

Minutes

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 17 th November 2016
Paper:	UC 1994
Author:	Josh Melling
Purpose:	Record of decision making

Key Actions:

- Council accepted the constitution of **Friendly Runners Club**
- Council heard a speech from Jon sharp (Head of Student Services) and posed questions regarding the activities of his remit.
- Council discussed issues of student leadership within the Union, and noted how this issue can better be addressed.
- Council had adopted all resolutions submitted.

Council had adopted the following resolutions.

- **Make Motions Easier** introduced changes to the format that Council agenda is sent out in, and how motions are written by Councillors.
- **Scrap Prescription Charges** mandating SOC to join the NUS campaign 'Scrap Prescription charges'
- **The fight for votes at 16** to make students and the local community aware that 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and deserve to vote
- **Say Yes to NUS** publically reaffirming UUEAS commitment to the NUS
- **Remember Don't repeat** introducing the sale of white poppies in union outlets along with red poppies

Union of UEA Students Purpose:

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"

Minutes of Union Council

17th November 2016

Voting Members present:

Juliet Donaghy (NURSING SOC), Emmanuel Agu (Ethical Issues), Jo Swo (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), Charlie Pritchard (Creative Writing), Finn Northrop (Non-Portfolio Officer), Sarah Darley (SSAGO), India Alderson-Edwards (Media Studies Society), Adrian Moore (Drama), Amy Atkinson (BIO YR1 UG), Peter Bush (HSC YR1), Christopher Wyburn-Powell (FELL & MOUNTAINEERING), Adelaide Sheard (MATHS), Oli Gray (SURF), Tom Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer), Thomas Howard (HIS YR 2 UG), Madeleine Colledge (Postgraduate Education), Kate Snape (Students with Disabilities Officer), Maelle Kabore (TEDX), Ben Fong (Rotaract), Aaron Hood (PPL UG), Becca Hemmings (Women's Caucus), Abbie Mulcairn (Women's Officer), Jack Houghton (Rock Climbing), Luke Hewerdine (FENCING), Tim Barker (PG Assembly), Harry Mutter (Touch Rugby), Kara Langford (TAP), Sophie Chapman (Feminist), Jack Spoor (MODEL UN), Amy Rust (Campaigns and Democracy), Leah Fitzsimons (RIDING), Lucia Horea (LTS PGT), Adrian-Ioan Moldovan (Amnesty International), Tony Allan (Eggbox), Jemma Bailey (HIS), Jennifer Templer (British Sign Language), Jemma Abdul-Maliq-Bello (Women's Caucus), Emily Cutler (Economics), Elliott Simpson (UEA TV), Kiristen Williams (PPL YR2 UG), Louisa Quarshie (GHANAIAN STUDENTS), Chris Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer), Tim Culter (Young Greens), Hannah Osborne (HSC YR2 UG), Abigail McIlpatrick (BASKETBALL WOMEN), Shannon Roche (FOOTBALL WOMEN), Wing Lam Cham (Carbon Crew), Lucy Auger (MOMENTUM), Eleanor Lambe (LDC PGT), Louisa Spare (Game Soc), Madeleine Colledge (Postgraduate Education), Louise Parker (ROCK AND ALTERNATIVE MUSIC), Khyatee Tewari (BEM Caucus), Lauren Kelly (WOMEN IN BUSINESS), Joe Zilch (Activities and Opportunities), Theo Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education), Alyssa Girvan (Nightline), Ellie Barrett-Rees (LAW YR1 UG), Allan Claydon (Art), Louisa Ng (Commercial Awareness), William Richardson (Investment Soc), Ben Cheshire (VIDEO GAME), George Lankester (PPL Other YR UG), Lucy Agar (Psychology Society), Gemma Bailey-Smith (CHEERLEADING STUNT), Lewis Martin (The Broad), Charlotte Earney (PG Assembly), Beth Summerfield (HUM), Emily-Jane Sciville (AMERICAN FOOTBALL), Ricky Nagell-Kleven (Swimming), Sharmin Hoque (LGBT+ (open place)), Chloe Otoo (KAOS), Denise Teh (BALLET), Hussam Hussein (DEV PGR), Zoe Freeman (Women's Caucus), Laurie Bird (Engineering), Jennifer Williams (LGBT+ Caucus (Bi/Pan)), Misha Camp (Development), Adam Stokes (LIBERAL DEMOCRATS), Andrea Sterling-Manson (LATIN AMERICAN), Jenna Groves (PHYSICS &

ASTRONOMY), Francisco de Borja Martin Simón (NBS YR1 UG), Jessica Frank-Keyes (Concrete), Eddie Basse (PSY PGT), Veronica White (Environment Officer), Oliver Healey (LDC YR1 UG)

Online Members:

Lee Brown (LGBT+ trans and non binary)

Chair:

Benamina Efua Dadzie (WAM PG)

In Attendance:

Anthony Moore (Democracy and Governance Coordinator), Josh Melling (democracy and Governance), Elliot Folan (Campaigns and Policy), Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive)

Apologies:

Malaika Jaovisidha (International), Jack Robinson (Non Portfolio), Tarun Sridhar (Ethnic Minorities)

Section 1 – Housekeeping

1994 Membership

Chair noted membership.

1995 Guest Speaker

Jon Sharp (Director of Student Services) had given Council a speech on what the Student Services actually does. Noted the departments which fall under their remit, including the Dental Service, Student Support Services (SSS), Multifaith Centre, and the accommodation Office. Noted improving the application to accommodation so there is a better fit of students. Noted they have increased the amount of mental health advisers, and the waiting time for a counselling appointment is less than a week. Noted the waiting time for an initial assessment is two weeks and two days, however noted they would like to get this down to a week. Noted nightline is a hugely important service, and will definitely find a permanent space for the service. Noted if this does not happen, they will return to Council where they consent to having items thrown at them.

J Spoor (Model UN) questioned whether the University will build new, affordable accommodation as it is currently too expensive for many students.

Jon Sharp noted setting rents is outside of Student Services, noted it is based on market rate, utility rates, long term maintenance plans. Noted however, unlike other Universities UEA owns their accommodation. Noted they are looking at involving students more in the process as part of vision 2030.

S Hoque (LGBT+) questioned why the SSS has not been able to see students who need emergency counselling.

JS noted they are not aware of any situation where this has happened, noted if it has they want to know about it so they can deal with that urgently.

M Camp (Development) questioned what the SSS are doing to get involved with students, as opposed to students always going to them.

JS noted the 'Librarians let loose' scheme in order to get more people to use the library, wants to do something like that with student services, appropriateness of services will need to be reviewed.

A Moore (Drama) questioned what is specifically being done to reduce the time for the initial assessment.

JS noted they are having a process fixing event. Previous process have been improved by these types of activities.

L Ng (Commercial Awareness) noted their friend had a burn on their leg, yet the medical centre had no one available for urgent treatment at that time.

JS noted the medical centre is a separate entity to the Student Services.

A Mulcairn (Womens) noted the UUK taskforce report recommendations highlighted the sheer amount of people assaulted on campus, can you promise to deliver and implement the recommendations.

JS noted there had been a paper going to University Council that made initial comments on how to implement, including the resources, recording. Noted as the VC is personally committed to this happening, resources should be given.

Kabore (TedEx) questioned what JS considers a crisis, and what measures are in place to see if a student is in crisis. Noted it seems as though you would only consider it to be something that is very severe, questioned why there are no options for people who are not that severe but need treatment quickly.

JS noted crisis in SSS means an external entity getting involved, it must be immediate, noted it doesn't happen often but when it does it is often dealt with.

C Earney (Postgraduate Assembly) noted they had bad experiences with reception staff in DOS, will improvements be made in SSS.

JS noted they cannot speak about individuals, and that there is no training or development plan in place, however is in the process of creating one which every member of staff will receive that training.

1996 Minutes

Chair noted due to staff illness minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

1997 Matters Arising

There had been no matters arising.

1998 Club, Society, and Peer Support Group Constitutions

Chair moved Council to a vote on the Friendly Runners Club.

Council accepted the constitution of the new society.

1999 Appointment to UUEAS Sub-Committees and University Committees

Chair noted there are still positions open on some of the committees.

SECTION 2

2000 Student Leadership Review

A Rust (Campaigns) provided Council with a presentation on the activities done with the Student Leadership Review working group. Noted they focused on, but not exclusively, the part time roles in the student officer committee. Noted they want to know how students feel the Union should be involving students in leadership more.

C Ball (Non Portfolio Officer) noted the idea of gender balancing the non-portfolio officers.

E Cutler (Economics) noted that the issues within Union council do not resonate with the general student body, trying to get more of the student body involved through campaigns, noted this can help overall engagement with the Union.

L Parker (Rock and Alternative Music) noted there is an issue with the caucuses. Noted they are not promoted enough, therefore rarely meet quorum, noted to make the purpose of them known.

E Agu (Ethical Issues) noted student officers are often white male and straight, noted they want to get a historical view of the officers to see if improvements in representations have been made.

A Mulcairn (Womens) noted in regards to gender balancing, a previous officer had brought the issue to Council in a motion however it had been rejected, noted it has been over a year since this happened and nothing has improved. Noted since the VC has taken a more firm stance on sexual assault on campus, there should be more women on the officer team.

R Purtil (Pride) noted having training for societies peer support groups and clubs should be offered before summer, noted co-campaigning could be difficult.

K Snape (Students with Disabilities) noted there are a lot of mental health campaigns, which falls under their remit, along with accessibility, etc, noted there could be a mental health specific officer to deal with this.

L Auger (Momentum) noted on co-campaigning, doing it on their own they found it very difficult, especially for female candidates campaigning in the evenings.

J Zilch (Activities) noted there is already training available before summer.

G Bailey (Politics) noted HSC are unrepresented, therefore a specific officer for the health sciences could help to integrate them into the Union and University more.

2001 University Committee Reports

No reports had been given to Council.

2002 SOC Report

A Presentation had led by J Swo (Welfare) regarding the activities of SOC since the last meeting of Council. Further gave Council information on what each fulltime officer had been working on. T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) had given a speech on that activities of the part time officers.

2003 Trustee Board

Chair noted there had not been a meeting since the last Council.

2004 Union Finance

J Dickinson (Chief Executive) had given a briefing on the Union Finances. Noted any information given will be provided online, and if any Councillor had questions or queries to email T Antoniou-Phillips.

T Barker (Postgraduate Assembly) questioned where Scholars fits into the finances.

JD noted it falls under bars, but will be presented separately in future.

2005 Reports from Representatives

Council heard no reports from representatives.

SECTION 3 – Open Discussion – Mental Health Campaign

J Donaghy (Nursing) noted they found it bad that a new Councillor, a mental health nurse, did not know about the mental health matters campaign. More could be done to engage students from all areas of the University. Noted they believe there is an unhealthy relationship with students and alcohol, and the Union could do more to help students with issues.

E Cutler (Economics) noted they believe it would be good to have a reporting avenue with advisers as it can be a difficult and stressful process to alert the school to any issues.

L Kelly (Women in Business) noted there adviser in NBS has around 30 advisees and doesn't know their name, noted there should be more sessions where students and advisers get to know each other so when issues arise the student is comfortable going to the adviser.

(SSAGO) noted receiving emails from SSS, and the extensive use of acronyms is too confusing especially for students with dyslexia.

M (Postgraduate Assembly) noted mental health disproportionately affects postgraduate students, wanted the Union to bear this in mind for PGT and PGR.

K Snape (Students with Disabilities) noted from their experience students with physical disabilities have been told they are too complex, therefore have to wait much longer for NHS intervention, noted the University could make ground here.

J Swo (Welfare) noted they are leading on the Mental Health Matters campaign, noted they want to see advisers getting mental health training. Noted one of the advice staff in the Union will go along to counselling or adviser meetings if students are not comfortable.

SECTION 4

2010 Make Motions Easier

Chair noted amendments had been submitted but not accepted, therefore they had been debated separately.

E Cutler (Economics) had given a speech in favour of the motion. Noted they find some of the motions quite long and it had been discussed in students with disabilities caucus how it can be made easier.

T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the amendments. Noted sending the agenda out in a word document will allow Councillors to make any changes they require.

E Cutler (Economics) noted they had chosen Arial font as it is on the list from the British Dyslexia Association.

J Spoor (Model UN) questioned has this passed through the students with disabilities caucus.

E Cutler (Economics) noted the caucus had not met quorum, however, it had been discussed and the motion had been written from that discussion.

(SSAGO) questioned whether making the agenda double spaced and in a word document would make it a larger file to download.

E Cutler (Economics) noted that it would, however sending it as both gives people the option.

K Snape (Students with Disabilities) noted they did not believe that to make something accessible, students who need it to be accessible have to make the adjustments.

(SSAGO) noted some people with dyslexia, such as the Councillor, find double spacing intimidating, therefore single spacing would be better.

E Bassey (PSY) noted for some motions putting a summary at the top would make it longer than just reading the motion.

E Cutler (Economics) noted there is no minimum so it is up to the proposer how much they write in the summary.

G Bailey (Politics) questioned what is actually being voted on.

Chair noted resolves 2 and 3 had been debated.

Summation waived by T Etheridge (Non Portfolio).

Council voted to accept the amendments.

Chair moved Council to a vote on the motion as a whole.

Council adopted the resolution.

2009 Scrap Prescription Charges

K Snape (Students with Disabilities) had given a speech in favour of the motion. Noted prescriptions are expensive, and students are poor.

(Art) questioned how this can be afforded.

E Cutler (Economics) noted it is already available just very hard to get hold of.

A summation had been given to Council from J Swo (Welfare) had given more of an intro into the campaign. Noted those with chronic conditions have to pay ridiculous amounts for prescriptions.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

2008 The Fight for Votes at 16

A Rust (Campaigns) had given a speech in favour of the motion. Noted young people's voices are often ignored due to the current system. Noted results such as Brexit may have been different if this had been implemented. Noted voting at a younger age can get more people into the routine of voting throughout life.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

2007 Say Yes to NUS

R Purtil (Pride) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted the motion is about better representation of students in the NUS. Noted work needs to be done so students don't have a negative view of NUS.

J Swo (Welfare) had given a speech in favour of the amendment. Noted they believe all the officers should be involved not just the campaigns officer. Noted the motion talks about one member one vote, which they did not believe Council have enough information about what this would mean to vote on. Noted OMOV will lead to the predominately white, elite universities having an unequal say in the democratic processes of the NUS.

R Purtil (Pride) gave a speech against the proposed amendments. Noted change needs to happen to give more democratic power to students. Noted there should be no price on democracy. Noted if designed properly liberation groups could have a louder voice.

L Auger (Momentum) noted there had been a policy passed for a trans officer at NUS, believed that would not have been possible if it had not been for the current delegate system of voting.

A Moore (Drama) questioned whether Union Council is the best body to mandate delegates to vote a certain way when the majority who attend are not there to change political structures.

Councillor proposed voting on the amendments in parts.

Chair noted Council will go to parts.

R Purtil (Pride) noted this OMOV is specifically for President and Vice President, not individual policies.

Chair moved Council to a vote on resolution 2.

Council accepted the amendment.

J Swo (Welfare) had provided Council with a summation on the second amendment. Noted if a University has the resources to campaign across the UK, they will disproportionately gain advantages over poorer institutions.

Chair moved council to a vote.

Council accepted the amendment.

Chair moved council to a debate on the motion as amended.

W Richardson (Investment) had given a speech against the motion. Noted worrying trends in representation from the NUS. Noted power should be put back into students' hands. Noted the NUS does not

understand that students are trustworthy. Noted when parliament does not like the NUS, it is a bit of a problem.

E Agu (Ethical Issues) noted the NUS does not have the power to mandate UEA to do anything. Noted the NUS does support issues that are pertinent for students. Accepts it is not perfect, but believes if Council are to vote on this motion it should be don't with facts.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

2006 Remember Don't Repeat

F Northrop (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted many students find the red poppy uncomfortable, and damaging to mental health. Noted they do not believe the red poppy no longer represents remembrance but British military action. Noted many pacifists and quakers who were conscientious objectors to the war had been subjected to invasive questioning. Noted people who refused conscription had been sent to hard labour camps.

W Richardson (Investment) gave a speech against the motion, Noted they are not against the white poppy and people's choice to wear it. Questioned whether the motion seriously suggests the red poppy is an avocation for everything the British did. Noted the money for poppies goes towards veterans. Noted this should not be a political motion, and is not about saying this is a good political ideology, however, noted its shows respect for soldiers and veterans for the situation they are in. Noted they are not against poppies but they are opposed to the rhetoric in the motion.

Summation had been given by E Agu (Ethical Issues). Noted when poppies are displayed on tanks, and vehicles used by the military today then the meaning can be lost. Noted the motion gives people Choice.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

2011 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting

Chair noted the next meeting will be held at 7 pm, Thursday 8 December in the Enterprise Centre Lecture Theatre, the agenda closes at noon, Friday 2 December.