

## Minutes

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2017
Paper:	UC 2049
Author:	Josh Melling
Purpose:	Record of decision making

### Key Actions:

Approved a new Student Opportunities Group: **Songwriters' Society**

Approved policy proposals to send to National Union of Students' National Conference – this is our chance to get our policies adopted by the nationwide the student movement. The policies we are sending to Conference are:

- **Support the Sanctuary Campus** movement and back any campus that offers protection to migrants and refugees
- **Support working students' rights;** to secure trade union membership for all NUS Extra Cardholders and to campaign for an increase in the minimum wage
- **Support** a wide range of measures to help **Nursing** and **Midwifery** students both on campus and in the work place
- For the NUS to adopt a Brexit policy that defends freedom of movement and keeps the UK in the Single Market

Approved UEASU policies on:

- Advertising UEASU **leadership** elections more effectively to **international students**
- Setting **minimum standards** that we expect **University management** to stick to when they engage with **student campaigns**
- Setting up a **Book Swap** to help students with recreational reading
- **Campaigning against the government sell-off of student debt**
- **Improving reporting from Councillors to constituents** after meetings and improving the voting records part of the website
- Backing the **protests** against the state visit of **Mr Trump** to the UK and providing transport to the demo
- Investigating and **improving** our **international students interaction with our student opportunity groups** and looking at building links between our groups and local cultural groups
- Changing the remit of the **Democratic Procedures Committee**, increasing its membership and making it more visible and accessible at Council
- Taking a firm **pro-choice** stand on abortion rights

- Reverting to a **two-thirds majority** requirement for changing the Bye Laws

Open Discussions looked at student housing on and off campus; discussion notes will go to Student Officer Committee which will look at how to tackle the problems Councillors raised

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

“To enrich the life of every UEA student”

## **Minutes of Union Council**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017

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### **Voting Members present:**

Christopher Wyburn-Powell (FELL & MOUNTAINEERING), Elliott Simpson (UEA TV), Tony Allen (Egg Box), Ben Sulch (GEEK), Tom Fuller (Sailing and Powerboating), Alyssa Girvan (Nightline), Finn Northrop (Non-Portfolio Officer), Sophie Chapman (Feminist), Francisco de Borja Martin Simón (NBS YR1 UG), Amy Rust (Campaigns and Democracy), Lewis Martin (The Broad UEA), Madeleine Colledge (Postgraduate Education), Ruth Stone (Big C), Emily Cutler (Economics), Callum Harling (Vegan), Charlotte Earney (PG Assembly), Luke Aldridge (Blogging), Oliver Healey (LDC YR1 UG), Louise Parker (ROCK AND ALTERNATIVE MUSIC (Previously Deviant)), Eleanor Lambe (LDC PGT), Caillin Bowles (HEADLIGHTS COMEDY), Rhys Purtill (UEA Pride), Eilish Rolfe (LASER), Maria Camila Fadul-Gomez (Disney), George Lankester (PPL), Marc Howrrex (ULTIMATE FRISBEE), Tim Thomas (QUIDDITCH), Lucy Auger (MOMENTUM), Abigail Mcilpatrick (BASKETBALL WOMEN), Juliet Isherwood (Kayak), Kirstyn Williams (LDC YR2 UG), Ben Hardie (ECO PG), Jo Swo (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), Oskari Linderborg (ARCHERY), Tim Cutler (Young Greens), Apimaan Yogeswaran (TAMIL), Joe Zilch (Activities and Opportunities), Chris Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer), Jen Templer (British Sign Language), Jessica Frank-Keyes (Concrete), Susanna Jones (MUSIC), Camille Koosyial (KORFBALL), Maelle Kabore (TEDX), Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer), Adrian Moore (Drama), Malaika Jaovisidha (International), Theo Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education), Beth Summerfield (HUM), Emily-Jane Sciville (AMERICAN FOOTBALL), Jemma Bailey (Politics), Tim Barker (PG Assembly), Jemma Bello (Women’s Caucus), Jennifer Williams (LGBT+ Caucus), India Alderson-Edwards (Media Studies Society), Becca Hemmings (Women's Caucus), Adelaide Sheard (MATHS), Jenna Groves (PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY), Hussam Hussein (DEV PGR), Hannah Ruddock (SPEECH AND LANGUAGE), Sharmin Hoque (LGBT+ (open place)), Mauricio Salazar- Landeros (Social), Abbie Mulcairn (Women’s Officer),

### **Chair:**

Jack Lewis

**In Attendance:**

Anthony Moore (Democracy and Governance Co-ordinator), Josh Melling (Democracy and Governance), Elliot Folan (Campaigns and Policy), Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive)

**Apologies:**

Zoe Smith-Creasey (Pole Fitness), Tom Etheridge (Non Portfolio), Tarun Sridhar (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Veronica White (Environmental Officer)

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## **Section 1 – Housekeeping**

### **2049 Membership**

Chair noted membership.

### **2050 Minutes**

Minutes had been approved.

### **2051 Matters Arising**

There had been no matters arising.

### **2052 Club, Society, and Peer Support Group Constitutions**

Council voted on accepting the constitution of Songwriters Society.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council accepted the constitution.*

### **2053 NUS Conference Priority Ballot**

1. Creation of Sanctuary Campuses for Migrant and Refugee students

J Swo (Welfare) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted UEA is a campus that prides itself on inclusivity, noted more should be done for students who face conflict in their home countries.

Chair moves Council to a vote.

*Council added the motion to the NUS papers.*

2. Work work work work work

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of their motion. Noted students who are in work are not treated fairly, international students suffer discrimination and poor working conditions, noted these will become worse with Brexit.

C Earney (PG Assembly) questioned whether the motion had an undergraduate focus solely.

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) noted postgraduates are accounted for in the motion.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council added the motion to the NUS papers.*

### 3. Stop doing over Nursing Students

Chair noted this motion had amendments, which were accepted.

J Donaghy (Nursing) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted a similar motion had previously been sent to NUS conference, but ignored, yet the issue is still pertinent. Noted the NHS is in crisis and that affects nursing students more than ever.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council added the motion to the NUS papers.*

### 4. Standing up for Students in Brexit

E Cutler (Economics) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted MPs need to be lobbied by NUS in order for our rights to be had.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council added the motion to the NUS papers.*

## **Section 2 - Reports**

### **2054 University Committee Reports**

Council heard no reports.

### **2055 SOC Report**

A report of SOC's activities had been given to Council by J Swo (Welfare). They noted the success of: Go green week, students not suspects panel, work of the LGBT+ officers, Migrant solidarity march, light up Norwich campaign. Moreover, noted the opening of nominations.

### **2056 Trustee Board**

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) noted there had been no meeting since last Council. Noted HR sub-committee had been reviewing the new lease for the waterfront.

### **2057 Reports from Representatives**

C Wyburn-Powell (Fell and Mountaineering) noted the new fuel reimbursement scheme makes much more of an unnecessary burden for societies, compared to the previous milometer reading system.

J Zilch (Activities and Opportunities) noted they are willing to discuss the issue outside of Council, no reason that the scheme can be different for Fell and Mountaineering.

### **Section 3 – Open Discussion**

Councillors discussed: Accommodation, on and off campus.

### **Section 4 – Policy Making**

#### **2058 One Day Without US**

Chair noted this motion had been withdrawn.

#### **2059 Advertising The Leadership Race more effectively to International Students**

M Jaovisidha (International) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted better representation of international students should be a priority.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

#### **2060 Finding and office space for Nightline that does not come at the expense of closing music practice rooms**

Chair noted the motion had been withdrawn.

#### **2061 Develop and implement a framework setting out the responsibilities of University management when engaging with student-led campaigns**

L Martin (The Broad UEA) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted this motion had developed due to lack of meetings that have not taken place despite agreements post 'fossil free' campaign. Noted the Vice Chancellor needs to be held to account.

T Barker (PG Assembly) questioned who's policy the resolve mentioned.

L Martin (The Broad UEA) noted it would be Union policy as People and Planet are a small group of people with little power, compared to what the Union can do.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

#### **2062 Bookworms at UEA**

J Swo (Welfare) gave a speech in favour of their motion. Noted they want to encourage students to do more recreational reading. Noted reading can improve mental health as it gives people a vice away from

their course. Moreover, the motion seeks to implement a book swap, and for the Union to provide free books.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

### **2063 Only Fools and Horses: Stop the Student Debt Sell-off**

F Northrop (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted future loans may have their conditions changed as the student loans company tries to make themselves a better deal, and see their debt as being more marketable.

W Richardson (Investment) gave a speech against the motion. Noted the government is securitising the loans and selling them off to private companies. Noted the loans cannot have the conditions changed, noted it is more likely to be changed by the government than private companies.

F Northrop (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted the terms of the repayment will be changed in future loans, students do not have the agency to choose their loans.

W Richardson (Investment) gave a speech against the motion. Noted the government see the opportunity to invest, then they can increase the values of their money through varying project.

C Wyburn-Powell (Fell and Mountaineering) questioned if the government does not raise the money from these loans, where else would they.

F Northrop (Non Portfolio) noted that is not part of this motion. Noted it should not come from students.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

### **2064 Stand up to Trump**

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted we should support students that protest Trumps state visit.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

### **2065 Specifying a threshold for changes to the Bye-Laws: an amendment to the Bye-Laws**



F Northrop (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted the motion just applies to motions going forward. Noted this changes all bye-law changes are changed with a two-thirds majority.

B Hardie (ECO PG) questioned whether the motion says anything about raising the number for Council to be quorate, as it would only take 27 people for a minimum quorum Council to make a bye-law change.

F Northrop (Non Portfolio) noted their agreement. Noted it does not mention quorum.

Chair noted the DPC is currently reviewing quorum levels.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

## **2066 Reproductive Justice for All**

A Mulcairn (Women's Officer) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted more and more abortion clinics are closing down. In Northern Ireland, it is still illegal to have an abortion. Control over one's own body is a fundamental right that should be available to everyone.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the motion.*

## **2067 Ensuring Internationalised Student Opportunities**

M Kabore (TedEx) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted not enough is done for international students, isolation is a big issue. Noted international students are not getting access to the same opportunities as home students.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

## **2068 Democracy Squad (and how we promote them): Amendment to the Bye-Laws**

E Cutler (Economics) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted they want Council to run more smoothly. DPC and the Chair answer questions of process not staff, questions can be asked of process during the meeting, directed to the DPC so as to not go through chair which disrupts debate.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the motion.*

## **2069 Communication Breakdown**

A Moore (Drama) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted Councillors should be able to communicate efficiently to their constituents.

G Lankester (PPL) questioned how enforceable would resolve 1 be.

A Moore (Drama) noted this can be developed as the process begins with relevant people.

E Cutler (Economics) questioned whether there would be repetition of information through course reps.

A Moore (Drama) noted there may be, but could increase students awareness, and widening the reach as far as possible.

J Zilch (Activities) noted in terms of resolves 4 there is new training for committees.

J Bello (Women's Caucus) questioned whether it would be better to just focus on resolves 2, noted people may find receiving many emails and communications stressful.

A Moore (Drama) noted making the website more accessible is definitely a key step.

T Barker (PG Assembly) questioned resolve 2, asked whether the email sent out by staff can be cut and paste to constituents. Questioned whether this falls under the remit of DPC.

A Moore (Drama) noted if this comes under the umbrella of the DPC then yes, noted it comes down to a judgement call.

T Barker (PG Assembly) gave a speech against the motion. Noted this should not be voted on in its current state. Noted the wording can be confusing.

J Donaghy (Nursing) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted if they had been told when becoming a Councillor that this would be required of you then they would be more likely to do it.

Summation had been given by A Moore (Drama).

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

## **2070 Time, Date, and Place of Next Meeting**

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

