

Meeting	Union Council
Date	24/03/22
Time	18:00-21:00
Location	Jsc 3.02

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Attendance – 46 at start of meeting

Minutes of previous meeting

Approved with 36 for, 2 against and 3 abstentions

Reports

Trustee board hasn't met since last council so no report

Written report from SOC in the agenda – taken as read

Officer reports

Ivo

- Attended FLTQC's
- Met with university digital transformation steering committee
- Online module enrolment meetings
- SSLCs
- Timetabling meetings for next year
- LTC – above faculty, approved reasonable adjustment and inclusive education policies
- Went to Iceland for aurora conference
- Writing code of governance for aurora student council
- Online assessment meetings – progress made
- Met with library and IDO about wellbeing space in the library
- Estates keen to provide funding for the space
- Complaints from students relating to use of laptops in seminars

Question: serene, POC officer, “how closely will the wellbeing space in the library align with the resolves from the original motion asking for a quiet space”

Answer: “can't use nap nook because venues staff are using it, also issues with accessibility. Room in library is quieter and more accessible and therefore a more appropriate space for a quiet room. Amending plans for the space from two years ago. In early stages and working group is going to ensure its appropriate” clarified that it won't be a study space and will solely be used as a quiet resting space. Will have further updates following meetings with library staff.

Ayane

- Working on UKRI consultation
- Met with SSF PGR student to help complete consultation
- Working on issues in SSF
- Interviewed candidates for APVCs
- Opened nominations for academic reps and convenors
- Noted opportunities for students to attend aurora conference in Iceland

Lizzie

- Working on academic societies – written paper for student experience committee to try and get academic socs more money. Based on enrolment data.
- Working on hidden cost of sports project.
- Working to equalise the cost of sports across various clubs
- Met with councillor for Norwich city council to talk about impact of cost of living on students
- STARS have been renamed to Society and Volunteering Awards
- Date pencilled in. nominations will open soon for society and volunteer nominations

- Met around graduation, working out plans for venues during grad weeks
- 60% of students returning for graduation
- Derby day planning – 27th April. Tickets for LCR went on sale today. First esports society involved.

Aaron

- Supporting student groups/individuals
- Working with ballroom and Latin dance soc, isoc with various events
- Working on accessibility in the LCR, changes implemented in first LCR post easter
- Working with Achieve Breakthrough on women's safety
- Working with uni on active bystander training
- Ran LGBT+ safe sex talk
- Working with N&N on safe testing kits and talking about how we could use them
- Attended university council to deliver presentation on SU
- Working on mental health and funding
- Sitting on food focus group panel about food sustainability and prices, equality of food on campus
- Attended SEC to discuss cost of living and how uni can support students
- Continuing work on inclusive language
- Chaired VC group on tackling racism and attended EDI committee to update them on work SU has been doing
- Met with unison around anti-racism charter
- Went on night-time walk to discuss lighting and discussing risk – invited feedback on areas that students think can be improved

Hamish

- Written update in agenda

Society and peer group constitutions

No society or peer group constitutions submitted to approve

Policy papers

Policy 1: High time for harm reduction

- Proposer requested to be withdrawn
- Chair offered speech to proposer
- Sophie Atherton spoke on the motion
- Proposed procedural motion to postpone motion to next meeting
- Speech for procedural motion:
 - “Makes sense to postpone as Hamish isn't able to attend and speak to the motion”
- Question from Sophie Ciurlik-Rittenbaum , sustainability soc – asked whether Hamish will be here at the next meeting
 - Chair responded that he does intend to present at the next council, however Sophie Atherton noted that she will present the motion at the next council as seconder if the proposer is not present.
- **Vote on procedural motion “Procedural motion to delay motion”**
 - **41 to approve, 2 to reject, 4 to abstain**

- **Motion carried**

Policy 2: Bye law to amend establishment of new clubs

- Lizzie proposed the motion.
 - Context: in 2016 the university took over half of sports, the operational side, and SU has kept governance, website, and finance of sports. Partnership means uni could also support clubs. When this happened, the bye laws didn't change in line and therefore don't reflect the partnership established in 2016.
 - Motion sets out to amend bye laws: sport will have to exist as a society for two years before it can qualify to become a club.
 - Not forcing anyone to become a club, just means that they can become one if they want to
 - The reason why this is introduced is that UEA doesn't have funds to support new clubs with their start-up and money is better spent on existing clubs. Foundational work needs to be done first. Two years gives society time to become sustainable and gives members long enough to decide if they'd rather stay a society or become a club
 - Will have to be a club if they want to partake in BUCS and UEA pays part of the affiliation fees
 - Resolves lists the specific amendments to the byelaws
 - Puts power into students' hands as gives them power over whether to become a club or not
- Question: Sophie Atherton, no-po officer, asked whether the two years is two academic years or calendar years
 - A from proposer: "if approved in March as a soc, would take two years from that date"
- Question from Lucas, kayak rep, asked what support will be given to the society and how willing the SU will be to fund the club as compared to uni
 - A from proposer: "would have same support as any other society and grants would be available as normal. SU also has a start-up fund in case they need any equipment, they'd also qualify for committee training and support of A&O officer"
 - Lucas asked whether there would be an exec rep for these clubs
 - A from proposer: "would probably go under games and hobbies in existing exec structure"
- Chair noted that motion would need a two thirds majority to pass as it's a change to the bye-laws. Chair moved to speeches
- Speech against from Jude Beckett, history soc rep (stepped down as deputy chair for the motion)
 - "ineffective and potentially harmful to union democracy, main issue is assigning sports clubs as socs, most students are here for 3 years therefore too long for them to become a club, impossible for most students to create and participate in a sports club, many sports will struggle to operate as a society, many sports clubs need lots of money for start-up costs and equipment's which means members would have very high membership or expectation to have access to have specialist equipment"
 - Wouldn't have access to transport, socs would struggle to get membership, funding would be drained from other socs to be allocated to sports clubs with high costs, would mean less space and resources esp. storage for other socs, doesn't bring in

line with any other bye-laws and creates a brand-new system. Gives more power to uea sport to make decision and bye law change decreases power for students.

- Question, Tom, Colney exec – “does speech against suggest clubs should become clubs straight away”
- Question, Sophie Atherton “is the motion formalising an existing process”
 - A from proposer: “its formalising a process which is already in place in the bye-laws”
- Question, rep for headucate “if motion gets rejected, can an amended version of motion be submitted”
 - A from chair: motions can be amended, taken in parts, or re-submitted at any points
- Question from Lucas, kayak soc “what procedures would be followed if I wanted to start a new club, would I use sports or SU trip forms”
 - A from proposer: “SU”
- Speech for: Tom, Colney exec:
 - “For the students benefit to be able to expand into a club, have seen clubs crash and burn because they didn’t have enough members or support, the motion takes away the issue and clubs have time to build themselves up. If immediately a club, the money given won’t be used effectively. Starting as a society might not be ideal, but it gives clubs a better change to build their sport and make good on what they want. Also means that if members don’t want to be a club, they don’t have to become one”
- Speech against, Jude from history soc:
 - “Council is where things are decided and just because something has already been happening, doesn’t mean council has to enshrine it. No reason why a trial period would make clubs any better. Clubs could have more improved support when starting up as a new club. There are other methods besides becoming a society which would support clubs and socs better.”
 - Point of clarification, Jude history soc: “bye-laws only mandate questions after first round of speeches.”
 - A from chair: “made chairs decision to open again”
- Imogen cliff Sports Executive “where will funding come from if made immediately a club”
 - A from Jude: “not something for council to decide. If problem is clubs don’t have money, that’s for uea sport to fix. SU should not be using their money to plug financial gaps of other institutions”
- Question from British sign language rep “how long should trial period be?”
 - A from Jude: “not proposing a motion that would fix issue, just saying that this one doesn’t fix the problem and should therefore be rejected”
- Chair moved for an additional round of speeches
- No speeches for
- Proposer summarised the motion

Vote on policy proposal: Change to bye-law 9.5:

- **Approve: 28**
- **Reject: 8**
- **Abstain: 6**

42 people responded, meaning 28 votes were needed to approve to pass. The policy therefore passed.

AOB

The chair presented an AOB on election turnout over the past years. Invited feedback/reflections on election campaigning.

Ayane – requested breakdown of how many PG candidates ran

Jude, bio convenor – requested numbers rather than pie chart #

Lucas, kayak – found duration of election difficult due to starting on Friday. Should have started on Monday instead.

Sophie, sustainability – slides imply that trans men and trans women aren't women/men. Form only let you select one. 'other' as a category would be better. Campaigning period when polls are closed is not helpful.

Lizzie, A&O Officer – campaigning period is useful to get name out there, time to speak to clubs and socs, time to contact students. If campaigning and voting opened on Monday students would instantly vote for friends rather than having time to consider candidates. 3 days for running a campaign and having voting isn't long enough and the higher the turnout the more validity the officers have in the eyes of the university.

Aaron, W,D & D Officer – starting on Friday isn't beneficial for candidates. Candidate confidence also increases over the campaigning period. Makes day 1 less intimidating.

Serene, POC Officer – campaign period would mean conversations were less high pressure as students have time to decide

Toby king, games soc – didn't see much campaigning happening this year compared to previous years

Sky, feminist book club – had a lot of candidate's messages, 3 days turn around was not a lot of time to factor, personally would like longer campaign period time to give societies more time to endorse

Kirsty, active campus officer – more lecture shout outs

Cora, headucate – need to communicate importance of voting to students

Ayane – su already asks academics to discuss elections but it is up to them whether they do it. Also asking students teaching time to talk about something else so limited amount we can push.

Campaigning period better for students on placement. Voting should be opened after hustings.

Lucas – too many restrictions on society/club connections and endorsements. Rules are useful but some of them are too harsh.

Sophie Atherton Non-portfolio officer – voting can be open for longer during longer campaigning period. Manifestos are on the website so they can be read whenever, don't need campaigning to repeat same messages.