

**Minutes**

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 8 February 18
Paper:	UC 2 18 2
Author:	Tony Moore
Purpose:	Record of decision making

**Key Points**

Voted to delay discussion of Medical Education Society until the next meeting.

Approved new Student Opportunities Groups: Art History Society

Voted to send the following motions for discussion at the National Union of Students annual conference:

- Stop Doing over Our Nursing Students
- Stop exploiting student workers
- Single Use Plastics
- Ethical Purchasing
- Researching Students’ Unions and Sustainability

Council approved one regular resolution:

- May Contain Nuts

**Union of UEA Students Purpose:**

“To enrich the life of every UEA student”

**Minutes of Union Council**

8 February 2018

---

**Voting Members present:**

Nathan Abbott (Laser Society), Andrea Amundsen (Scandinavian Society), Rebecca Anderson (NURSING), Jack Annand (Business Society), Amy Atkinson (Women+ Officer), Chris Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer), Sofia Vidal Mirabo de Bauza (KAOS Society), Jack Bear (American Football Club), Eddie Booth (Politics Society), Jenna Chapman (RAG Society), Samhita Chaudhuri (School Convener (BIO)), Emily Cutler (Students with Disabilities Officer), Alex Dalton (Hip Hop Society), Liam Deary (LGBT+ Officer (Trans & Non-Binary)), Anna Deas (Literature), Johnny Draisey (Conservative Society), India Edwards (Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer), Michael Eldar (School Convener (ECO)), Mary Etheridge (Basketball Women's Club), Ruth Flaherty (PG Assembly), Adi Goldman (Hickling and Barton), Jessica Gossett (Physio Society), Laura Graham (Sport and Exercise Medicine Society), Eliza Gurner (Tap Club), Caitlin Hampton (CANCER SUPPORT), Oliver Healy (Liberal Democrats Society), Becky Herdman (Big C), Thomas Howard (Faculty Convenor (HIS)), Jack Hunt (Kayak Club), Ellie Johns (Crossfit), Damilola Johnson (African Youth Development Society), Mae Kabore (LGBT+ Officer (Open Place)), Afia Khan (Oxfam Society), Camille Koosyial (Activities & Opportunities Officer), Michael Kyriacou (PG Assembly), Sean Lam (School Convener (HIS)), Antanas Laurusas (Lithuanian Society), Alana Jex Lloyd (Coppafeel Society), Joseph Jordan Lutchman (Video Game Society), Matin Mahmoudi (BIO SOC), Martin Marko (Mature Students' Assembly), Matthew Massey (Friends of Childreach International Society), Sophie Minns (Women+ Liberation Association (Parents and carers place)), Matthew Mulligan (ENV SOC), Hannah Murgatroyd (Disabilities Liberation Society (Physical Illness Place)), Charlie Norman (PSY Other YR UG), Ismarika Pandey (BIO MED YR1), Georgie Pearsall (Archery Club), Rhys Purtill (Environment Officer), Alya Qubaty (Neuro Society), Matilda Richetto (Ballet Club), Samia Rockson (Ghanaian Society), Giorgia Rose (Art Society), Jack Sayer (Korfbal Club), Liam Self (OPERA), Ben Smith (BOXING), Andrea Manson Sterling (Latin American Society), Valentina Valenza (Italian Society), Jenny Wedde (School Convener (DEV))

**Chair:** N Stokes

**Deputy Chair:** S Lam

**In Attendance:**

E Folan (Campaigns and Democracy Policy Analyst), Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive), J Clare (Head of Campaigns and Policy).

## **Section 1 – Housekeeping**

### **Quorum**

Chair noted the quorum count of 46 Councillors

Chair noted that the guest speaker, Jon Sharp, Director of Student Services, had had to cancel due to ill health.

Chair noted that India Edwards (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer) would make a presentation to Council on the work of Student Support Services (STS).

India Edwards (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer) asked Councillors to note down any questions they would have asked Jon Sharp. IE noted the questions would be collected, given to the University and the University's responses made public.

IE outlined the range of services that STS provided for students.

IE drew attention to the waiting times for students in need of counselling; noted that the average wait was around 60 days. IE compared the waiting times and number of students on the list with those for other universities and the University's performance was way below its comparators. IE noted that they had been in discussions with STS and there appeared to be many factors that had contributed to the build-up of waiting times but that the reality was that the University's performance was unacceptable.

### **2200 Membership**

Council noted the new members added to the Register.

*Chair noted that due to a technical issue the electronic voting would be unavailable and for the current meeting there would be voting by hands.*

### **2201 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 February**

Minutes agreed.

### **2202 Matters Arising**

None noted.

### **2203 NUS National Conference Priority Ballot**

J Robinson (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) made a presentation as to their recommendations.

JR noted the previous semester the membership had elected JR along with C Ball, M Kabore, A Mulcairn and T Braddick as the Union's delegation to NUS National Conference. JR noted that each affiliated union could submit policy proposals to National Conference subject to

a word limit of 1,400 words. JR noted that, if they were approved by Council, the Union's delegation would take the policies that had been submitted to Council forward to National Conference.

J Robinson (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) proposed for approval to send to National Conference a resolution titled '*Stop doing over our Nursing Students*' comprising 669 words. JR argued that NUS had conducted extensive research on diverse students groups but never on health science students and the resolution would address this omission. JR noted the resolution had been originally developed by the Edith Cavell Society and had been sent to Conference for the last two years but had not been considered. JR argued that, if passed, the policy would commit NUS research resources but also develop a whole range of support facilities for health science students and build working relationships between the student movement and trade unions and the Royal College of Nursing.

B Herdman (Big C), for clarification, wondered, if the resolution had not been heard for two years running, as to the chances of it being considered at the current year's conference.

J Robinson (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), in clarification, noted they had been in contact with other students' unions to support the initiative and there was, also, a very good chance that the Welfare Zone proposals, which included the resolution, would be heard up the agenda; JR felt confident that it would be heard and would be passed.

There were no speeches against.

*The resolution was adopted by a substantial majority to be sent to NUS National Conference.*

J Robinson (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) proposed for approval to send to National Conference a resolution titled '*Stop Exploiting Student Workers*' comprising 432 words.

JR noted that the Union had launched a ground-breaking initiative with the GMB trade union which had enrolled all student staff, who wished to, into the GMB. JR argued that the scheme had been successful and noted the proposal would be for NUS to roll the scheme out nationally. JR noted that other parts of the resolution would look at the protection of casual workers and greater support for international students working in the UK.

There were no speeches against.

*The resolution was adopted by a substantial majority to be sent to NUS National Conference.*

Chair noted receipt of an emergency resolution for sending to NUS Conference.

*Council agreed by a substantial majority to consider the emergency resolution.*

J Robinson (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) proposed for approval to send to National Conference an amendment to one of the resolutions to be considered as part of the Society and Citizenship Zone: on single-use plastics.

JR noted the amendment was around 100 words and called for wider involvement by the NUS in education on sustainability and zero waste alongside developing educational initiatives with the UN and national and local government.

H Murgatroyd (Disabilities Liberation Society [Physical Illness Place]), for clarification, wondered what consultation had taken place with disabled students with regard to single use plastics. HM noted that many disabled students, including themselves, could not survive without single-use plastics for health interventions such as injections. HM note the lifesaving role that plastic straws could play for disabled students.

J Robinson (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), in clarification, noted that the amendment specified consultation with the NUS National Disabled Students Campaign. JR noted that prior to the amendment there would have been no mention of disability consultation in the formation of zero waste and sustainability policies. JR noted that they were part of the National Campaign and assured HM that they would take the lead on ensuring consultation took place.

There were no speeches against.

*The resolution was adopted by a substantial majority to be sent to NUS National Conference.*

M Marko (Mature Students Assembly), online, made the following statement in favour of sending both the resolution on Ethical Purchasing (79 words) and on Researching Students' Unions and Sustainability (146 words) to NUS National Conference:

'I would like these policy proposals to be sent to National Conference for consideration'.

*Both resolutions were adopted by a substantial majority to be sent to NUS National Conference.*

## **2204 Club, Society, and Peer Support Group Constitutions**

Chair ruled that, as there was a full recommendation from Societies Executive, Council would move straight to a vote on the proposed constitution of Art History Society.

*Council approved Art History Society by a substantial majority.*

E Cutler (Students with Disabilities Officer), for clarification, thought it unclear in the agenda papers as to whether Norwich MedED's application was to become a Society or a Peer Support Group.

A speaker on behalf of MedED, in clarification, noted that they had decided to apply to become a Society rather than a Peer Support Group as the revision sessions that they planned would cater for MED students rather than the wider student body.

Chair invited the speaker to give Council some background to the proposed Society's application.

The speaker noted the group had come together to offer informal teaching for MED students and to provide, better, more regular revision sessions than those currently offered by the School. The speaker noted that the group would like to produce an online form for those who wished to teach sessions thereby widening teaching opportunities across MED.

C Koosyal (Activities & Opportunities Officer), in further clarification, noted having been unable, due to illness, to attend the Societies Executive at which MedED had been discussed. CK noted that there had been no MED Executive rep at the meeting but they had subsequently been contacted by several MED Societies that had concerns about approval of the proposed Society. CK noted that Derm Soc was one of the Societies that had raised concerns: they believed they already offered the activities proposed by MedED. CK reported that existing Societies had noted that MedED proposed to invite guest speakers and argued that they already provided this facility and this would overlap with their own activities and might threaten their existence as they depended for a lot of their funding on guest lectures. CK reported that MedED had received money from MED SOC and this meant there would be less funding available to existing Societies. CK apologised that these concerns had arrived too late to be added to the report from Societies Executive.

The speaker on behalf of MedED, in clarification, thanked KC for reporting the comments from other Societies. The speaker noted MedED's concerns that other Societies felt threatened but believed approval would represent a widening of opportunities for students. The speaker noted that prior to Council MedED had received phone calls from other Societies the content of which had been unhelpful. The speaker argued that MedED focused on teaching rather than promotion of particular medical specialities. The speaker noted that Derm Soc, for example, focused on promotion of career opportunities in a specific branch of medicine. The speaker believed it would be unfair not to approve MedED as their own focus was on teaching and revision and would not overlap with the activities of existing societies.

J Gossett (Physio Society), for clarification, noted they had consulted their constituents and a concern raised had been over guaranteeing the quality of teaching. JG noted that physio students had Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) sessions organised by their School and the students who led them had to have secured a certain grade to be

approved. JG wondered if there were any differences between PAL and the service proposed by MedED.

The speaker on behalf of MedED, in clarification, noted that, in MED, PAL provision only extended to mentoring sessions in Year 1 and MedED would be looking to cover the remaining years of the medical degree. The speaker noted that applications to teach would be publically available and priority would be given to those students who had not previously taught as it was important for every medical student to have the opportunity to gain teaching experience.

A Councillor from the floor, in clarification, noted they had attended the Societies Executive meeting and the feeling had been that there would be a great opportunity for MedED to collaborate with other Societies and also to work with disabled students on the development of doctors' representation of self and their relationships with patients of future doc.

A Councillor from the floor, in clarification, noted they had looked at the MED SOC website and it appeared that they were offering a similar service to that proposed by MedED; the Councillor suggested that MedED might look to work under the remit of MED SOC.

The speaker on behalf of MedED, in clarification, noted that they were not aware of MED SOC running any organised revision sessions at present. They noted that there were also a large number of gaps that the specialist Societies did not cover. The speaker noted they were already in collaboration with Surgical Society to run an event with MedED dealing with the teaching aspect and Surgical dealing with the career opportunities side. The speaker noted other examples of collaboration with the President of Dermatology and the Vice-President of Cardiology taking part in MedED teaching sessions.

A Councillor online, for clarification, wondered why the matter could not have been resolved between the various MED Societies before it came to Council.

Chair, in clarification, noted that the power to approve a new Society rested with Council and the assumption was that if there was a disagreement the matter would be decided by Council.

Chair handed the matter to Activities & Opportunities Officer for further clarification.

C Koosyal (Activities & Opportunities Officer), in clarification, suggested that, given the number of emails they had received over this matter and the suggestions as to whether to look at whether MedED should apply to become a Peer Support Group, it might be wise to bring to discuss the matter in depth outside of Council and defer to another meeting.

The speaker on behalf of MedED, in clarification, noted that some of the other MED Societies had stated that MedED should have got their prior agreement before making the request for approval to Council; the speaker believed this to be a wrong approach and a denial of members' rights and of opportunities.

C Koosyal (Activities & Opportunities Officer), in clarification, thought it understandable that other MED Societies would have concerns and it was right that Council considered those concerns.

A Councillor from the floor moved a procedural motion to defer the matter to the next meeting.

*Council adopted the procedural motion to defer consideration of MedED's constitution until the next meeting.*

## **2205 Appointments**

Chair asked any Councillors interested in the PG positions on the Senate Disciplinary and Appeals committees to contact the Democracy and Governance Coordinator.

No Councillor put themselves forward and appointments were deferred to another meeting.

## **Section 2 – Reports**

### **2206 University Committee Reports**

There were no reports received.

### **2207 Student Officer Committee (SOC) Report**

C Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer), as Chair of SOC, gave a verbal report highlighting the work of the Full Time Officers and Part Time Officers.

CB reported key actions and areas of focus had been:

- Preparing the Transforming Education Awards and the Teaching Fellowship Award
- Work around the UCU strike action
- Working on greater transparency for the University's Senate proceedings
- Lobbying parliament on student mental health
- Funding for disability access
- Better support for estranged students
- Input into consultation on redevelopment of the Multi-Faith Centre
- Facility Access at Sportspark
- Changing the Culture/Never OK Fayre
- Themed pre-drinks nights to encourage students not to break University regulations by holding socials in Halls

M Kabore (LGBT+ Officer [Open Place]) reported on campaigns around:

- Don't Be A Wasteman (a foodbank for local charities)
- Meat Free Mondays
- Reclaim the Night/International Women's Week



- Cutting plastic waste/Go Green Week
- LGBT+ History Month including how to make sports more inclusive
- NUS Disabled Students Political Education Conference/Access All Areas
- Review of SOC Sub-Committees

**2208 Trustee Board**

Council noted the Chair of Trustees' written report without comment.

**2209 Reports from Representatives**

There were no reports.

**Section 3 – Open Discussions**

*Due to time consideration, this item was deferred to the next meeting.*

**Section 4 – Policy Making**

**2210 May Contain Nuts**

C Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer), proposing, noted they had visited the Julian Study Centre recently and after a night out needed caffeine and some energy so they ordered a coffee and a brownie. CB reported that after purchasing the brownie they noticed it had no labelling as to contents and when asked the only information the staff could give was to confirm it was a brownie. CB noted that after biting into the brownie they realised it contained peanuts; CB noted they suffered from a peanut allergy which could result in anaphylaxis. CB noted they had only taken a small bite but had experienced extremely unpleasant symptoms for the subsequent 24 hours though fortunately not life-threatening ones. CB noted that checking the contents of food products was not a preference for them, as it was for many people, but a necessity. CB reported: 8% of the population suffered from food allergies; 8 people died the previous year from primary symptoms and thousands had died from secondary symptoms.

CB noted that, in the previous few years, a series of regulations had been brought in to protect allergy sufferers for not only retail food products but for food served in cafes and restaurants; CB noted, however, that these regulations were flouted on campus. CB noted that Campus Kitchen rarely labelled any of the 14 food allergens. CB argued that the omission put students' lives at risk.

CB noted that even in the Union's premises they had observed best practice on food storage and serving not be followed with the resulting danger of cross-contamination and, also, a lack of product information. CB noted the resolution proposed to mandate the Union to ensure it employed best practice whilst pushing the University to observe the regulations. CB noted the resolution would empower the Union to not use University catering services if no progress were made. CB noted

the resolution would also call for allergy sufferers' involvement in its implementation.

A Councillor from the floor, for clarification, suggested that the Resolves should be extended to include lactose and carbohydrate information which was of great importance to some students particularly those with diabetes.

C Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer), in clarification, noted that their speech had concentrated on peanut allergy as this formed a key part of their personal experience. CB drew to the Councillor's attention the fact that the Resolves specifically reference all 14 allergies contained in the EU Food Information for Consumers. CB assured the Councillor that information needs around lactose and carbohydrates would be incorporated in the implementation of the Resolves in the spirit of the resolution.

A Councillor from the floor, for clarification, noted they suffered from multiple food allergies and it was essential that they had full information when eating out.

The Councillor noted the lack of information on food ingredients on campus and the cross-contamination to food preparation equipment in both Campus Kitchen and Unio. The Councillor noted they had raised these issues but had had no support and had been ignored.

The Councillor reported that they had recently bought a roll from Campus Kitchen that they had been told contained only cheese and onion but that had on closer examination turned out to contain a range of other products. The Councillor noted that, if they had bitten into the roll, they would have been hospitalised; the Councillor urged Council to not underestimate the danger posed by food allergens.

The Councillor noted that, when they had begun, at UEA Campus Kitchen had displayed all ingredients on their produce but this had been discontinued; when the Councillor had enquired, as to the reasons for discontinuing, a staff member had stated that it was for 'aesthetic reasons'.

J Robinson (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), in clarification, noted in reference to the matter referred to by the Councillor that in the Union's commercial services there should be one staff member available to answer questions on product ingredients.

There were no speeches against.

*The resolution was adopted by a substantial majority.*

## **2211 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting**

Chair noted the next meeting would take place on Thursday 1 March