

Minutes

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 8 th December 2016
Paper:	UC 2012
Author:	Josh Melling
Purpose:	Record of decision making

Key Actions:

Approved recommendations on **Policy Lapse**, we will be lapsing some policies early and retaining some older policies; for details please go to: Policy Lapse 2016.

Council received the final draft of the **Student Leadership Review**; and noted that proposed constitutional changes will be brought to Council at the start of the Spring Term. Chair noted that the proposals will involve big changes to the Union and asked Councillors, if they had not already, to read the review over the Christmas holidays.

Council passed the following new policies:

Censure of the Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer: censured Jo Swo for an alcohol related incident in the LCR which involved, what was deemed to be, conduct unbecoming of an Officer; asked for a review of how Full Time Officers are dealt with under the Code of Conduct.

Give Students the Right to Fail: agreed to lobby University: to remove the requirement to pass every module in all years; against further module closures and to abolish resit charges.

Sanitary Products are not a Luxury: agreed to investigate how to offer free sanitary products to students.

More accessible and effective Council: agreed to: increase level of staff support at Council; provide an acronym buster in the agenda and provide feedback on any actions taken on information gathered in the Open Discussions.

Every click you make, I'll be watching you: agreed to campaign against the Investigatory Powers Bill, the growing surveillance state and to support the 'Don't Spy on Us' campaign.

Affiliation to Students for Cooperation: agreed to affiliate to this organisation which helps students set up and run their own cooperatives.

Union of UEA Students Purpose:

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"

Minutes of Union Council

8th December 2016

Voting Members present:

Charlie Pritchard (Creative Writing Society), Mehvash Ahmad (Mature Students Assembly), Lauren Kelly (WOMEN IN BUSINESS), Chris Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer), Abbie Mulcairn (Women's Officer), Harry Muter (Touch Rugby), Louise Parker (ROCK AND ALTERNATIVE MUSIC), Andrea Sterling-Manson (LATIN AMERICAN), Thomas Howard (HIS), Eda Cazimoglu (Women's Caucus), Tom Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer), Louisa Ng (Commercial Awareness), Ellie Barrett-Rees (LAW), Christopher Wyburn- Powell (FELL & MOUNTAINEERING), Molly Cookson (CHEERLEADING DANCE), Jo Swo (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), Maelle Kabore (TEDX), Alex Millard (BIO), Charlie Norman (GAMES), Adelaide Sheard (MATHS), Jessica Frank-Keyes (Concrete), Tim Cutler (Young Greens), Emily Cutler (Economics), Juliet Donaghy (NURSING SOC), Elliot Hoepelman (MIGRANT SOLIDARITY), Luke Hewerdine (FENCING), Jenna Groves (PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY), Tony Allen (Egg Box), William Shears (GEOLOGICAL), Lucy Auger (MOMENTUM), Apimaan Yogeswaran (TAMIL), Charlotte Earney (PG Assembly), Eddie Basse (PSY PGT), Charlotte Manning (PPL), Eleesha Kyriazis (JUDO AND BJJ), Jack Spoor (MODEL UN), Edward Booth (Debating), Finn Northrop (Non-Portfolio Officer), Aaron Hood (PPL), Sophie Chapman (Feminist), Madeleine Colledge (Postgraduate Education), Tim Thomas (QUIDDITCH), Cameron Mellowes (Labour Students), Reuben Braden-Bell (Conservative), Alex Edge (WATER AID), Rhys Purtill (UEA Pride), Amy Rust (Campaigns and Democracy), Oliver Amies (ICE SKATING & HOCKEY), Zoe Freeman (Womens+ Caucus), Theo Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education), Emmanuel Agu (Ethical Issues), Hannah Osborne (HSC YR2 UG), Hannah Ruddick (Speech and Language Therapy), Hussam Hussein (DEV PGR), Adrian-Ioan Moldovan (Amnesty International), Amy Atkinson (BIO YR1 UG), Oksana Shlonimskaya (International Assembly), Nicholl Hardwick (Migrant Solidarity), Casey Neate (Casual Board Games), Veronica White (Environment Officer), Jemma Bello (Womens Caucus), Lewis Martin (The Broad UEA), Theo Smith (FTV YR2 UG), Beth Summerfield (HUM), Jemma Bailey (HIS), David Cutting (PG Assembly), George Lankester (PPL Other YR UG), Maria Camila Fadul-Gomez (Disney), Christel Lomahan (Mature Students Assembly), Ellen Musgrove (Migrant Solidarity), William Richardson (Investment), Francisco de Borja Martin Simón (NBS YR1 UG), Nagell-Kleven (Swimming), Samuel Cross (HIS PG), Luke Aldridge (Blogging Soc), Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer), Priyanka

Gandhi (Indian), Orla Knox-Macaulay (ULTIMATE FRISBEE), Becca Hemmings (Women's Caucus), Malaika Jaovisidha (International)

Online Members:

Peter Bush (HSC), Kirstyn Williams (PPL), Charlotte Earney (Postgraduate Assembly), Lee Brown (LGBT+ (trans and non-binary)), Zoe Smith-Creasey (Pole Fitness), Jen Templer (British Sign Language), Emily Nicholson (Links), Sophie Hewson (Business), Rhys Purtill (UEA Pride)

Chair:

Charlie Norman (PSY)

In Attendance:

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

Apologies:

Amanie Mathurin, Chandi Shah

Section 1 – Housekeeping

2012 Membership

Chair noted membership.

2013 Minutes

Minutes had been approved.

2014 Matters Arising

There had been no matters arising.

2015 Club, Society, and Peer Support Group Constitutions

No new constitutions had been submitted.

Section 2 - Reports

2016 University Committee Reports

Council heard no reports.

2017 SOC Report

A presentation had been given to Council by T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer) depicting the activities SOC had done since the last meeting of Council.

2018 Trustee Board

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

2019 Reports from Representatives

Council Heard no reports.

2020 Policy Lapse Report

A Rust (Campaigns and Democracy) had provided Council with a list of recommendations to lapse.

Council accepted all recommendations.

The accepted recommendations can be viewed here:
<https://goo.gl/QHqPch>

An amendment to the Bye-Laws had been submitted from A Rust (Campaigns and Democracy) to change all references to 'dean of Students' to 'Director of Student Services'.

Council adopted the resolution.

2021 Student Leadership Review Interim Report

A Rust (Campaigns and Democracy) noted the importance of the Review for the future of UEASU and asked Councillors to consult widely with their constituents as concrete proposals for amending the democratic structures would be brought to Council early in the Spring Term.

E Cutler (ECO Soc) believed, with regard to academic societies that the new Vice-President role would not be workable. EC noted that they, themselves, sat on the Athena Swan board, ECO SSLC and various other committees and that introducing the VP role would not be beneficial for every society as at present, most academic societies already had good relationships with their Schools. EC noted that ECO Soc struggled to recruit women because economics was a male-dominated subject; EC believed, though highly desirable, it was unrealistic to expect the society to have a gender-balanced committee, at least, in the short-term and there was a worry that gender-balancing would be imposed on societies that did not welcome the initiative. EC asked that there should be consultation with academic societies to discover their wishes rather than having rules imposed on them.

AR noted, in response, that the Activities and Opportunities Officer was in the process of setting up an Academic Societies Executive which should be in place before the Spring Term and this would be a forum for consultation. AR noted that, if the Executive was not in place in time, AR would, personally, consult widely with all the academic societies and that in the overall scope of the report there would be the widest possible consultation with all groups across UEASU before Bye-Law changes were formulated for consideration.

C Ball (Non-Portfolio Officer) wondered, as to co-campaigning, whether this was not candidates' slates or blocs in disguise, and whether it would give a bad impression to the wider student body.

AR assured the questioner that the matter would be seriously considered by the working group and in consultations.

T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer) believed there were many problems with UEASU democracy and it was good that an attempt was being made to reform it. TE noted, however, concerns regarding the report. TE noted that the last meeting of the Review Working Group had been inquorate; TE did not believe it was democratic to create a democracy review on the basis of an inquorate meeting. TE, further, noted that UEASU had passed a policy, Reforming Union Democracy which stipulated that consultations with a wide range of student groups should be held before any reforms took place; TE believed that these consultations had not taken place and that any major reforms should not take place without them.

AR noted that wide consultations with different groups would take place. AR noted that the decisions to bring the Review to Council and the timescale for changes to be proposed were all dictated by the original policy that had established the Review. AR took the point about the Working Group meeting being inquorate and believed it would have been unacceptable if concrete changes had been proposed on the basis of the meeting's deliberations but noted the meeting was only one part of what was a wide consultation process.

G Lankester (PPL) concurred with the concerns raised by C Ball and noted that in the proposals on co-campaigning there was a reference to candidates 'running together' and this seemed to go beyond co-campaigning; GL thought that greater clarity was needed as to what was intended.

L Auger (Momentum), as a member of the working group, responded by noting they were personally responsible for the co-campaigning proposal. LA noted that, at present, candidates were prevented from physically campaigning together. LA assured the questioner that there was absolutely no intention for the change to allow 'slates' and this would be made explicit in the proposals; what was envisaged was a safety measure to ensure that, especially self-defining women, candidates could canvass at night and would have the reassurance of being able to be accompanied.

E Agu (Ethical Issues Officer), wondered whether the gender balancing being suggested would be based on the specific gender demographics of the particular constituency being represented in the case of non-Liberations groups or would it be decided by other consideration.

AR responded that the details for non-Liberations groups had not been fully worked out; AR apologised for not being able to give an answer as yet but noted the issue would be closely examined during the consultations.

F Northrop (Non-Portfolio Officer) believed there was a need for reform but was extremely concerned that the proposals could lead to the further creation of infinite layers of bureaucracy with very hazy power relationships such as had been in evidence since the creation of Caucuses and Assemblies. FN believed that the proposals to reconstitute SOC would require a major rewrite to the Constitution which would require a major consultation to ensure that UEASU democracy would not be diluted down so far that no one would have any power and nothing could be changed.

AR noted that, as to Liberations Caucuses, one of the goals of the review was to address where the power would lie and this would be very much a part of the consultation.

J Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer) believed that, on the change of SOC to a Priority Campaigns Committee, SOC's ability to hold Management Committee to account and to give a possible steer to Management needed to be kept in mind and wondered whether these responsibilities would be devolved to the new Committee or to a separate entity.

AR noted the issue was definitely one to be considered and that SOC's accountability role was interesting and needed to be looked at closely.

A Mulcairn (Women's Officer) wondered whether the intention was to vote on the proposals during the current meeting.

AR noted that the item was purely a consultation exercise; the feedback from the current meeting would be added to the review which would be taken to all the different groups for consultation and then proposals would then be brought to Council.

E Hoepelman (Migrant Solidarity Campaign) wondered whether having a larger democratic structure would create barriers and a larger bureaucracy and inhibit the members' ability to effect change.

AR responded that a lot of the groups mentioned in the Review were already in existence under other names but that the goal envisaged in the Review was to empower these groups through better support. AR noted that great care would be taken when framing the proposals to identify where power lay and how to make this accessible to the members.

AR concluded by noting that the current feedback would be written up and taken to the Working Group which would then consult across the membership before bringing the proposals to Council. AR asked Councillors to study the proposals and consult with their constituents and to get in contact if they had any queries.

Section 3 – Open Discussion – Off-Campus Accommodation

A Rust (campaigns and Democracy) gave an introduction to the open discussion topic. Noted Article 4 attempts to cap the amount of student accommodation in certain areas, noted the Union managed to push this back. Concerned about the availability of quality housing.

Chair noted members of SOC will relay the information gathered back to management.

2027 Section 4 – Policy Making

Motion of Censure in Jo Swo, Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer

A speech in favour of censuring Jo Swo had been given to Council by M Colledge (Postgraduate Education). Believed the behaviour seen

crossed a line, especially for officers who set standards of behaviour for students. However, noted action should be taken based on the incident and not a historical analysis. Noted disciplinary proceedings had concluded it had been a minor incident, one that would not affect the officers' ability to fulfil their job, therefore a censure had been deemed the most appropriate.

Summation had been waived.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

2026 Give Students the Right to Fail

A speech in favour had been given by T Antoniou-Phillips (Undergraduate Education). Noted the University has changed the rules for final year students. Believed they should be allowed to fail a module in final year if you are happy with your grade.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

2028 Sanitary Products are not a Luxury

A Mulcairn (Women's) have a speech in favour of the motion. Noted food bank su has been funded therefore so can this. Noted sanitary products are essential to life.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

2022 Every Click You Make, I'll be watching you

J Robinson (Non-Portfolio) gave a speech in favour of the motion. Noted government powers are becoming more invasive, does not believe we should sacrifice our liberties. Noted they aim to lobby MP for Norwich South.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

2025 All I want for Christmas is a slightly more accessible and effective council for all students

A speech in favour had been given to Council by C Ball (Non Portfolio). Noted the agenda could be better. Noted the current structure for open discussions is not as accessible as it could be.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

2023 Affiliation to Students for Cooperation

L Martin (The Broad UEA) gave a speech in favour of the motion.

Chair moved Council to a vote.

Council adopted the resolution.

2029 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting

Chair noted the next meeting will be held at 7 pm, Thursday 2nd February in the Enterprise Centre Lecture Theatre, the agenda closes at noon, Friday 27th February.