

## Minutes

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2016
Paper:	UC 1969
Author:	Josh Melling
Purpose:	Record of decision making

### Key Actions:

Approved constitutions for the following new Societies: **East African Playgrounds, First Love, Gujarati, Healthcare Arts and Performance, Social, UEAXCFN and Ukulele.**

**Aerial Arts** was, again, deferred for consultation

Council heard a talk on Student Finance and the different funding arrangements in place across the UK

Due to time constraints, Council cancelled the open discussions session on Student Finance; if any Councillors have any comments to make: please send them to the Chair

Council passed the following new policies:

**Making Council more Effective:** introduced changes to Council rules and organisation to try to make meetings speedier and more understandable

**Student Club Nights:** aims to give members more say on themes and to ensure all events are Never OK and Zero Tolerance compliant

**Shut down Yarls Wood:** to support the campaign and demonstration to close the Yarls Wood detention centre

**Housing Policy:** aims to lobby to get student input into UEA rent setting, more community engagement with a Good Neighbour Scheme and to raise Home Run Standards

**Talking to students:** range of initiatives for the Union's Officers to engage with the membership

**Brexit:** the Union will lobby for continuation of membership of the single market and the rights of movement for EU citizens to and from the UK; will campaign against anti-migrant violence and discrimination

**World Mental Health Day:** to ensure the event is held each year and is fully inclusive

**Animals on Campus:** any events where animals take part must be risk assessed and animal welfare must be a priority. To encourage groups to find alternative

themes rather than using animals; Pet Therapy Sessions will be excluded from this

**LED Lightbulbs:** to ensure all lighting in Union House is up to best energy standards and replace all lower standard light bulbs

**Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime and Racism:** commitment to fighting these, to promoting UEA is United and affiliating to Black Lives Matter

**Changes to the Complaints Bye-Law:** enacted to firm up the timeline for the process and to transfer one level of appeal from SOC to Management Committee

**Assessment and Feedback:** campaigning to get UEA to adopt NUS' principles of student feedback, to back online marking, student rep input into the design of feedback and to lobby for individualised exam feedback.

A resolution on enforcing Union policy on refusing to host tax avoiding companies and extending this to Union activities anywhere on or off campus was defeated

Resolutions on affirmation of support for the NUS and on the re-organisation of Peer Support Groups were withdrawn.

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

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"

## **Minutes of Union Council**

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

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### **Voting Members present:**

William Richardson (Investment), Louisa Spear (Quidditch), Theo Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education), Sharmin Hoque (LGBT+ (open place)), Juliet Donaghy (NURSING SOC), Finn Northrop (Non-Portfolio Officer), Adelaide Sheard (MATHS), Orla Knox-Macaulay (ULTIMATE FRISBEE), Luke Aldridge (Blogging), David Harrington (Conservation and Wildlife), Madeleine Colledge (Postgraduate Education), Kirstyn Williams (PPL YR2 UG), Shaivya Ramani (HINDU), Lee Brown (LGBT+ (trans/non-binary)), Jen Templer (British Sign Language), Adrian-Ioan Moldovan (Amnesty International), Thomas Howard (HIS YR 2 UG), David Newland (Animal Welfare), Gina Kim (KOREAN), Susanna Jones (MUSIC), Ben Sulch (GEEK), Joseph Wilson (Chronic), Amy Rust (Campaigns and Democracy), Alicia Jeffries-Jones (TRAMPOLINING), Travis Payne (LACROSSE), Maelle Kabore (TEDX), Beth Summerfield (HUM), Eddie Basse (PSY PGT), Eilish Rolfe (LASER), William Sheard (wind surfing), Joe Zilch (Activities and Opportunities), Casey Neate (Casual Board Games), Bhavna Raghuvanshi (BEM Caucus), Thomas Gymer (Floorball), George Lankester (PPL Other YR UG), Adam Stokes (LIBERAL DEMOCRATS), Charlotte Manning (PPL UG), Lewis Martin (The Broad UEA), Jemma Bailey (Politics), Zoe Freeman (women's caucus), Kate Snape (Students with Disabilities Officer), Oliver Healy (LDC UG), Emily Cutler (Economics), Jo Swo (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), Lucy Auger (MOMENTUM), Abbie Mulcairn (Women's Officer), Charlotte Earney (PG Assembly), Rhys Purtill (Pride), Jemma Bello (Women's Caucus), Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer), Alyssa Girvan (Nightline), Chris Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer), Francisco de Borja Martin Simon (NBS Y1), Time Cutler (Young Greens), Sarah Darley (SSAGO), Luke Sweeney (Horror Film), Louisa Ng (Commercial Awareness), Allan Claydon (Art), Ayumide Sotubo (ENS), Tarun Sridhar (Ethnic Minorities), Oksana Shlonimskaya (International Assembly), Robin Emmanuel (Christian), Oli Gray (SURF), Malaika Jaovisidha (International), Amy Atkinson (BIO Y1), James Houghton (ROCK CLIMBING), Sophie Hewson (Business), Peter Bush (HSC Y1), Charles Pritchard (Creative Writing), Tom Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer), Jack Spoor (MODEL UN), Luke Hewerdine (FENCING), Rebecca Hemmings (Womens Caucus), Misha Camp (Development), Harry Muter (TOUCH RUGBY), India Alderson-Edwards (Media Studies Society), Jenna Groves (PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY), Jak Maloret (PSY Other YR UG), Sophie Chapman (Feminist), Jennifer Williams (LGBT+ caucus), Veronica White (Environment Officer), Elliott Simpson (UEA TV), Maria Fadul-Gomez (Disney)

**Online Members:**

Ruth Flaherty (PG Assembly), Alex Edge (WaterAid)

**Chair:**

Charlie Norman

**In Attendance:**

Tony Moore (Democracy and Governance Coordinator), Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive), Josh Melling (Democracy and Governance), Rosie Tarleton (Campaigns and Policy)

**Apologies:**

Amanie Mathurin (International Assembly), Leah Fitzsimons (Riding)

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## **Section 1 – Housekeeping**

### **1969 Membership**

Membership had been noted.

### **1970 Minutes**

Minutes were approved.

### **1971 Matters Arising**

No matters had been raised.

### **1972 Club, Society, and Peer Support Group Constitutions**

C Ball (Non Portfolio) questioned what did the Social Society offer that is different to other societies.

(Social Society) noted they are attempting to fill in the gaps for people who are unsure what to do at University.

*Council approved constitutions for the following new Societies: East African Playgrounds, First Love, Gujerati, Healthcare Arts and Performance, Social, UEAxCFN and Ukulele.*

Chair noted Aerial Arts had been deferred for consultation.

### **1973 Appointment to UUEAS Sub-Committees and University Committees**

Noted positions are still open.

## **SECTION 2**

### **1974 University Committee Reports**

No reports had been heard.

### **1975 SOC Report**

A presentation had been given from J Swo (Welfare) T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) regarding the activities of SOC since the last meeting of Council.

Noted officers had all attended their relevant zone conferences.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) noted they had been working on the timetabling issues facing UEA, amongst other activities.

J Zilch (Activities and Opportunities) noted they had been working on the move to ueasport, other activities.

M Colledge (Postgraduate Education) noted they had been advocating for more to be done in terms of postgraduate mental health, other activities.

A Rust (Campaigns and Democracy) noted they had been working on a communication strategy for local community, and making sure students understand why the Union goes to demonstrations, other activities.

J Swo (Welfare, Community and Diversity) noted they had been working on raising awareness of sex workers rights, other activities.

L Brown (LGBT+ Trans and Non-Binary) S Hoque (LGTB+ Open Place) noted they had been working on bi-sexual and pansexual awareness week. Noted the following week is transgender awareness week.

T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) noted many activities that other part time officers had been involved in.

J Williams (LGBT+ Caucus) questioned how much the national demo will cost.

C Earney (Postgraduate Assembly) noted they had experienced difficulty with submitting a motion, asked what is being done to make Council as accessible as possible.

J Swo (Welfare) noted £80 on banners, and £50 on paint. Noted coaches cost a lot and funding for those is waiting for approval.

A Rust (Campaigns) noted her apologies for what had happened and ensured more will be done to prevent further issues.

J Bailey (Politics) questioned what the specific policies were that lobbied the University to do something about sex workers rights.

W Richardson (Investment) questioned the appropriateness of the posters used for the national demo, noted one displayed the phrase 'Tory Scum'.

J Swo (Welfare) noted there are resolutions in the second policy, and meetings with the University were had, where the University had said they would not hold any prejudice against student sex workers, but would not say this publically as there are students in HSC have certain caring and legal responsibilities. Also noted the event had been open to everyone and students were free to write what they want, however, noted the images can be removed if they offend anyone.

A Rust (Campaigns) noted the signs will not be taken on the demo.

R Putil (Pride) noted there are no minutes from SOC meetings for this year on the website.

T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) noted there have not been enough meetings to approve them to the website.

J Donaghy (Nursing) questioned whether more support had been harnessed for eating disorders and alcohol addiction.

E Cutler (ECO) questioned when the lift to the top floor of Union House will be completed.

K Snape (Students with Disabilities) noted the liberating campus campaign discusses accessibility on campus, noted there are other aspects that should be considered to speak with them at the break.

J Swo (Welfare) noted estimates for the lift completion are at the end of the month.

A Mulcairn (Womens) questioned what plans are in place to oppose UEA signing TEF.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) noted UEA are in the first year of TEF already. Noted they are trying hard to stop the University from continuing.

## **1976 Trustee Board**

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education) noted there had not yet been a meeting since the last meeting of Council.

## **1977 Reports from Representatives**

No reports had been heard.

### **SECTION 3 – Open Discussion**

Council heard a speech from David Malcolm, a director within the NUS who works on student finance policy. They described the current frameworks for why the government have set limits for tuition fees. Noted the different types of support that are given, why and who can benefit.

Chair noted Council should take 10 minutes to discuss issues relating to what DM had spoken about.

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) noted there had been little time remaining therefore if anyone had questions they should be emailed to the relevant officer.

Chair noted if there had been any objections a discussion would have been had.

A procedural motion had been brought to Council by J Swo (Welfare) that asked Council to move item 1990 to the top of the agenda. Gave a speech in favour of the motion, noted it is not controversial.

Chair moved Council to a vote on item 1990.

*Council voted to move the item up the agenda.*

### **1990 Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime and Racism**

T Sridhar (Ethnic Minorities) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted personal experience with hate crime, noted there had been nothing in place that they could go to after the police were not helpful.

A Summation had been given to Council by T Sridhar (Ethnic Minorities) noted what will be worked on and put in place to fight hate crime in Norwich and campus.

Chair moved to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

### **1978 Let's Make Council More Efficient**

Chair noted as the motion had been an amendment to the bye laws, it would require a two thirds majority in order to be adopted.

C Earney (Postgraduate Assembly) gave a speech in favour of the motion, with amendments.

O Knox-Macaulay (Ultimate Frisbee) questioned what had been meant by accessibility.

C Earney (Postgraduate Assembly) noted to make Council more accessible to all who attend.

Summation had been waived.

Chair moved council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

### **1979 Student Club nights**

T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted if external partners hold an LCR event they should be held to the same standards on sexual assault as those held by the Union. Noted students safety and welfare should be put before profit.

Summation had been waived.

Chair moved Council to a vote.



*Council adopted the motion.*

**1980 Support #ShutDownYarlsWood Demonstrations**

A Mulcairn (Women's) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted it is a detention centre, where women are held until they are deported. Noted the way in which the women are treated in the prison is inhumane. Noted the aim of the demonstration is not just to shut down Yarls Wood but to make voices heard to the women inside.

J Bailey (Politics) questioned how much it could cost to go to the demonstration.

A Mulciarn (Women's) noted costs haven't been discussed yet, this motion is to get the ball rolling.

A point of clarification had been brought to Council by J Swo (Welfare) noted there should be no need for all the budgeting and money worries, SOC is allocated a large amount for campaigns each year. Noted if people really want to know a break down can be given to Council each term of expenditure.

Summation had been waived.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

**1981 No Platform for Unethical Companies: Update**

L Auger (Momentum) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted all clubs, societies, and peer support groups are allowed to host events with tax dodging companies on and off campus.

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) gave a speech against the motion. Noted no one condones tax avoidance, noted passing this motion is not the way to address the issue. Noted unreasonable requirements will be put on said groups at UEA to avoid organisations.

M Fadul-Gomez (Disney) questioned if this policy is not the way, then what approach should be used.

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) noted backing a policy to close tax loop holes would be better, noted there are too many companies that fall into this category.

W Richardson (Investment) questioned which companies would be prohibited. Noted charity status can be seen as tax avoiding, asked for clarification, noted the SU is a charity.

J Williams (LGBT+ Caucus) questioned whether YouTube personalities would then not be hosted due to their association to Google.

(Horror Film) questioned what is meant by tax avoidance.

C (Casual Board Games) questioned other than sending a message what will this result in.

L Auger (Momentum) noted all the questions about what companies apply will be dealt with by SOC. Noted decision will not be made that negatively affect students.

R Purtil (Pride) gave a speech against the motion. Noted this motion would negatively affect students, especially in terms of organising events. Noted LGBT+ people need to be given confidence from people in the world of business.

E Bassey (PSY) noted the Councillor from Momentum had deflected the question regarding what companies will be banned. Questioned whether SOC will make a criteria and show that to Council before decisions are made.

T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) noted SOC would be the decision making body in terms of which companies.

A Summation had been given by L Auger (Momentum) noted SOC interprets policy that goes through Council. Noted the company that Pride wants to bring in and host is a company that actively facilitates tax dodging. Noted it will not stop students from doing anything on campus, please vote for the motion.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council rejected the motion.*

## **1982    A Housing Policy that delivers for UEA Students**

A Rust (Campaigns) had given a speech in favour of the motion. Noted there are simply not enough beds for the amount of students at UEA. Noted action is needed now, prices are set to rise, and off campus alternatives do not exist.

Summation waived.

Chair Moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

A procedural motion had been brought to Council by A Rust (Campaigns). Asked Council to move item 1988 up the agenda to the next item.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council voted to move the item up the agenda.*

**1988      The baa-baric use of animals on campus**

A Rust (Campaigns) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted there has not been enough done to support those on campus who believe in animal cruelty. Noted more needs to be done in the process for students to bring animals on to campus.

M Camp (Development) questioned what the current regulations had been for bringing animals on to campus.

A Rust (Campaigns) noted a simple risk assessment with a few more added questions regarding animals.

J Wilson (Chronic) questioned whether PAT would be affected.

A Rust (Campaigns) noted the motion states PAT would not be affected as they are trained to be in that environment.

E Bassey (PSY) noted, in union notes 2 states riding had brought a pony onto campus, noted the resolves had not said whether this was the wrong thing to do.

A Rust (Campaigns) noted maybe not wrong, but there are no procedures in place to for any issues to be mitigated before it happened.

Summation waived.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

**1983      Listening to students is a duty not a luxury**

A Rust (Campaigns) noted an SU needs to remain radical, noted speaking to students, and not making decision behind closed doors is a way to do this.

J Swo (Welfare) provided a speech against the motion. Noted they do not want to put officers under pressure to talk to students every day. Noted not all officers are physically or emotionally able to talk to the stated amount of students.

F Northrop (Non Portfolio) noted that resolves 9 had been vague.

A rust (Campaigns) noted there are policies in place where motions get deferred to liberation groups. Noted this is vague so it is open for discussion how the engagement with students is approached.

W Richardson (Investment) questioned what happened to the petition section on the SU website.

T Etheridge (Non Portfolio) noted over summer web providers changed, some things had been lost in that process.

A summation had been given to Council from A Rust (Campaigns) noted the 200 student target is as an organisation as a whole. Noted this motion should be used as a tool as to how we engage with our students.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

## **1984 Not leaving without a fight**

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted as a Union it is important to shut down hate crime wherever we can. Noted the Vote Leave campaign has allowed for a new channel for hate crime. Noted this motion does not ignore the result, but says brexit should be done with students at the forefront.

D Harrington (Conservation and Wildlife) gave a speech against the motion. Noted if we remain in the single market, the UK would have to accept free movement of people and continue to pay the EU. Noted there had not been a downturn in economic activity.

E Cutler (Economics) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted Council had passed a motion to listen to students. Noted 75% of the student population voted to remain in the EU and we should listen to them.

W Richardson (Investment) gave a speech against the motion. Noted there had been no proof of increases in hate crime. Noted over this government we have had wage and employment growth.

E Bassey (PSY) noted the motion should state it will listen to the voices of the brexitters.

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) noted their agreement.

J Swo (Welfare) questioned in resolves it talks about engagement with students, wondered what type.

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) noted mobilising students to get involved with their local MPs.

A Stokes (Liberal Democrats) noted free movement of people of people has a massive economic and social benefit, especially for the University.

A summation had been given to Council from J Robinson (Non Portfolio) noted a slim 52% should not give Theresa May a mandate to leave the EU. If we leave the single market EU students will be severely negatively effect.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council Adopted the Resolution.*

**1985 Keeping Peer Support Alive**

Chair noted this motion had been withdrawn.

A procedural motion had been brought to Council by T Howard (HIS) to move item 1991 up the agenda.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council moved the item up the agenda.*

**1991 Alteration to the Complaints Procedure**

Chair noted as the motion had been an amendment to the bye laws, it would require a two thirds majority in order to be adopted.

T Howard (HIS) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted there personal experience with the complaints procedure, noted the inaccessibility of the current system.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

**1986 World Mental Health Day**

J Robinson (Non Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion.

Summation waived

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

**1987 Say Yes to NUS**

Chair noted this motion had been withdrawn.

**1989 LED Lighting in all Union Run Buildings**

V White (Environment) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted the lights in the SU bar are still not energy saving. Noted not only will it save on electricity bills but the lights will last longer.

S Darley (SSAGO) questioned whether this is an immediate change or when the lights die out.

Summation waived.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

## **1992 Assessment and Feedback**

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted there will be a lapse in policy on this subject, therefore needs to be updated. Noted promptness has been improved, however, it needs to be of better quality.

M Fadul (Disney) question whether there would be a deadline for the coursework to be handed back.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate) noted there needs be balance struck with quality and promptness, appreciates academics are under a lot of stress and do not want to create more of this.

(PSY) noted schools should ensure more students should be sat on the learning and teaching quality committee.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate) noted this should happen.

E Bassegy (PSY) questioned if there is any other way than lobbying that this can be enforced. Noted at their previous university there had been alternatives such as getting the mark back first, then feedback later, or getting short feedback, then if the student wanted more they could email the marker.

T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate) noted committees higher up in the university receive reports on feedback numbers, noted have been pushing harder for prompt feedback from schools lagging behind.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

*Council adopted the resolution.*

## **1993 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting**

Chair noted the next meeting will be held at 7 pm, Thursday 17 November in the Enterprise Centre Lecture Theatre.