

# UC 014 – Union Council Minutes

<b>Subject:</b>	Union Council
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Author:</b>	Abbie Mulcairn
<b>Purpose:</b>	Record of decision making
<b>Status:</b>	For approval
<b>Paper:</b>	UC 014

**Chair:** Serene Shibli Sexton and Chanel Munroe

**In attendance:** Abbie Mulcairn (Student Voice and Academic Engagement Manager), Claire Boothby Barnbrook (Assistant Director of Charitable Services)

**Voting members present:** Natasha Tsekiri (BIO - Student), Kittipong Areewatanasombat (PPL - Student), Lydia Burton (PPL - Student), Xue Loo (NBS - Student), Serene Shibli Sexton (UEASU - Staff), Amelia Webster (CMP - Student), Jessica Dua (DEV - Student), Mia Broughton (Guest), Alice Ocraft (ECO - Student), Hayden Rose (EDU - Student), Kelsey Middleditch (AMA - Student), Laksha Sivaram (PSY - Student), Annabelle Lambert (BIO - Student), Maya Patel (MED - Student), Ellen Hyde (PHA - Postgraduate Researcher), Charlie Davis (LDC - Student), Tia Chauhan (LAW - Student), Dulcie Read (HSC - Student), Mei Clarke (HIS - Student), Oliver Tuscarny (LDC - Student), Jack Fendley (BIO - Postgraduate Researcher), Thomas Carvalho (BIO - Student), Milo Fletcher (DEV - Student), Ameer Al-Magidi (PHA - Student), William Whitby (HIS - Student), Jasmyn Gooding (BIO Student), Ollie Thornton (BIO - Student), Charis Stanley (CMP - Student), Dougie Pitman (ENV - Student), Oliver Radcliffe (PPL - Student), Arjun Gadhavi (CMP - Student), Isabella Yau (NBS - Student), Eleanor Radford (PPL - Student), Ella Matthews (NBS - Student), Max Harman (PSY - Student), Elspeth Leslie (LDC - Student), Benji White (NBS - Student), Eunchan Kim (PHA - Student), Darcey Gardiner (CMP - Student), Chanel Munroe (PSY - Student), Luke Johnson (LAW - Student), Travis Cullum (NAT - Student), Aaron Campbell (UEASU - Staff), Izzy Millen (ARM - Staff), Ollie Baker (AMA - Student), James Calvert (HSC - Student), Max Wrigley (LDC - Student), Alice Bethell (LDC - Student), Brandon Thomas (LAW - Student), Nathan Wyatt (PPL - Student), Minh Anh Ta (ECO - Student), Kirsty Soanes (BIO - Student), Andrea Leppard-Figuera (LAW - Student), Matthew Cooper (MED - Student), Fran File (PPL - Student), Prakrita Rahman (NBS - Student), Tom Durrant (ECO - Student), Josh Bell (ENV - Student), Elise Page (UEASU - Staff), Aiste Adomaviciute (NBS - Student), Mars Lee (MED - Student), Tom Ingall (PPL - Student), Jack Prior (MED - Student), Joseph Last (LDC - Student), Eleanor Lewis (LDC - Student), Jasmyn Gooding (BIO - Student), Issy Philpott (PHA - Student), Jasmyn Gooding (BIO Student) (Guest), Lars Cockwell (HSC - Student), Lauren Aarons (PPL - Student), Sam Hurlle (NBS - Student), Paris

Maben-Hume (PPL - Student), Sophie Ciurlik Rittenbaum (PPL - Student), Katie Millar (BIO - Student), Alice Goldsney (HIS - Student), Emily Kemp (EDU - Student), Holly Summers (EDU - Student), Sophie Handyside (LDC - Student), Chris Njoroge (NBS - Student), Georgia Hubbard (HIS - Student), Harry Smith (CHE - Student), Aiden Wagstaff (PPL - Student), Liz Bigalke (BIO - Student), Felicity Eardley (PHA - Student)

**Apologies:** Jessica Dua, Lauren Gallagher

**Voting records:** Records of how councillors voted can be accessed here: [Voting records](#)

## **Section 1: HOUSEKEEPING**

### **001 Membership**

Serene Shibli Sexton, the Campaigns and Democracy Officer, opened the meeting and conducted a quorum count.

There were 69 members present when the vote was closed.

### **002 Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair of Union Council**

Serene introduced the election to Union Council and asked for nominations. There were 3 candidates for the position of Chair of Union Council. Each candidate delivered a 3 minute speech to councillors.

The candidates were:

- Brandon Thomas
- Mia Broughton
- Chanel Munroe

Chanel Munroe was elected as Chair of Council with 52% of the vote. 69 votes were cast in total.

SS then invited councillors to nominate for the role of Deputy Chair of Union Council. The candidates were:

- Ollie Thornton
- Travis Cullum
- Brandon Thomas

Ollie Thornton was elected as Deputy Chair of Union Council. 70 votes were cast in total.

### **003 Election to positions**

Serene invited councillors to nominate themselves for the role as Union Council Rep on the following Trustee Board Sub-Committees. The councillors elected are as follows:

Appointments and HR Committee

Luke Johnson and Max Wrigley were elected unopposed.

### Finance Committee

Jasmyn Gooding and Charis Stanley were elected unopposed.

### Risk and Oversight Committee

Three nominations were received so SS invited candidates to deliver a three minute speech. The candidates were:

- Natasha Tsekiri
- Josh Bell
- Aiden Whestaff

Natasha and Josh were elected to the Risk and Oversight Committee.

### Democratic Procedures Committee

SS then invited councillors to nominate themselves to sit on the Democratic Procedures Committee. The candidates were invited to deliver a 3 minute speech. 8 positions were available and 9 candidates put themselves forward. The following councillors were elected:

- Nathan Wyatt
- Brandon Thomas
- Holly Summers
- Erin Whitby
- Aiste Adomaviciute
- Liz Bigalke
- Travis Cullum
- Diana Enero

## **004 Appointment to positions**

Serene asked councillors to express an interest in joining the Code of Conduct Disciplinary Panel. Lucy Polak and Thomas Carvalho expressed an interest and will be contacted directly if students are required for panel hearings.

## **005 Approval of minutes of the previous meeting**

Councillors voted to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on [minutes of the previous meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.](#)

## **006 Approval of society and peer group constitutions**

The Chair introduced the applications and the recommendations made by the Societies Executive. The Chair proposed that Union Council vote on approving the recommendations as set by Societies Executive and asked if any councillors objected. M Wrigley asked to take the proposal for Moss Appreciation Society separately and spoke against the recommendation of Society Exec. They noted that the society was only relevant seasonally and questioned what the society would do all year round.

E Drennan spoke against the proposal and in favour of accepting the society. They noted that they sit on Soc Exec and found no grounds in the bye-laws to reject the constitution and noted that there is no cross over with other societies.

The Chair moved to a vote on the item.

The Moss Appreciation Society was approved with 88% of voted in favour.

The Chair then moved to a vote on the OSCE Society. The Society Exec recommended rejecting the society. The vote was as follows:

19% to approve the society

61% to reject the society

20% abstained

The OSCE Society was therefore rejected by Union Council.

## **007            Guest speaker**

The Chair noted that a guest speaker Michael Kyriacou, the Chair of UEA UCU Branch, had been invited to address council. The Chair asked councillors to vote to allow M Kyriacou to speak. He explained who UCU were and who they represented at UEA, and explained that members of UCU were currently participating in a ballot on whether to take industrial action over pensions, pay and conditions. The Chair then took questions from members.

E Page asked how potential industrial action will benefit members of the SU. M Kyriacou explained that UCU don't intend to disrupt students but noted that the sector is currently unsustainable and staff aren't able to deliver the education that staff believe students deserve, due to working conditions. He explained that any staff taking strike action will be sacrificing pay.

S Ciurlik Rittenbaum asked how students can show solidarity with UCU if action is taken.

M Kyriacou noted that there will be a picket line if strike action takes place. He noted that students are of course allowed to cross the picket but noted that they can choose not to. He noted that there is other action that students can take to show support, such as organising and attending 'teach ins' and creating banners and running workshops to educate students on the cause of the action.

E Whitby asked what would happen in the event that the threshold isn't met, and asked what other avenues would be pursued to meet the demands. M Kyriacou responded that he doesn't know what the outcome will be if the threshold isn't met. He noted that UCU will always attend negotiations where possible and there is the possibility of re-balloting if not met.

M Wrigley asked how long the industrial action will last for. M Kyriacou responded that the branch doesn't know yet what the plans will be and this is something that will be decided by the branch organisers pending the results of

the ballot. He noted that there is a range of escalating actions that UCU could take but that nothing has been decided yet.

T Cullum asked what alternative provision will be put in place for students. M Kyriacou stated that this would come down to individual academics to decide, He noted that the point of the action is to cause maximum disruption to the employer, but not to students, noting that there will always be some knock on effect to students as a consequence of the action. He noted that its an individual choice whether academic join the action by UCU.

## **Section 2: REPORTS**

### **008 Student Officer Committee Report**

L Bigalke noted that they had been elected as the Chair of the Student Officer Committee, and that A Goldsney had been elected as Deputy Chair of the Student Officer Committee. L Bigalke noted that elections for part-time officers to the Trustee Board would take place at the next SOC meeting.

### **009 Trustee Board Report**

E Page gave a report as Chair of the Trustee Board. They noted that the Articles of Association had been updated to reflect a change of wording in a motion that Council previously passed, and that the amendments requested by the Board would be voted on by Councillors in an emergency motion. E Page noted that Finance Committee had been looking at reviewing the budget in line with cost of living concerns, and noted that ROC hasn't met due to a lack of quoracy.

### **010 Full-Time Officer Reports**

The written reports submitted by the officers were taken as read. The Officers delivered verbal updates:

#### Undergraduate Education Officer – Taylor Sounes

- Timetables still have issues, requested councillors to flag issues with timetabling to them directly
- Quiet space has been finalised and the space is being redesigned. The plan is to relaunch the space as part of disability history month in November.
- TEF work is ongoing

#### Activities and Opportunities Officer – Evie Drennan

- Hidden cost of sports research has been published
- Introduced a society of the month programme
- Working on history months, movember, and commended Womens Rugby for their Let it Hang campaign
- Noted that sober committee members are being encouraged on nights out
- Attended BUCS meeting as East Midlands representative

#### Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer – A Campbell

- Submitted a written report which can be viewed below:

Hey everyone, it's Aaron your Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer back for another year, I hope you all had a great summer/welcome period here's my updates about what I have been up to since the last time we had union council:

Also, I have a new vlog (something I'm going to be doing more regularly) you can check it out now: [161\) Aaron's Vlog - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfARRZ5EISM)  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfARRZ5EISM>)

Also, also please note that this is not a definitive list, nor is it as detailed as I wanted it to be as I ran out of time! (sorry)

### **Support Students from diverse backgrounds:**

- Inclusive Language Project – This project is all about ensuring that the language that both the SU and the university refer to students by is appropriate and what students want to hear.
  - Since the last council meeting, I have delivered my initial findings to many different university groups and will soon be delivering it to the vice chancellor, I also got the UEA Student Experience Committee to agree to adopt or more inclusive approach to language across UEA.
  - The next step of the project will be to expand to look at other areas of diversity beyond just racialized students. Areas I want to the project to impact on include sexuality, disability and gender identity to name a few, this rollout will begin towards the end of the semester.
- Daytime Events – Helping to put on events like the 'Sip and Stroke' for students from racialized backgrounds, a pizza and quiz night for first generation students, Pronoun badge making and more. As well as this I have been assisting several societies with putting on or supporting their events also. I plan to continue to support society events as well as continue to collaborate with other UEA/SU departments to put on events as well as put some events on by myself including the return of the safe space and game night events.
- Evening/Nighttime Events – I have been hard at work alongside the venues team to continue to diversify events this includes work with ACS (Afro-Caribbean Society) on a new blue bar Thursday night called ACFest, changing the structure of the Hive on Saturdays A-Lists to include more global music by having rotating music genres for the Hive. I have also been hard at work planning and putting on Spectrum again this year. Lastly, I have been supporting with the Sunday evening bar events as well as leading on the Friday night bar events including the Karaoke Night, Live DJ sets and new for this year Lip Sync Battle.
- Black History Month – I have been one of the key leads in the planning and execution of BHM including coordinating events like Rep Your Flag, Culture Clash, Black Business Brunch, Black Girl Detox and more. As well as this I have been involved in the behind-the-scenes work including theming, branding, comms, video content and music curation. I have also been assisting clubs and societies with both events (organizing and idea generating) as well as wider campaign

work around inclusivity. Lastly, I have been looking at our continued support of Black Students outside of BHM with our “Black Is” campaign that we launched last year.

- Disability

### **Cost of Living**

- Working with fellow officers and staff on manifesto, lobbying and practical elements to support students.
- Working with the Southern SU’s group to exchange ideas and work on collective lobbying including the open letter that was written which can be found here: <https://kentunion.co.uk/petitions/view/8>
- Wider Cost of Living Union task force group lead by imperial London
- Been in talks with the university and particularly student services around supporting students through this difficult time.
- Meeting with the Trussell Trust (provider of Foodbank) that the union are involved in regarding food poverty and society needs.

### **Other bits**

- Welcome week
- SIZ Life Admin Tuesdays
- Doorway services
- UUK guidance (Suicide Prevention/GDPR)
- Work in Local Schools along with SOCA’s
- Drug and Alcohol Impact
- Mental Health Charter
- Tickets for Good
- Work on SHAG week
- Work for Safety Day
- Decolonizing Toolkit
- Southern SU’s
- Liberation Campaigns

### **What are the meetings/conferences/other bits I’ve attended:**

- Student Experience Committee
- Drug and Alcohol Impact Policy Workshop
- Staff Pride and BAME Staff Network
- SU Venues & SU Bars Meetings
- Liberation and Awareness Month Planning
- TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) Meetings
- Career Central Service Meeting
- Student Safety Group
- Cost of Living APPUG Meeting (National University working group for tackling cost of living)
- UEA Communications Team Meeting
- Jaywin (UEA external branding partner) Meeting
- Healthy Sex and Relationship Meetings
- Collaborative work with VP Welfare for Essex SU
- Chiring AHRC (Appointment and Human Resources Committee)
- Meeting with Sainsburys Centre about considerations for their new exhibition
- Meeting with various clubs
- SOC (Student Officer Committee – Consisting of part- and full-time officers)



- Meetings with Students Services (particularly around supporting students from racialized backgrounds)
- Thrown some T-Shirts at Damn Good!
- Mental Health Charter Meetings
- VC Tackling Racism Task Force Meetings
- Student World Café on Managing Conflict
- Southern SU's Catch Up
- Trustee training with DMU (De Montfort University)
- Safe Zone – Wellbeing and Safety Conference
- Met with Compass (Canadian based company) around student mental health
- Met with members of Exeter Students Union
- Support Day for Steering Committee for Drug and Alcohol Impact Award
- Drug and Alcohol Impact/Alcohol Impact Group Support Day
- Southern SU's Conference
- Delivered Various Training
- Spoke on a panel for UEA about effective allyship
- Gateway to Growth External Steering Group
- Achieve Breakthrough Workshop
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Personal Safety Discussion with Suzy Lamplugh Trust and University of East Anglia

#### Campaigns and Democracy Officer – Serene Shibli Sexton

- Working on democracy review
- Introduced drinks vouchers for union council attendees
- Noted that issues have been flagged with the first bus service for students

#### Postgraduate Officer – Elise Page

- Submitted a written report during the meeting which can be viewed below
- Officer Name: Elise Page
- Officer Portfolio: Postgraduate Officer
- Item Update
- Manifesto Priorities
  - Retain and improve postgraduate and mature spaces (both study and social)
  - o Been helping with and attending a lot of SU events in the Graduate Centre such as the Cheesathon, Sip & Paint, and the HUM GSSF social
  - o Discussed issues with Law PGRs regarding their workspace, have set a meeting with head of the Law School
  - Support the UCU and their postgraduate members
  - o Working with the rest of the officer team to provide a varied approach to support as many students as possible given the possibility of upcoming industrial action
  - Decolonisation
  - o I'm in the planning project meetings for Black History Month
  - o I'm a board member of the Curriculum Review Project so I can steer on accessibility and decolonisation there
  - o I emphasised the importance of decolonisation at the HUM Teaching and Learning Quality Committee
  - Accessibility
  - o I'm in the planning project meetings for Disability



- Awareness Month and have been sharing my perspective as a disabled student
- o Posting on social media about my own disability to break down stigma
  - End the stigma of being in financial difficulty
  - o I have been working this in to Cost of Living campaign planning
  - Campaigns
    - Cost of Living
    - o Helped to write the campaign manifesto
    - o Supporting Part Time Officers with Warm Banks campaign
    - o Bringing cost of living issues to as many university meetings as possible
    - Welcome Week
    - o Postgraduate Welcome Weeks ongoing; good attendance for evening events, more work to be done on daytime events. Will be combining PG Welcome Week 2 events with promoting Black History Month events.
  - - o Active part of overall Welcome Week project, from planning and participating to feedback and reflection
    - Environmental Campaigns
    - o I am a board member for UEA's Green Film Festival which will take place in Spring 2023
  - Meetings
    - I have chaired two UEASU Trustee Board meetings
    - o This is where big issues in the union are discussed
    - o We spoke about overall ueasu strategy, with lots of exciting and important priorities like tackling gender-based violence, being anti-racist, and making university as safe as possible for everyone
    - Curriculum Review Project
    - o Big project being led by members of the University's executive team and the Vice Chancellor's office
    - o I'm a Board member for this project so I can represent students at the highest level here
    - Library Forum
    - o Brought forward our Part Time Officers' "warm banks" campaign
    - o Gave feedback on the Library's quiet space
    - PGR Directors' Conference
    - o The theme was internationalisation, focusing on how to support international PGRs and fostering UEA's global status
    - Student Information Zone
    - o I've spoken to the SIZ about PG issues including delays in PGTs receiving their student finance loans, and how to support PGRs with their wellbeing.
    - o Signed up to speak on an upcoming podcast
  - Other
    - Spoke on national radio (BBC Radio 4's programme 'Anti Social') about the use of trigger warnings in universities, and how to best support students with experiences of trauma. I spoke about my personal experience of going through, seeking help for, studying, and teaching about trauma in universities.
    - Attended Conferences about Student Unions such as NUS Lead and Change and the Southern SU Conference. The other officers and myself were able to network and learn about how other universities are tackling the big issues facing students today
  - And more!! Please feel free to get in touch with things you'd like to see me work on! My email is e.page@uea.ac.uk. :)

### **Section 3: OPEN DISCUSSIONS**

The Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer introduced the Open Discussion section of the meeting. The Officer noted that the Student Officer Committee wanted to gain understanding of Councillors thoughts on the Cost of Living Crisis and explained what SOC were doing to tackle the issue.

### **Section 4: POLICY MAKING**

## **011            Make UEA Warm: Introduce warm banks and spaces to campus this winter**

N Wyatt proposed the motion and spoke in favour. They noted that the university was in a unique position to provide warm spaces considering the amount of buildings owned and the time students spent in them. They argued that if UEA could provide a £800 rebate to students living in accommodation during the lockdown, they could afford to provide some warm spaces for students on campus.

The Chair invited councillors to ask any questions or points of clarification.

M Wrigley asked how the motion would help students living off campus.

N Wyatt responded that the motion is designed so that anyone on campus can access the warm spaces regardless of where they live. They acknowledged that there are issues with transport and noted that there are also warm bank proposals in the city centre. They noted that most students have to be on campus at some point anyway and although this proposal isn't a permanent solution to the energy crisis, it will hopefully go some way to providing rest bite for students in a crisis.

A Goldsney asked if the motion is just asking for heating to be turned on or if there will be opportunities for students to access financial aid.

N Wyatt responded that the plans are bigger than just heating and noted that they are working on a library of things idea. They noted that the officers campaign budget was quite small and although some of it will be used for purchasing heating resources for students to borrow in social spaces or to rent out from the Union, the budget isn't big enough to cover the scale of resources needed. They noted that the intention of the budget was to commit the University to heating their buildings primarily.

There were no speeches against the motion.

N Wyatt delivered a summation speech and summarised the resolves of the motion.

The Chair moved to a vote on the motion. The results were:

Approve – 98%  
Reject – 2%  
Abstain – 0%

The motion was therefore adopted as Union Policy.

## **012            Emergency Motion: "Amendment to policy amending the Articles of Association: to edit the job description of the new, 7th trustee"**

The Chair invited the proposer of the emergency motion to deliver a proposing speech.

S Shibli Sexton explained that the motion was an amendment to a motion previously passed by Union Council. They explained that the motion was rejected as Trustee Board level as they felt that the wording of 'performance management' was misleading and instead should be changed to 'line management' which is what the motion proposes to amend. There were no speeches against the motion. The Chair moved to a vote.

The motion was approved with 88% of the vote. The motion was therefore adopted as Union Policy.

### **Section 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **012 Any other business**

There was no other business submitted.

#### **013 Details of the next meeting**

The Chair noted that the next meeting is scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm in LT3.

The deadline for motions to this meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> November.