

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 23 rd November 2023
Author:	Beth Plant
Purpose:	Record of decision making
Status:	For approval
Paper:	UC 021

UC 021– Union Council Minutes

Chair: Chanel Munroe

Deputy Chair: Ali Sabba

Apologies: Ollie Thornton, Ernest Blas and Leo Henry

In attendance: Digby Gordon-George (UEASU staff), Lucy Harris-Sandstrom (UEASU staff) and Beth Plant (UEASU staff)

Voting members present: Roanna Fernandes, Luke Johnson, Taylor Sounes, Ben Stannard, Stefan Ciobanu, Paris Fryer-Petridis, Bailey Prevezer, Elise Page, Mitchell Layzell, Kimon Fryer-Petridis, Engji Salihu, Mohammed Shirwa, Laura Ansell, Jo Dunsbier, Aneetamerine Saji, Patryk Szalanski, Harvey Rose, Freyja Lauwerys, Amy Watson, Zachary Waites, Fenugreek Llewelyn, Matthew Mclaughlan, James Day, Anouk Jones, Juliette Rebold-Stead, Arianna Cammisa, Sam Pyle, Molly Good, Harry Smith, Vienne Cheng, Ravikumar Rameshbhai Patel, Liv Fox, Amber Hall, Naomi Sabel, Caitlin Kent, Ben Wildey, Elise Carpenter, Varun Samir Bhatt, Alice Bethell, Wu Emily, Billy Alexander, Mikey Umney, Helen Harrison, Henry Harrison, Shreya Agrawal, Thomas Hales, Oscar Robinson, Charlotte Miller, Emma Packard, Liberty Corrie, Nathan Wyatt, Emma Wood, Harry Mills, William Ballantyne, Brienne Johnson, Thomas Carvalho, Megan Agreda, Holly Summers, Zoe Galgavolgyi, Yasmin Graham, Ieuan Aston-Davies, Noah Holland, Olimpiu Simion, Madie Inman, Paige Shaw, Ben Jordan, Ameer Al-Magidi, Maddy Jones, Josh Bell, Hugo Lysakowski, Bayley Soper, Adithya Britto, Cj O'Brien, Eve Harmer, Ashlee Barrett, Mei Clarke, Isla Harris, Trinity Tate, Hadia Arshad, George Carter, Florence Bourmaud, Tom Baker, Rebekah Temple-Fielder, Jimmy Xu Xu, Liz Bigalke, Emily Kemp, Jade Drever, Hubert Chua, Cuthbert Varley, Serene Shibli Sexton, Abid Hussain

Voting records: [Quoracy Check 1 \(office.com\)](#)



Microsoft Forms

SECTION 1: Housekeeping

001: To receive statements from the Chair

Chair opens the meeting and invites attendees to complete quoracy check.

AS gives a statement that he will not be proposing his submitted motion today as he was advised against it. He will present it again after editing on the 14th December. AS states that he is disappointed by this outcome as he was advised against the proposal for his own safety due to threats. He states his disappointment that he feels he is not allowed to present the motion: [From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free..pdf \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

AS condemns those that don't support democracy and restates his right to support Palestine.

AS states his disappointment that people are allowing hate and claims he is not being allowed to speak.

Chair asks that the meeting chat be kept clean and clear.

Chair requests that all questions be directed to the Chair and not other councillors.

Chair requests that the council do not speak over Chair.

Chair states that they are submitting two motions for council and will step down as Chair during that time.

Chair states that they have changed the order of the motions.

AS offers his support to committee.

002: To approve minutes of the last meeting

Chair requests approval of minutes from last meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting are approved.

[Approval of the minutes from the last Union Council \(office.com\)](#)

003: To consider matters arising

LJ gives a statement about the Night Bus.

LJ notes that we are waiting for an update from FirstBus and that they have requested £60,000 for a term time service and £80,000 for full time service.

LJ is attending a council meeting to request support.

Chair invites questions. None are taken.

SSS gives an update stating that they have been supporting activism around the university community.

SECTION 2: Reports

004: Election report

SSS states that they have been supporting on elections \they were opened up for unfilled PTO positions and NUS delegates.

89 Academic Reps were gained but we still have convenor vacancies. SSS and TS have been working together to fill those vacancies.

SSS states that there is only one PTO vacancy currently.

005: Trustee board report

TS clarifies what the Trustee Board is and who is a part of it.

TS welcomes the new members of the board.

TS states that the board have met with the incoming CEO.

TS states that the Trustee Board will meet again next month.

006: SOC report

LB introduces herself as Chair of SOC and states that there is a vacancy for the role of Deputy Chair.

LJ states that shift leaders have been introduced in the bar.

Lj states that the subsidy for the taxi scheme covers 75% of the cost.

LJ states that the Warren will stay open as a warm space over Christmas.

LJ states that a new street development project is being worked.

007: Full-time Officers reports

Luke Johnson

LJ has sent round a survey to the academic societies. It has had thirteen responses.

LJ states that 7.3 out of 10 feel they have a good relationship with their school but that many don't feel comfortable spending their money.

LJ is introducing a bye-law change at this Union Council.

LJ states that there is development in the harm reduction work.

LJ has started a new project developing the student experience using social spaces.

LJ states that committee drop ins are successful.

LJ states we have raised around £15,000 from Movember.

LJ states that he has been giving some feedback to campus kitchen and are looking to launch a more in-depth survey.

LJ volunteered at a festival.

Serene Shibli Sexton

SSS gives a brief report of the past month.

SSS has been working with NUS to do some national activism to try and get a black student conference at UEA.

SSS has also been supporting the elections and welcomes questions from students.

Elise Page

EP has asked the VC about a higher scholarship for students that get a distinction in their Masters and want to do a PhD and was told that PGRs are a loss-making exercise.

EP is also looking to get the discount back for UGs who want to do a PGT.

EP gives an update on PG Assembly and notes that it had good attendance. This raised issues regarding a lack of guarantors for international students and PG housing.

EP is also planning a winter party for PGs and has displayed some of the PG paintings.

EP has been working on some anti-racism work.

EP has providing support to UCU and supporting lecturers with lecture capture.

EP has been in a meeting with the Dean of the doctoral college advised that PGRs should not be doing work for free or teaching for free.

EP attended an EDI conference.

EP will visit the University of Amsterdam to learn more about different students' unions models of working.

Chair invites questions.

Question: Billy Alexander states that a third of JSoc are present and asks how EP is supporting them.

Answer: EP answers that they have supported Bailey by introducing to people at the university. EP refuses to state any further names.

Taylor Sounes

TS states that UEA have moved to an opt out position for lecture capture.

TS notes that students have been emailed with an update about AI.

TS notes that there were issues with the elections and states that schools are now co-opting reps and explains that the convenors must agree to these reps.

TS states that there are convenor spots empty but that there is interest in those roles.

TS notes that the role of faculty convenor may need an update.

TS states that timetables should improve next year.

TS mentions that she is trying to support Teaching Awards and these awards will go to education committee shortly.

TS invites questions and explains that she has a 'Bookings with Me' section on her Instagram.

Chair invites questions.

Question: Patryk asks for an update on whether lecturers are allowed to reuse old recordings and asks if TS has looked at the policy.

Answer: TS responds that she hasn't had a chance yet but will get back to Patryk.

Question: Forest states that they have timetabled workshops that turn into lectures and therefore they don't get recorded and asks if there's anything that can be done.

Answer: TS states that she did not know about the issue but that she will take away the feedback and see what she can do.

Question: George asks if TS can advise on the UCU stance on lecture recordings.

Answer: TS explains that the UCU are concerned recordings would be used in a strike-breaking. TS states that this shouldn't happen and there is policy that prevents this. EP adds that they have had discussions with a UCU rep. EP explains that the UCUs concerns are that the university would use the recordings for nefarious purposes and that there could be accessibility issues for the lecturers. EP also notes that a recording of a discussion of controversial topics is a concern for UCU. EP also states that the lecturers would need to be paid for training. TS adds that students should raise the issue with their academics as the VC position is clear. TS states that if academics don't abide by the optional policy, the university may be forced to make it mandatory which could be problematic.

Question: MU gives apologies for education committee. MU asks for an update on TEF.

Answer: TS states that she did a blog on the TEF that the university did not like. TS states that lecture recordings are a part of the TEF and that she is still talking to the university about the issue. TS states that the current priority is the NSS as the VC is disappointed. TS states that if they can improve the NSS then they can improve the TEF.

Question: Maddie asks what students should do if they want to hold the lecturers accountable for a lack of lecture capture.

Answer: TS answers that students can approach lecturers directly. They can also go through their academic reps to approach academics on their behalf. TS states that she will get involved if the problem persists.

Question: FL states that lectures are being timetabled as seminars so are not being recorded despite them being lectures.

Answer: TS states that they should speak to the NATSCI convenor or academic rep. TS notes that academics are trying to get round the policy.

Question: Mitchell asks where they can find the blog post.

Answer: Chair responds that it is in the chat.

Question: Patryk responds to a previous question stating that some classes are half recorded during the lecturing.

TS states that she is running drop in sessions at 11am on Fridays in the Officer Hub.

Nathan Wyatt

NW gives a review of BHM including a gallery at NUA. He notes that the work will be displayed in the Hive.

NW says that DHM is currently ongoing and that work was done with HS where he spent the day in a wheelchair. NW states that he will raise this with committees and estates.

NW gives an update on Pharmageddon- the lobby for the pharmacy to return to campus and that that has had some media attention.

NW notes that the president of NUS Chloe Field came for a visit.

Chair invites questions. None are taken.

SECTION 3: Open Discussion

008: To discuss the reinstating of the campus pharmacy

SSS encourages students to take leaflets and sign the petition to lobby the university to reopen the pharmacy.

SSS directs people to the QR code.

Break

Chair calls a 15 minute break.

Chair reconvenes meeting and displays a second quoracy check.
[Quoracy Check 2 \(office.com\)](#)

MU advises that the NNUH pharmacy is removed from the list of alternative pharmacies as it is used by patients of the hospital.

NW agrees.

SECTION 4: Policy Making

009 Motion of censure

[Motion of Censure against the Undergraduate Education Officer.docx \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Chair introduces a motion of censure as the first motion and asks for a seconder for the motion.

TB agrees to second the motion.

SSS clarifies that this motion requires a simple majority.

SC introduces himself and the motion of censure.

SC clarifies that the censure is a formal warning.

SC notes that the system hasn't been supported as well as it could have been and that voter turnout has been low.

SC states that the reason for the motion is that the opportunity to reframe the academic rep system has been wasted.

Chair invites rebuttals.

AS invites questions.

Question: NW asks why SC continually misgenders TS.

Answer: SC states that he uses the pronouns interchangeably.

NW states that Taylor doesn't use those pronouns interchangeably and asks that SC correctly genders TS.

Question: HS asks for an explanation of Officer censure.

Answer: SC explains that a censure is a formal warning and creates a path towards a vote of no confidence.

Question: CH asks what the purpose of the motion is and why SC believes is necessary.

SC asks a question to council.

AS notes that all comments must be addressed to Chair.

Answer: SC notes that not enough people were involved in the academic rep process. SC misgenders TS again and is corrected.

Question: LJ asks why the original seconders of the motion dropped out.

Answer: SC notes that they were personal reasons. SC also notes that there were multiple supporters that he did not feel comfortable adding to the motion.

Question: LJ clarifies whether consent was gained from the seconders.

Answer: SC states that consent was gained.

Question: HR asks how SC expects the union to survive without a UG officer.

Answer: SC responds (UNKNOWN), SC misgenders TS and is corrected by council.

Chair requests that SC be mindful of pronouns.

Question: ES asks what SC feels Taylor can do more.

Answer: SC misgenders TS and is corrected by council. SC responds that TS should attend further SSLCs. SC wants students to have better access to TS and that TS should respond to emails more promptly.

SC asks for further training to be provided.

Question: PS asks how constructive the motion is and how personal it is.

Answer: SC responds that the motion means nothing to him he just wants constructive change and student voices to be heard. SC states that he has no personal investment.

AS clarifies that motions should not be brought if they are meaningless.

Question: Claudia asks how SC expects TS to do all of her work.

Answer: SC responds that the motion is not targeted and wants a shift in attention and that the motion is aimed to get the education system functioning again and that the SU should strive to get the initiative running correctly again.

Question: Maddie asks whether it's possible that less students are signing up due to cost of living and if that is the case then the motion of censure will not help.

Answer: SC notes that this is not a vote of no confidence. SC misgenders TS.

Chair ask SC to stop speaking as he has misgendered TS too many times.

Speeches

TS gives her statement. TS restates her commitment to the Academic Rep scheme and how saddened she is about the lack of representatives.

TS states that a lot of officer work occurs behind the scenes and states examples of the work she has done.

TS states that the officer workload is high and that the appointment of a new CEO was her priority.

TS states that she strongly believes that every action she has taken she believes was in the best interest of students.

TS asks council to trust her to have their best interests at heart and request that council votes against the motion.

Chair invites questions. None are taken.

AS invites speeches for the motion from council.

None are taken.

Chair invites votes on the motion.

The vote does not pass the motion.

[Motion of Censure against the Undergrad Education Officer](#)

010 Make UEA safer and better for all students.

Chair clarifies that this motion will need a two thirds majority, therefore 52 votes are needed for the motion to pass.

BP introduces herself and the motion as they believe that change is needed. They explain it has been difficult to be on camous as a jewish person and that the bye-laws provide no support.

BP explains that the references to the JDA should be removed.

Chair invites questions.

Question: MU asks for clarification on what the JDA stands for.

Answer: BP explains that the IHRA definition is more secure and that the JDA definition is allowing of generic antisemitism and requests that the union use the definition provided by the CoC

Question: Chris asks why BP feels enough input wasn't asked for.

Answer: BP explains that they don't have the information to answer that and what they've been told by other people. They state they have heard conflicting evidence.

BP states that the resolves are of most importance.

Charlie states that the Marxist Society have a clear stance against the genocide.

Chair requests that a question is asked.

Question: Charlie asks how this makes people safer on campus as they are taking the line of the Tory government.

AS asks for quiet from council.

Answer: BP restates that the IHRA is not relevant and points towards the relevant CoC passage and states that this is not in line with the Tory government.

Question: Member asks how they can guarantee her safety as a Palestinian.

Answer: BP thanks member and responds pointing to Point 2 of the resolves and states that old definitions may not be acceptable.

Question: Member follows up that they have not received an acceptable answer as they do not feel safe at present.

Answer: BP responds that the motion is only relevant to the code of conduct. BP states that they feel all students should be equally represented and once again points to resolve 2 and feels this motion will benefit both sides.

Question: Member asks why protections are being removed from students who are at risk.

Answer: BP responds that the code of conduct is not changing and that the protection is still there but that the definition should be changed to be beneficial in future.

Question: Member asks for clarification on whether it is just the JDA reference being removed.

Answer: BP responds that the code of conduct would not change. BP states that the code of conduct definition lies in between the two and argues that there is not a need for a secondary definition and the JDA reference is irrelevant.

Question: Member asks for clarification that it is just the removal of the reference.

Answer: BP agrees.

Question: SSS notes that the JDA are written in to provide further information in the case of an investigation and asks where that further information should be found if not from the JDA.

Answer: BP responds that the code of conduct and the JDA are not the same, and by having conflicting definitions can provide complications.

Question: SSS responds that the code of conduct takes precedence and asks again where further information should be sought.

Answer: BP states that the JSoc and Palestinian student's collaborative committee founded to work on the definition should be asked for their opinion on the matter.

Chair invites speeches against the motion.

Speeches

Against

Lillith states that the current definition was agreed upon which distinguishes criticism of Israel from antisemitism.

Lillith states that removing the JDA definition would align the union with the IHRA definition.

Lillith states that removing the JDA definition makes the distinction less clear.

Lillith questions the timing of the motion given the current Palestinian position and states that the motion is an attack on Palestinian voices.

Lillith notes that the motion will not make people feel safe.

Chair invites questions.

Question: BA asks how the motion will demonstrate siding with the IHRA?

Answer: Lillith states that you have to use one or the other and removing the JDA defaults the definition to IHRA.

Question: MA states that since the October 7th attacks there have been increased instances of anti-semitism and notes that the motion is not about silencing Palestinian voices. MA asks what should be done to prevent antisemitism instead.

Answer: Lillith states that the motion will not help fight against antisemitism but that incidents will continue due to the current culture of division and that a change in definition will not solve the deeper-rooted issue that requires deeper political change.

Question: Member asks for clarity around Point 5 which states that the code of conduct definition is similar to the IHRA.

BP responds as the question was directed at her.

Answer: BP states that the current definition is a mix of both definitions and there are similarities to both definitions.

Question: Member states that they remember reading that the IHRA definition would be favoured over JDA one and asks if this point has been removed.

Answer: BP states that is what the belief is but that is not the aim of the motion and restates that the naming of the JDA should be removed.

Question: Member asks why they believe the IHRA definition is better than the JDA definition.

Answer: BP states that JDA definition alone allows for legitimate criticism of Israel to turn into anti-semitic rhetoric.

Question: Member asks whether telling Jewish people on campus what does and doesn't count as antisemitism is itself antisemitism.

Answer: Lillith responds that there is a wide range of opinions on what constitutes antisemitism. Lillith notes that many people believe that the JDA definition best protects both Jewish and Palestinian people. Lillith denies that this is antisemitic.

Question: Member asks for clarification on what is being argued.

Answer: Lillith responds that they are arguing for the JDA definition.

Question: Member begins question but is stopped.

Chair states that a procedural motion to go straight to a vote has been raised.

SSS asks for objections on going straight to a vote.
Council do not object.

SSS notes that a summation speech must be heard.

Summation speech

Ben Stannard that the original change to the definition of antisemitism made UEASU was done without consultation with the Jewish community.

BS states that every Jewish person he has spoken to is opposed to the JDA definition.

BS states that there was a valid reason to campaign for the JDA definition at the time but that it is now unacceptable to have a definition that the Jewish community oppose.

BS states that the proposal provides a third option, separate from the JDA and the IHRA that is acceptable to all students affected.

Chair invites votes on the motion.

Majority abstain so motion cannot pass.

Member requests to see the voting records.

SSS states that she will look into it.

[Make UEA safer and better for all students: \(office.com\)](#)

011 Codifying Clubs: Re-write of Bye-Law 9

LJ states that the proposal aims to add executives to bye-laws and give them a democratic voice.

LJ states that the motion aims to accurately reflect the groups that exist and the rules they have.

LJ notes that this will split up the bye-laws so they can be more easily changed.

LJ states that this motion seeks to change bye-law 1 to make sports executives a subcommittee of SOC and allows for votes of no confidence for committees.

Chair invites questions and speeches. None are taken.

Chair invites votes on the motion.

Motion is passed.

[Codifying Clubs: Re-write of Bye Law 9 \(office.com\)](#)

012 Procedural motion to enact guillotine.

Chair calls for a vote to enforce guillotine.

Guillotine is not passed.

[do we pass guillotine \(office.com\)](#)

013 Solidarity for the BMA and our doctors

Mikey Umney introduces himself and the BMA.

MU explains that the NHS has been financially affected since 2008.

MU explains that Junior doctors have taken a third of a pay cut and that it is hugely affecting junior doctors mental health.

MU calls for support for junior doctors and to improve working conditions and pay.

Chair invites questions and speeches. None are taken.

Chair invites votes on the motion.

Motion passed.

[Solidarity with the BMA and our doctors \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com)

014 Separate the public from the powerful

This motion is presented by Chair so AS takes role of Chair.

CM calls for solidarity for students who are experiencing antisemitism and islamophobia.

CM states that students should not be held accountable for the decisions of external governments.

CM asks for student welfare to be put above all and signposting for support to be available, as well as providing support and protection to prevent radicalisation.

Chair invites questions and speeches. None are taken.

Chair invites votes.

Motion passed.

015 I'm all Outta juice: we want to recycle our batteries

CM explains that their experience in the village proved that the location of battery bins are not well known and that more should be available.

CM suggests that there should be at least two battery bins per building.

Chair invites questions.

Question: Member asks how the safe disposal of batteries will be encouraged.

Answer: CM explains that there should be bright and easy to find battery bins.

Question: Member asks if the bins will be accessible.

Answer: CM responds that they will.

Question: Patryk asks if the bins can be shaped like monsters.

Answer: CM agrees that this could be effective.

Question: Member asks if the SU could also do more.

Answer: CM responds that existing battery bins will be better publicised.

Chair invites speeches. None are taken.

Chair invites votes on the motion.

Motion passed.

016 NHS Bursary for MPharm students

Patryk Szalanski explains that pharmacy students are not classified as a healthcare course and therefore they are not eligible for the NHS bursary.

PS explains that no funding is going towards training and that they are forced to do placements.

PS asks that students do not feel financial burdens from travelling to placement as UEA only reimburse the cheapest form of travel.

Chair invites questions.

Question: Forest asks if there any other forms of support that can allow people to stay places and asks if there are charities that can be signposed towards for financial aid.

Answer: PS responds that Pharmacy Support supports Pharmacy students via scholarships and hardship grants and these can be difficult. PS explains that this is the only option. PS wants the more support from the SU as the NHS and the government don't see Pharmacy as a valid investment.

Chair invites speeches. None are taken.

Chair invites votes on the motion.

Motion passed.

[NHS Bursary for MPharm Students \(office.com\)](#)

017 Guarantor scheme for disadvantaged and international UEA students.

PS explains that he became estranged last year and was left in a position where they did not have a guarantor and that renting became a struggle. PS explains that he was assisted by charities, not the university.

Chair invites questions and speeches. None are taken.

Motion passed.

[Guarantor Scheme for Disadvantaged and International UEA Students \(office.com\)](#)

018 Postgraduate continuation of study scholarship: increase to 40%

NW explains that he was been working on getting UEA to increase the PG continuation loan.

NW explains that the loan used to be 50% but the university have decreased it 30%.

Hatty explains that the university did not inform students that this change was happening.

She explains that the next few years of students should be entitled to the scholarship they were promised.

Chair invites questions and speeches. None aer taken.

NW clarifies that the motion states that he met with Ian Callahan. NW verbally clarifies that he did not.

Chair invites votes on the motion.

Motion passed.

[Postgraduate Continuation of Study Scholarship: Increase to 40% \(office.com\)](#)

019 It's not over till it's over: COVID

Chair states that the motion has no proposer or seconder and invites members of council to take on this role.

CM volunteers as proposer. There is no seconder.

Motion is invalid.

020 Enshrine UEA trans visibilty day into UEA law

Member requests that UEA has its own trans pride day to demonstrate that they stand with trans and non-binary students.

Member requests that the UEASU holds the UEA executive accountable.

Chair invites questions and speeches. None are taken

Chair invites votes on the motion.

Motion passed.

[Enshrine UEA Trans Visibility Day into UEA law \(office.com\)](#)

021 Commendation for Post-Grad Officer

PS explains that he and Elise agreed to put forward a motion of commendation and that he wanted to convey his friendship.

PS explains he wants a statue of Elise in the next 5 million years.

Question: Member asks if the chess will be livestreamed.

Answer: PS responds that there are no current plans to livestream it but it could be if the students want it to be.

Question: Member asks why the motion has been brought. Member states that Union council is a busy space and asks how this motion meets the requirements of the bye-laws and asks why the motion was moved to the end of council and asks if that reflects the importance placed on the motion.

Answer: AS responds that he is still learning but agrees with the points raised. SSS responds that EP seconding the motion indicates that the opinions are not unbased and that it fits the format for a motion. PS apologises if it was waste of time but that it was an experiment designed to relieve tension.

Procedural motion to vote is enacted.

Chair invites votes on the motion.

Motion passed.

[Commendation For Post-Grad Officer](#)

SECTION 5: Approval of society and peer groups

None to approve

SECTION 6: AOB

No other business

SECTION 7: Details of the next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the 14th of December at 5pm