

## Minutes

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017
Paper:	UC 2030
Author:	Josh Melling
Purpose:	Record of decision making

### Key Actions:

- **Jack Lewis** had been appointed to the position of **Chair**
- Council had adopted all four motions of the **Student Leadership Review (SLR)**.
- **Motions:** Council adopted both **Diversifying our Union Staff** and **Safe Student Sex**.

## **Union of UEA Students Purpose:**

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"

## **Minutes of Union Council**

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

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### **Voting Members present:**

Caitlin Jones (AMS), Beth Summerfield (HUM), Tom Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer), Theo Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education), Ellie Johns (PSY YR1 UG), Abbie Mulcairn (Women's Officer), Becky Herdman (Big C), Amy Atkinson (BIO YR1 UG), George Lankester (PPL Other YR UG), Oskari Linderborg (ARCHERY), Andrea Sterling-Manson (LATIN AMERICAN), Hannah Ruddock (SPEECH AND LANGUAGE), Finn Northrop (Non-Portfolio Officer), Emmanuel Agu (Ethical Issues), Veronica White (Environment Officer), Charlotte Earney (PG Assembly), Abigail Mcilpatrick (BASKETBALL WOMEN), Charlie Pritchard (CWS), Kirstyn Williams (LDC YR2 UG), Katharina Wodenitscharow (International Assembly), Alison Graham, India Alderson-Edwards (Media Studies Society), Jemma Bello, Maelle Kabore (TEDX), Sharmin Hoque (LGBT+ (open place)), Tony Allen (Egg Box), Peter Bush (HSC YR1), Emily Nicholson (LINKS), Christopher Wyburn-Powell (FELL & MOUNTAINEERING), Michael Kyrinlov (PG Assembly), Mauricio Salazar-Landeros (Social), Zoe Smith-Creasey (POLE FITNESS), Justin Ferreira (Film Making), Rafah Mohamed (Palestinian), Tarun Sridhar (Ethnic Minorities), Tim Thomas (QUIDDITCH), Hussam Hussein (ROTARACT), Joe Zilch (Activities and Opportunities), David Harrington (Conservation and Wildlife), Elliott Simpson (UEA TV), Ben Hardie (ECO PG), Adrian Moore (Drama), Susanna Jones (MUSIC), Amanie Maturin (DEV/FTV YR2 UG/PG Assembly), Benjamin Efua Dadzie (WAM PGT), Juliet Donaghy (NURSING SOC), Lewis Martin (The Broad UEA), Alyssa Girvan (Nightline), Jemma Bailey (HIS), Luke Hewerdine (FENCING), Apimaan Yogeswaran (TAMIL), Tim Cutler (Young Greens), Jasmine Langcaster-James (British Sign Language), Louise Rudd (Mature Students), Malaika Jaovisidha (International), Francisco de Borja Martin Simón (NBS YR1 UG), James Hewes (BIO YR3 UG), Cameron Mellowes (Labour Students), Becca Hemmings (Women's Caucus), Louise Parker (ROCK AND ALTERNATIVE MUSIC (Previously Deviant)), Eddie Basse (PSY PGT), Lucy Auger (MOMENTUM), Oksana Shlonimskaya (International Assembly), Hussam Hussein (DEV PGR), Patryk Majewski (RED CROSS), Joshua Stephens (NBS YR2 UG), Jenna Groves (PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY), Eleanor Lambe (LDC PGT), Rikke Nagell-Kleven (Swimming), Sophie Chapman (Feminist), Jack Spoor (MODEL UN), Sophie Hewson (Business), Eleesha Kyriazis (JUDO AND BJJ), Rhys Purtill (UEA Pride), Emily Cutler (Economics), Lee Brown (LGBT+ (trans/non-binary)), Jo Swo (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), Chris Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer), Madeleine Colledge (Postgraduate Education), Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer), Amy

Rust (Campaigns and Democracy), Zoe Freeman (Women's Caucus), Amy Palmer (Fashion)

**Chair:**

Jack Lewis

**Deputy Chair:**

Benamina Efua Dadzie (WAM PGT)

**In Attendance:**

Tony Moore (Democracy and Governance Coordinator), Josh Melling (Democracy and Governance Assistant), Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive)

**Apologies:**

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## **Section 1 – Housekeeping**

### **2030 Membership**

Chair noted membership.

### **2031 Election of Chair**

The Deputy Chair held an election for the position of Chair.

Nominations came from:

Jack Lewis (AMA). Who provided Council with a speech on why they believed they were fit for the position.

Deputy Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council elected Jack Lewis (AMA) as Chair of Union Council.*

### **2032 Minutes**

Minutes had been approved.

### **2033 Matters Arising**

There had been no matters arising.

### **2034 Club, Society, and Peer Support Group Constitutions**

Chair moved Council to vote on all new constitutions as a block, apart from Aerial Arts, which had been debated separately.

*Council approved all new constitutions.*

Chair moved Council to a vote on Aerial Arts.

*Council approved Aerial Arts constitution.*

### **2035 Elections**

Chair noted the election of representatives to the UUK Taskforce working group.

## **Section 2 - Reports**

### **2036 University Committee Reports**

Council heard no reports.

### **2037 SOC Report**

A report had been given by J Swo (Welfare) and T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) outlining the activities that SOC had embarked upon since

the last meeting of Council. (Detailed reports can be found in the agenda papers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February Council)

## **2038 Trustee Board**

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) noted as Unions with large bars and outlets have been disaffiliating from NUS, this has led to changes in NUSTLE (the purchasing consortium for the Unions outlets) agreements, therefore different purchasing options are being analysed.

## **2039 i Student Leadership Review (SLR)**

Chair moved Council to debate motion A of the SLR.

A Procedural motion had been received from L Martin (The Broad) to delay the vote due to code of conduct issues regarding staff.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) noted as chair of the trustees they have carried out the procedure. Noted it is fine to go ahead with the motions.

L Martin (The Broad) noted they have appealed this and noted they had not felt it right to continue with the discussion until a resolution on the appeal had been made.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) noted the appeal go to the next trustee board, however as the trustee boards found nothing wrong with the original procedure it is fine to go ahead.

Chair noted a vote can be made on whether the question to Council not be put (meaning the whole of the SLR not be heard by Council).

L Martin (The Broad) gave a speech in favour of the PM. Noted the review is under investigation, and did not believe Council should vote on a motion due to this.

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) gave a speech against the PM. Noted they have faith in Council's ability to decide whether to vote on this matter. Noted the trustee board found no issue with the original code of conduct issue.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council rejected the procedural motion.*

Chair moved Council to a vote on allowing a Non-Councillor E Folan to address Council.

*Council allowed E Folan to make an address.*

E Folan gave a speech in favour of motion A of the SLR. Noted all of what these motions propose will be fundamental to making the Union more open and democratic. Noted the core of these motions give power to more people. Noted at every turn this institution is very difficult to get into and influence. Noted the proposals recognise the truth that the Unions democracy needs to be changed in order to work.

F Northrop (Non Portfolio) questioned what margins are needed for the motions to pass.

E Folan noted the amendments to the articles of association need two-thirds; everything else needs a simple majority.

Point of Clarification from J Swo (Welfare) asked whether amendments to bye-laws need two-thirds aswell.

Chair noted if Motion A passes with simple majority, it will go forward but without the changes to the articles of association.

J Swo (Welfare) questioned why in this specific case this is it a simple majority. Questioned who has made the decision for this to be passed with a simple majority.

Chair noted there are only two cases where a two-thirds majority are needed. One where the articles of association are being amended, the second being where the bye-laws are changed by a referendum.

J Swo (Welfare) noted they are still confused as to who is making these interpretations.

Chair noted that is their personal interpretation. However, if the trustee board disagrees they have the power to overrule.

J Swo (Welfare) questioned whether this would mean if the trustee board disagrees then Council would have to re-vote on the motions.

Chair noted the trustee board could reject the policy if they believe the procedures had not been applied properly.

F Northrop (Non Portfolio) noted a motion to gender balance Non-Portfolio Officers had been rejected with 60% of the vote. Noted this issue should go to the Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) before and not after the debate.

Chair noted they were moving Council to a vote.

T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) challenged the ruling of the Chair.

Council moved to a vote on whether to accept the Chairs ruling.

Council accepted the ruling of the Chair.

Chair moved council to a vote on Motion A.

Council adopted the resolution.

Chair noted an emergency motion had been submitted from F Northrop (Non Portfolio).

F Northrop (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion, for proposed changes to voting in the byelaws.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) noted changes to byelaws should be brought to Council in full motion form and not an emergency.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council rejected hearing the emergency motion.

Chair moved Council to debate Motion B of the SLR. Chair noted amendments were rejected, and will be debated separately.

A Rust (Campaigns) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted the motion aims to change the structure of student opportunity groups within the Union. Noted there will be equality and diversity plans that work for the group.

F Northrop (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of their amendment. Noted small societies will be affected by not allowing people to be on more than three committees.

L Rudd (Mature Students) gave a speech against the proposed amendments. Noted it may not be beneficial to anyone's education to put aside that amount of time, decided three to be a reasonable level.

E Cutler (Economics) gave a speech in favour of the amendment. Noted they are on three committees and are on track for a 1:1. Noted they have struggled making up committee positions, if it we're not for some people being on many committees, the groups would not exist.

J Zilch (Activities and Opportunities) gave a speech against the motion. Noted they see far too many people who sit on too many committees, and get to a point in the year where they can no longer handle their time or pressure.

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) gave a speech against the amendment. Noted it is about a culture change, and should increase participation.

Summation waived.

Chair moved Council to a vote on the amendment.

Council rejected the amendment.

L Parker (Rock and Alternative music) gave a speech against the motion. Noted their concern for gender balancing in small societies, when they may struggle to get people on committee in the first place.

A Rust (Campaigns) gave a speech in favour. Noted it will be on a case by case basis dependent on the information given from the society, so that is not a worry.

T Thomas (Quidditch) gave a speech against the motion. Noted their committee has women in all the highest positions. Noted there are not many male members who would take on the roles. Thus, quality of position may be sacrificed in order to gender balance.

J Donaghy (Nursing) questioned what had been meant by gender balancing the VP role.

A Moore (Drama) questioned how first year members would get onto committees if elections are at the end of the year.

A Rust (Campaigns) noted the gender balancing would be done in terms of the Unions stance. November elections for first year reps.

T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) noted a byelaw is not advisory; a byelaw is something that has to be followed. Questioned if year on year single sex sports teams will have to come to Council and explain why they cannot fill certain positions.

P Majewski (Red Cross) questioned whether it would be a case-by-case basis that groups can be exempt from this.

A Rust (Campaigns) noted at the start of every year groups are asked certain questions, noted this information will then be brought to Council.

Summation waived.

Chair moved Council to a vote on Motion B.

Council adopted the resolution.

Chair moved Council to discuss Motion C of the SLR.

A Rust (Campaigns) gave a speech in favour of Motion C. Noted they would like to see a decentralisation of power to students, and noted students should be able to access power without having to run in an election.

L Auger (Momentum) gave a speech against the motion. Noted there have been many amendments to the motion in the last 48 hours, believed Council needed more time to consider these, and noted there



had only been three students on the working group, which they believed to be insufficient.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted when students are given the opportunity, they want to help and lead change.

A Mulcairn (Women's) noted creating sub-committees with a lack of engagement will not work, a review of the engagement techniques would be more useful.

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted they submitted many amendments. Noted the sub-committees would allow an entry campaigning, and policy where there previously has been nothing. Understood it's ambitious, but the positions need to be there to increase engagement.

M Kyrinlov (Postgraduate Committee) gave a speech against the motion. Noted the education sub-committee should be made up of 50% postgraduates, as their decisions will affect both the Undergraduate Education officer and Postgraduate Education officer. Noted they do not believe non-postgraduates should be able to cast judgement on the postgraduate officer, due to the minority of postgraduates engaged with the Union.

C Wyburn-Powell (Fell & Mountaineering) questioned how many people on each sub-committee.

B Hardy (ECO) questioned where the evidence is for people not being interested in these sub-committees.

A Rust (Campaigns) noted the amount is in the byelaw changes. Told the Councillor why people are interested.

T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) questioned if anyone had been consulted who had not already been involved with the Union.

H Hussein (DEV PGR) questioned why there has been no review of the positions within SOC.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) noted gender balancing Non Portfolio officers had come out of a review. Noted many people not involved in the current leadership structure had been consulted.

T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) gave a speech against the motion. Believed when SOC had been consulted they were not overly impressed. Many issues were not resolve, and comments ignored. Noted many intersectional campaigns will have issues with the increase in bureaucracy. Noted they do not understand how positions will be elected, or whether they will have any real power.

A summation had been provided by E Folan (Non Councillor).

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

Chair took a quorum check, and Council passed.

Chair moved Council to discussing Motion D of the SLR, noted there are amendments that have not been accepted.

Chair moved Council to vote on whether E Folan can address Council.

Council approved.

E Folan (Non Councillor) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted this allows liberation societies to be formalised and work together better, allows them to organise autonomously rather than one size fits all strategy.

J Swo (Welfare) gave a speech in favour of the amendment. Noted there should still be a democratic election to the trustee board rather than appointment. Noted it would be hypocritical when the Union calls the University out on this frequently.

A Rust (Campaigns) noted the amendment had not been accepted after consultation in terms of monitoring equality and diversity.

M Colledge (Postgraduate Education) gave a speech in favour of the amendment. Noted you can still be democratic and be representative.

L Rudd (Mature Students) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted this had been agreed as they believed it would increase the quality and someone with experience could be chosen.

E Cutler (ECO) questioned the difference between elected and appointed.

M Colledge (Postgraduate Education) why can we not train people up who are elected the positions.

G Bailey (Politics) noted there would be an application looked at before, so skills can be identified, making it a more well-rounded process.

J Swo (Welfare) provided Council with a summation. Noted they believe the new structure and inclusiveness of the leadership structure should include the trustee board. Noted all students should have an equal opportunity to access these structures.

Chair moved Council to a vote on the amendment.

Council accepted the amendment.

Chair moved Council to debate Motion D as a whole.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) provided Council with a summation.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

#### **2039 ii Reports from Representatives**

Council Heard no reports.

#### **2040 Diversifying our Union Staff**

A Speech in favour had been given to Council by M Jaovisidha (International Students) noted staff should be given more training to be more inclusive, and more specific positions should be opened up as there is a lack of international and BME staff.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

#### **2043 Safe Student Sex**

A speech in favour of the motion had come from J Swo (Welfare). Noted management committee will consult how we can offer free methods of contraception, and provide better services for safe sex advice.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

#### **2048 Time, Date, and Place of Next Meeting**

Chair noted 7 pm, 23 February in the Lecture Theatre, the Enterprise Centre.