. Student Officer Committee (SOC) Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Divest from Barclays campaign• Reasonable adjustment review• Disability support group up and coming• Go global week ongoing which a lot of officers are a part of <p>c. Full time Officer Reports</p> <p>LP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HSC staff meeting, and PG staff around Wednesday PM's are as free as possible for activities• Working on continuing sports and activities during the 4 week extension period• Go global is currently happening• UEA sport SAM refund- updates to come in the next few weeks <p>EA – On annual leave during officer update deadline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stars award filming• Learning and teaching committee• Freedom of speech work with the university• Sustainability work of the union- looking at what shape this will taking moving forward• Work on a memorandum of understanding with accommodation so we get a formalized way of working with them moving forward• Working in partnership with student services- helping host community conversations about work regarding sexual harassment moving forward. Inviting students to have their input- call for students to be involved <p>CP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final council update. Provided key update from the last two years of work in the agenda- full outline on agenda <p>TF – indoor sports exec- Use the forum to say thank you to Callum. Acknowledged time and effort CP puts into their work. 'Thank you and good luck'</p> |

HW

- Big thanks and congratulations to all involved with council this year.
- Definitions of anti-Semitism update- outlined the recognition of the difficult topic, and given time for students who do not feel comfortable to leave. Following communications from Jewish Society, decision to postpone presidents meeting – approached by students who were exploring other alternative definitions of Anti-Semitism (council adopted IHRA last year), HQ wrongly thought students who was a member of Jewish Society was a committee member which was not accurate. Apologies to the Jewish Society committee. Giving time to connect with the Jewish Society before progressing

AH

- Posted a blog (on the website) about the initial communication to the VC, and then received feedback recently, which seemed to be critical. AH Asked council to get feedback on the matter

Access Break

UC06

Society and Peer Support Group Constitutions

- Initial vote for Societies recommendations to pass in a block as presented below
Accept 74% reject 13% abstain 13%
- Societies recommendations are upheld

| SOCIETY NAME | BIT ABOUT | COUNCIL VERDICT |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Disabilities support group (Peer Support Group) | a group for disabled students to find support, resources and community at UEA, with regular socials and events alongside support group sessions. | Approve |
| Minecraft | An all inclusive minecraft server for collaboration, competition and enjoyment. To create a community to allow people to find friends they have similar interests of Minecraft | Reject |
| Medic's Guide. | To provide medical students with the guidance and advice they need to excel and progress through medical school as best as they can. They want to offer advice on revision, study techniques and how to make it through med school. | Reject |
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To be debated separately

- **SSS POC Officer**– Speaking for the society: Proposing a Palestinian society due to needing a society for support and comfort. It is open to anyone from any background. Current situation is opening up the need for a support system. A friendly safe space for anyone who is Palestinian or support Palestinians regardless of their background or religion. Acknowledged the politically difficult time, but sees the longevity of this society for future students
- **MR- Drama rep:** not outlining views of the society but outlining it may cause further divisions due to the current reigniting of what is going on now
- **SSS POC officer** – Struggled to see how it will create further divide as this is for students who want to support one another, also there are Jewish students on the committee too
- **GB Social Work School Convenor**– Clarification point: SSS said there is a social media presence of around 400 followers, needs clarification on this
- **SSS POC officer** – it is a social media campaign to get interest of the campaign
- **JB – School of biological Science convener** – Palestinian student outlining the need for a society due to the lack of one. Reaching out for a society for students to bond and relate together.

Accept 76% reject 5% abstain 19% - society passes

| SOCIETY NAME | BIT ABOUT | COUNCIL VERDICT |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Palestinian Solidarity Society | This society is being organised to create a space in which likeminded political individuals will be able to come together to advocate for the human rights of the Palestinian people as well as their fundamental right to self determination It shall be a space where anyone of any background interested in learning about the Palestinian conflict will be welcome and anyone who has been affected by the conflict will be free to share their lived experiences in a safe space | |

UC07

Policy Papers

The Need for a strategic plan – Motion was amended prior to the meeting and accepted by the Chair. New motion will be linked on the website

- **TB non-portfolio officer – Motion summary** – spirit of document remains the same, just cementing this into the future
- **AH PG ED officer** – 3rd resolve, the chair of trustee board to work with the presenter of the motion, what happens when the proposer leaves, do we need to change the language?
- **TB non portfolio officer**- Clarified that the reference to the proposer is only in relation to working on a paragraph for the new democracy and not a legacy piece of work
- **TF indoor sports park exec**- clarification- where it says 'union has no strategic plan', when CP UG Ed officer gave a presentation of the strategic plan does this not cover the fact? If the board has presented us with a strategic plan how can you say there is no strategic plan in the policy.

- **TB Non-portfolio officer**- proposers view remains there is no plan, but wants to move this away from this argument and allow council to debate if they believe this is a plan and what they want to have a say in it
- **TF Indoor sports park exec – Speech against.** Element of flexibility needs to be had that having a byelaw does not allow. Flexibility in strategic plan makes things such as covid or inevitable situations more adaptable.
- **MR – Drama and music theatre rep – speech for** – support this motion, was impressed with CP UG ED officer report to show where we are at and the challenged the organisations outline, but thinks it is only a good thing to ensure we do have a plan, and it can be variable and not set in stone.
- **SCR- Environmental officer – Speech against** – felt satisfied by CP UG officer gave to us. We need to keep flexibility. The idea that it should be pushed to students is not useful when considering that this motion has been passed down multiple council.
- **AA mature student officer -(second) summation** – what we are trying to is post brexit, coming out of the pandemic, it is time to put a hard and fast plan in place plan or formal. What this motion is doing is not only putting this in place, but putting in a structure to ensure a plan is put in place and thus reviewed by the same posts every year.

Accept 51% reject 22% abstain – motion passes

Universal Access to Medicines & COVID

- **CV (Students for Global Health UEA)** - Summary – it has been over 12 month since the pandemic affected lives across the world. However whilst UK have been offered vaccines, multiple countries have not received a single vaccine. In addition, Oxford AstraZeneca have priced their vaccine higher for African counties. This pandemic has exacerbated inequality. We believe universities and public funded research facilities should be part of the solution of access to medicine crisis. We want to work with the UEA to pioneer this approach to medicine. New have a duty to combat and mitigate the medical crisis to the best of our ability.
- **MR - Drama and music theater rep**- how is this motion going to affect the distribution of any technologies? Is this more the fact that we want to know what COVID research si being done? If it the transparency, does this not mean this might decrease the popularity of doing research at the UEA
- **CV (Students for Global Health UEA** – this is for increased transparency but also promoting licensing around intellectual transparency. Disagree with the former, as this is a pledge that has been signed by many institutions.
- **Stephi Weir- sub aqua -(Against)** does not want anyone mislead, the reason for Africa were being charged more is because those who were involved in the research got the vaccine cheaper,
- **MR - Drama and music theater rep**- how is this going to be enforced?
- **CV (Students for Global Health UEA)** – there is an open pledge other universities and institutions are signing. We are looking for information and asking the UEA to sign this.
- **HW – campaigns and democracy officer – (For)** spoke with the chancellor before who wanted this to come from council. This would allow us to have these futue conversations with the university.

Accept 85% reject 6% Abstain 9% - policy passes

Improving engagement and exposure of UCU issues

- **LP** – activities and opportunities officer – summarized policy. Proposing adopting a

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| | <p>more neutral approach for UCU action rather than a blanket approach. This does not take away our support for UCU but allows for more recent and up to date support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCR- would we not need to come back to council to oppose/support any action. Would it not be better to just bring a motion when there is something to oppose • SSS POC officer- why not? There has not been much action between ucu? • LP- highlights issues we may have if they were to take up action, it would mean we would be damaging. This makes sure students are in the forefront of all decisions made at the SU • KH students with physical disability officer- would this principle be putting the SU back as an independent body from the UCU as the current policy ties us to the USU without us having our own opinion • TB non-portfolio officer- this is not to separate us from the UCU. It means a blanket motion of support means we do not have a conversation ever, and that students are not in the loop for what UCU are campaigning for, this gives rise to irritation from students, as there is not an opportunity to feed into the conversation as to why industrial action is taking place. This is to allow current students to make decisions. • JB UEA History Soc- Speech against – The impact of resolves 1 would hinder our ability to support UCU in a timely manner, also this means when we want to support UCU it could mean a month to wait. This prevents us to act quickly. Hinders our staff to make any industrial action by removing the support students would give. Also a lot of UCU members our SU PG students. Current issues means that the rights of UCU members has never been more important, also UCU have supported students continuously. • TF indoor sports park exec- For – puts the choice back into the hands of students. Being a student for four years, the effect of strikes has been inherent, many students do not understand why strikes happen, and we need to give students this. By putting us in a position of neutrality, we are opening up the debate for students to understand the current issues and allow our support to be better. • KH Open place LGBT+ officer – refute the idea that supporting UCU makes students less sympathetic of the issue. Students believe we are too neutral on issues. The problem is that our support of UCU is not vocal enough. We need to go to the other direction to support more. • TB non-portfolio officer – For – these motions seems to be taken as a direct attack on UCU or non-support for UCU, it does not do this. It just says we do not have a blanket support for UCU. We will most likely support them always, but it is not for us to say. Something so detrimental such as industrial action it is up for students of those years to get to make those decisions. • JB UEA History Soc- Speech against- respond to the last speech, because of the way we deal with policy lapse, but circling this motion against the others we are saying we no longer want to support UCU. • LP Activites and opportunities officer – UCU have got in touch with myself and they understand and support why this I necessary to come to council for students to decide. We will still want to show our support if students want but does not tie students hands <p>Accept 41% reject 49% abstain 11% - motion fails</p> |
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| UC08 | <p>Any other Business / Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other business items are matters which committee members could not have become aware of before the agenda closed. These items can be submitted to the Chair up to 24 hours before the start of the meeting for their consideration. |
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