

Minutes

Subject:	Minutes of the UUEAS Union Council 9 October 2014
Produced by:	Tony Moore
To:	Council
Action:	To approve
Paper:	UC1537
Purpose:	Record of Decision Making

Voting Members Present or online: J Nobes (Circus), P Burney (Languages), C Chappelle (Labour), K Collis (Mainstream Media), B Dandan (Women in Business), R Drury (UEA TV), E Folan (Concrete), M Feng (Chinese Students and School), T Foo (Badminton), J Geller (Deviant), S Glakousaki (International Officer), J Harper (Surf, Kitesurfing, Development), M Jones (Amnesty), D Julian (ECO Other Year UG), S Leaver (Shotokan Karate), G Macnaughton (Debating), L Croker (Food Co-op), J McCafferty (Sub-Aqua), E Morris (MS), T Mpedzisi (Actuarial), J Noble (Feminist), J Norfolk (Pool and Snooker), J Norrington (Anime), S Panthaky (Taekwondo), N Parkhouse (Links), A Patel (Nightline), B Ransome (Ultimate Frisbee, RAG), K Redpath (Windsurf), E Silk (Green Growers), T Southerden (Non Portfolio Officer), R Staniforth (Computer Science), R Tani (Japanese), N Taruvinga (Sailing and Powerboat), J Thompson (Creative Writing), T Walker (Fetish), S West (Live Music), R Wishart (ECO SSLC), D Wrigglesworth (LGBT+ Officer), O Alfridijanta (Games), T Antoniou-Philips (Non Portfolio Officer), J Arnold (BIO MED), E Athey (Ice Skating and Hockey), E Barker (MTH YR2 UG), T Barker (HIS School), D Bean (BIO YR 2 UG), T Boatman (History), J Brinded (Counterfire), J Caruso (American Football), S Clarke (AMA YR1 UG), L Cody (Non Portfolio Officer), L Deakin (Operation UEA), F Dunkley (Young Greens), L Fleming (ENV YR2 UG), L Gilson (Netball), I Goddard (Environment Officer), P Gray (Capoeira, Yoga), A Hallam (Assassins), H Hipwell (Art), I Hutchins (Laser), E James (Baseball), C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), S Jones (PSI YR2 UG), J Keech (VegBox), C

Lancaster (Korfball), S Lane (BIO Other YR UG), F Leslie (LDC YR2 UG), B Smith (Education), R McDonagh (Minecraft, CHE Other YR UG), I Morris (HIS YR2 UG), K Murray (PHA YR2 UG), D Ogunrinde (Women's Officer), A Patel (Hindu), C Rand (Education UG Officer), N Rayner (Touch Rugby), F Redfern (Ethnic Minorities Officer), R Riley (ENV School), A Rust (PSI), H Staynor (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), M Steele (Quiz), D Stephens (CMP Other YR UG), O Steward (Postgraduate Officer), L Thacker (Stop the Traffik), V Vazquez (Maths), L Watson (Tap), T Webber (MED YR4 UG), E West (UEA Pride), J Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer), T Withers (Fell), F Woi (Red Cross), K Walker (Cheerleading Dance), M Xiong (INTO), Y Yu (Activities and Opportunities), L Barnes (Dr Who), X George (Roosterteeth)

NB: the online meeting facility failed and members were unable to participate online.

In attendance: A Moore (Democracy and Governance Coordinator), J Dickinson (Chief Executive), J Clare (Head of Student Engagement)

Chair: S Lane

Apologies for absence: H Baker (Circus), R Attfield (Law Soc), E Cooper (Water-ski and Wakeboard), M Hall (EDU PG), T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer), M Levene (Students with Disabilities Officer), A Lieman (Education), A Kent (Volley Ball).

1563 MEMBERSHIP

Council noted that new members' names had been added to the Register.

Council noted the presence of non-members of Council

Council noted the resignation of **A Robertson (Liberal Democrats)**.

Council noted the election of **Martin Xiong** as Councillor for INTO and the excitingly high turnout of over 42% of INTO students voting in the election.

1564 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

S Lane was elected as Chair by a unanimous vote with the exception of one abstention.

G MacNaughton was elected as Deputy Chair by 82 votes for, 1 vote against with 3 abstentions.

1565 REMIT OF THE COUNCIL

Council received the Remit without comment.

1566 STANDING ORDERS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF UNION MEETINGS

Council received the Standing Orders without comment.

1567 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2014

The minutes were agreed.

1568 MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

1569 CLUB, SOCIETY AND PEER SUPPORT GROUP CONSTITUTIONS

D Stephens (CMP Other YR UG) moved a procedural motion that the question be taken in parts and that Teach First and UEA Healthy Planet be considered individually.

Council agreed, nem con, to consider the constitutions of these two Societies separately from the list of proposed Societies.

Council approved the constitutions of The World At UEA, British Sign Language (BSL) Society, Pagan Society/Club, Rheumatology and Orthopaedics Society, MASS (Muscle and Athletic Sport Society) and the Newman Society by 81 votes for, none against and with 2 abstentions.

D Stephens (CMP Other YR UG) argued that Teach First would break charity law by fundraising for other charities.

C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) argued that this issue was not, in fact, a problem as many existing Societies including RAG had fundraising for other charities in their aims and objects.

Council approved the constitution of Teach First by 81 votes for, none against and with 3 abstentions.

D Stephens (CMP Other YR UG) argued that UEA Healthy Planet would overlap with several of UUEAS' other environmentally orientated Societies.

C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) argued that this Society would be unique in that it specifically focused on the effects of climate change on human health.

Council approved the constitution of UEA Healthy Planet by 80 votes for, two against and with two abstentions.

1570 APPOINTMENT TO UUEAS SUB-COMMITTEES AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

F Redfern, R Staniforth, T Walker were elected unanimously to the Senate Appeals Committee.

S Clarke and **P Burney** were elected to the Senate Disciplinary Committee; with **A Hallam** the defeated candidate.

R Riley (SCI), **N Taruvinga** (SSF), were elected unanimously to the Travel and Expeditions Committee, **S Jones** defeated **C McCoy** in the election for the HUM place on the Committee. There were no candidates for the FMH position.

Iain Goddard was elected unanimously, excepting one abstention to the Parking Appeals Panel.

A Rust and **M Txiong** were elected unanimously to the Trustee Board Nominations and HR Sub-Committee.

T Mpedzisi and **M Feng** were elected and **T Barker** was the defeated candidate in the election to the Trustee Board Finance Sub-Committee.

Emily Rose Athey, Magda Steele and **Andrew Hallam** were elected unanimously to the Union Code of Conduct Disciplinary Panel.

E West, J McCafferty, T Southerden, R McDonagh, R Wishart, T Withers, L Deakin and **R Riley** stood for election as Non-Executive Director of SUS LTD.

L Deakin was elected.

J Wilson, L Cody, R McKenzie, J Geller and **O Steward** stood for election as Non-Executive Director of the Waterfront LTD.

R McKenzie was elected.

1571 UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were none.

1572 STUDENT OFFICER COMMITTEE REPORT

H Staynor (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), as Chair of SOC, referred Councillors to her written report and drew Councillors attention to the forthcoming TUC National Demo.

Y Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer) provided an update on the problems that had beset the App that been recently introduced to collect membership data for Clubs and Societies. He noted that, after the severe teething problems, the system was currently being rectified.

T Walker (Fetish) wondered why members had only been given four days' notice about the new system's introduction; he felt this to be decidedly rushed for a major IT project.

Y Yu noted that UUEAS had been constrained by the lack of a data sharing agreement with the University and when this had been

agreed it had left a very short period to deploy the new system. He apologised for any inconvenience caused to members.

Council agreed, nem con, the SOC Report.

1573 TRUSTEE BOARD REPORT

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer), as Chair of Trustees, drew Council's attention to his written report.

Council noted the resignation of **T Antoniou Phillips** as a Part-Time Officer Trustee on his commencement of employment as a student member of staff.

*Council approved, by an overwhelming majority, the appointment of **D Ogunrinde** as Part-Time Officer Trustee.*

Council agreed, nem con, the Trustee Board Report.

1574 DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES COMMITTEE (DPC) REPORT

C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) noted he would be meeting with the Liberations Officers to set up the Liberations Caucuses proposed in the Report.

Council agreed nem con, the DPC Report and recommendations.

1575 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

D Stephens (CMP Other YR UG) believed the guidelines given to Societies as to using UUEAS' resources for fundraising for other charities to be misleading.

C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) noted he would email the Councillor a response.

O Steward (GSA President) reported that the inaugural Graduate Assembly had met. He noted that the Assembly had resolved to support the campaign to lobby the University to ensure that all campus employees were paid the Living Wage.

1576 ETHICAL STEERING GROUP

J Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer), proposing, noted that a large number of ethical and environmental policies were passed which were often never fully implemented. He believed that the proposal would address this issue by establishing clear lines of communication between staff and the democratic arm.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the resolution by an overwhelming majority.

1577 UUEAS: A DEMOCRATIC WORKPLACE

J Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer), proposing, argued that UUEAS staff were central to the organisation but they had little say in the way it was run. He believed that recently a start had been made with the appointment of student staff members to the Commercial Boards but that, with the support of Council, this process could be taken further.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the resolution by an overwhelming majority.

1578 AMENDMENT TO THE BYELAWS: DELEGATION TO NUS CONFERENCE

H Staynor (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), proposing, noted the problems over trans-exclusivity in the new NUS regulations which aimed to ensure that 50% of all delegations were female. She argued that UUEAS faced a stark choice to refuse to change its Bye-Laws and be unable to attend Conference or to adopt the new regulations and then argue for change at Conference; she recommended the latter option.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the amendment to the Bye-Laws by an overwhelming majority.

1579 AMENDMENT TO THE BYELAWS: POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UNION COUNCIL

L McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer), proposing, argued that the make-up of Council did not reflect the proportion of PG students in the student population. He noted his proposal would increase the number of PG students on Council.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the amendment to the Bye-Laws by an overwhelming majority.

1580 SUPPORT FOR THE FREE EDUCATION DEMONSTRATION

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer), moved a procedural motion that the question not be put. Proposing the motion, he noted he did so with a heavy heart. He noted he had been honoured and privileged to have been elected to serve undergraduate students on matters affecting their education. He noted that, unfortunately, he had not been consulted before the resolution had been placed on the agenda and this was unfair to his electorate, his constituents and to himself. He believed the manner in which this had been done was disingenuous in that the original policy on which the resolution had been based should have been reviewed for lapsing at the current meeting under the Policy Lapse regulations. He noted that for various reasons consideration of Policy Lapse had been moved to the next meeting. He argued that to

discuss the present resolution without considering the earlier policy of opposition to the marketisation of education would mean that Council would miss out on the wider and serious debate on higher education funding. He noted that some Councillors might be aware that there had been discussion within UUEAS on bringing a resolution to address this wider debate and he would have appreciated the opportunity to bring this to Council; otherwise he believed he would have to speak against the current resolution, much of which he agreed with.

L McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer), in a point of clarification, noted that all the Officers except himself and the GSA President represented undergraduates.

C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), against the procedural motion, believed there was urgency as to considering the resolution as the demo it referred to was due to take place in mid-November and the next Council would not take place until 30 October, and time was needed for organisation and publicity. As to C Rand's point about Policy Lapse, he noted that this was considered at the AGM whenever this was scheduled and there was no requirement for it to be brought to the first Council of the academic year. On the lack of consultation, he apologised to C Rand but argued it would be impossible to consult all Councillors before a resolution was tabled. He observed that C Rand had had the opportunity to table amendments to the resolution before the meeting but had not done so.

D Wigglesworth (LGBT+ Officer), supporting the procedural motion, argued it was important to have a proper debate over the wider issue of higher education funding and it would be a disgrace if the Undergraduate Education Officer were not to be fully consulted before a resolution was brought to Council. He noted that he, as an Officer, had been privy to the planning for an earlier demo and he believed the demo could easily be organised in the time available after the 30 October meeting.

H Staynor (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), against the procedural motion, believed that everyone in the room was concerned about the issue of higher education and that she would be disappointed if members were denied the right to make their views known at the demonstration. She apologised to C Rand if he felt that he had not been consulted but, as to her own mandate, it concerned the welfare of all UEA students and argued that it was important that students went to the demo and were as involved in the debate as possible.

T Southerden (Non Portfolio Officer), for clarification, wondered how long the preparations had taken for the other upcoming demo due to be held on 18 October.

C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), in clarification, noted that he believed SOC had agreed to support the 18 October demo at its meeting on 18 September and that about four weeks would be the optimum timescale to organise for a demo.

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer), in further clarification, noted that the original decision had been taken on 18 September but he believed all the organisation work had taken place in a far shorter period of time.

Council adopted the procedural motion by 46 votes for, 42 against, with 10 abstentions.

1581 AN AMENDMENT TO THE BYE-LAWS: A DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK FOR FINANCE

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer), proposing, argued that the proposed change would ensure that the Budget process would be firmly grounded in democratic procedures; thus increasing accountability and the say of the members in the process.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the amendment to the Bye-Laws by an overwhelming majority.

1582 AN AMENDMENT TO THE BYE-LAWS: AMENDMENTS TO THE STAFF PROTOCOL

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer), proposing, noted his belief that it was important that staff were protected from the political process. He argued that the changes to the section of the Protocol dealing with criticism of staff by members would make the procedure clearer, more practical and more transparent.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the amendment to the Bye-Laws by an overwhelming majority.

*Council adopted nem con a procedural motion from **R McDonagh (CHE Other YR UG)** that a guillotine be set for 10.45 pm.*

1583 THE 2015 GENERAL ELECTION AND A CHANCE FOR STUDENTS TO SHAPE THEIR FUTURE

D Wrigglesworth (LGBT+ Officer), proposing, argued that a General Election now only came around once every five years and that it represented a special chance to change students' lives. He felt that the 2010 election had been a bad one for students; due to lies and the government's refusal to listen, fees had been trebled and students' prospects had been lowered. He noted that, with 209 days to go to the election, students had a chance to campaign both locally and nationally for the education that they wanted. He noted the NUS had produced a New Deal for Students, a comprehensive plan for a better and brighter education for students. He argued that UUEAS should use the plan to lobby both locally and nationally for all present and future students. He noted the changes to voter registration and argued for the importance of getting the student vote out through a comprehensive General Election strategy.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the resolution by an overwhelming majority.

1584 SAVE THE DISABLED STUDENTS ALLOWANCE

H Staynor (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), proposing, due to the unavoidable absence of M Levene (Students with Disabilities Officer), noted that the DSA provided essential non-medical help for students with disabilities. She noted that the government had decided to make cuts and this would have a huge effect on these students. She noted that the fight against the cuts was one of the current Priority Campaigns. She reported that, under pressure, the government had delayed implementation of the cuts for two years but she believed it crucial that the campaign should continue to ensure that they would never be implemented.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the resolution by an overwhelming majority.

1585 ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer), proposing, noted that Assessment and Feedback was a top concern of the Officer team and that this was a key focus of student concerns in a wide range of surveys but that student satisfaction in this area continued to decline. He argued that his proposal would begin a wide ranging discussion and would enshrine UUEAS' objectives in policy. He welcomed the University's setting up of a working group on this issue as, he believed, it showed the University appreciated the gravity of the situation.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the resolution by an overwhelming majority.

1586 AN UNWAVERING STAND AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

This motion was withdrawn by the proposer prior to the meeting.

H Staynor (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), asked to be able to make a statement on why the motion had been withdrawn. She noted the later motion on Islamophobia had also been withdrawn. She noted that the reason for the withdrawal of both motions was that racism and religious hate crime on campus required very serious and detailed examination and she thought this would be best accomplished by establishing a proper, functioning Faith Committee which would be more representative than the people currently in the room. She asked any Councillors wishing to work on the Committee to contact her.

1587 UNIVERSITY/UNION PARTNERSHIP GROUP ON SPORT AT UEA

Y Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer), proposing, noted that Council had, the previous year, passed policy that mandated the establishment of the joint UUEAS/University working group for sport at UEA. He believed, however, that there was an anomaly within the policy: UUEAS was a democratic organisation and the University;

UUEAS was run by students for students. He believed it was for students to say how their sports should be run: not the University. He noted that, within UUEAS, students elected Officers, including himself, and made funding decisions. He noted that a core function of UUEAS was to provide activities for its members. He, therefore, asked Council to adopt the resolution which, in the context of the UUEAS/University partnership on sport, would rule out any transfer of ownership of UUEAS' sports activities to the University. He believed it important for UUEAS to continue to work in partnership with the University on providing sporting activities for UUEAS members and noted that the resolution called for the continuance of the joint working group in pursuit of the common goal of providing better sporting opportunities for all UUEAS' members.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the resolution by a unanimous vote.

1588 AMENDMENT TO THE BYE LAWS: STUDENT ACTIVITY EVENTS AND GROUPS

Y Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer), proposing, noted there were some numbering errors in the proposal which would be rectified if it were passed. He noted that several Clubs and Societies existed at UEA which functioned under the auspices of the University and not under those of UUEAS. He noted that this meant there was a worry that members taking part in these Clubs' and Societies' activities were not safeguarded by UUEAS' procedures, particularly those concerning health and safety. He noted that the proposal would allow UUEAS to bring these Clubs and Societies under its remit.

C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), in clarification, noted that he had met with Y Yu and **T Walker (Fetish)** and they had agreed a proposed amendment to the proposal which would remove Resolves 3. He apologised that the change was not available in the electronic version of the agenda. He noted, therefore, that Council would simply be considering Resolves 1 and 2.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the amended amendment to the Bye-Laws by an overwhelming majority.

1589 A BETTER DEAL FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS THAT TEACH

L McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer), proposing, argued that it might be difficult for undergraduate members to appreciate the difficulties faced by PG students who taught. He noted that the latter often had to juggle their caring and research commitments with their teaching responsibilities. He reported that these students often worked for twice the hours that they were actually paid for and this meant that many of them received less than the Minimum Wage. He believed that appointments were often made on the basis of favouritism and patronage.

He noted that the NUS and the UCU, the lecturers' union, had developed the PG Employment Charter which would feature in future UUEAS' campaigns.

There were no speeches against.

Council adopted the resolution by an overwhelming majority.

1590 NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA ON OUR CAMPUS

This motion was withdrawn by the proposer prior to the meeting.

1591 TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 30 October 2014 in LT2 and that all items for the agenda should be submitted to the Democracy and Governance Coordinator by 12 noon on Friday 24 October.