

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 23 rd February 2023
Author:	Abbie Mulcairn
Purpose:	Record of decision making
Status:	For approval
Paper:	UC 056

UC 056 – Union Council Minutes

Chair: Chanel Munroe

Deputy Chair: Ollie Thornton

In attendance: Abbie Mulcairn (Student Voice and Academic Engagement Manager, acting as Secretary to Union Council), Claire Boothby-Barnbrook (UEASU Staff, Acting Deputy CEO), Caroline Wilson (UEASU Staff, Acting CEO)

Apologies: Aaron Campbell

Voting members present: Irana Hayward (CHE - Student), Chinedu Ekeke (ECO - Student), Hermione Guymer (HUM - Student), Sophie Ciurlik Rittenbaum (PPL - Student), Travis Cullum (NAT - Student), Andrew Nairn (CMP - Student), Isabella Yau (NBS - Student), Kittipong Areewatanasombat (PPL - Student), Lauren Gallagher (PSY - Student), Jake Rushbrook (CMP - Student), Sophie Handyside (LDC - Student), Thomas Carvalho (BIO - Student), Laksha Sivaram (PSY - Student), Alice Goldsney (HIS - Student), Rose Buchan (ENV - Student), Kieran Shelley (HSC - Student), Joe Hanson-Kahn (ECO - Student), Elspeth Leslie (LDC - Student), Eleanor Lewis (LDC - Student), Annabelle Lambert (BIO - Student), Chanel Munroe (PSY - Student), Felicity Eardley (PHA - Student), Chimdindu Otuekere (DEV - Student), Erin Whitby (HIS - Student), Elise Page (UEASU - Staff), James Apenkwah (NBS - Student), Serene Shibli Sexton (HIS - Student), Isabelle Millen (PPL - Student), Georgia Hubbard (HIS - Student), Rebecca Harris (LDC - Student), Eunchan Kim (PHA - Student), Eleanor Radford (PPL - Student), Ahmar Iftikhar Talib (MED - Student), Ollie Thornton (BIO - Student), Tom Durrant (ECO - Student), Louis Robson (ECO - Student), Matthew Stothard (HIS - Student), Adam Walker (PPL - Student), Lucy Polak (HSC - Student), Harry Brownsell (LAW - Student), Holly Summers (EDU - Student), Mahdi Fofana (CMP - Student), Madie Inman (BIO - Student), Anureet Kaur Kaur (NBS - Student), Ben Baldwin (NBS - Student), Christopher Kershaw (AMA - Postgraduate Researcher), Scarlett Mcnicol (HSC - Student), Ella Thornton (EDU - Student)

Voting records: [Can be viewed here](#)

Section 1: HOUSEKEEPING

043 Statements from the Chair

The Chair took a quorum count and 46 voting members were present and therefore the meeting was quorate. The Chair opened the meeting and noted

that the agenda was long and reminded Councillors to address the Chairs rather than other councillors when speaking.

044 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th January 2023.

045 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

046 Club, Society and Peer Support Group Constitutions

The Chair noted that there were many society applications received and noted that voting would be done in block. The Chair called for any members to note if they would like society applications taken out of the approval block.

The following societies were removed from the block vote: Proclaimers Church Society, Security & Intelligence Society, UEA Women in Surgery Society.

The Chair called for a vote on all remaining societies recommended for approval.

43 votes were cast and the following societies were approved:

- Animal Society
- Archaeology, Heritage, and Conservation Society
- Pickleball Society
- Psychiatry Society
- Gliding Society

The Chair noted that all remaining societies would be debated and voted on individually.

The Chair called for speeches in favour of the recommendation to approve Proclaimers Church Society. E Drennan spoke in favour of the society. L Robson spoke against the motion and noted that there isn't a clear difference between this society and other Christian societies. E Drennan spoke in favour voting that there are many different denominations of the religion and different societies have different local church affiliations. There were no more rounds of speeches and the Chair called for a vote.

44 votes were cast and the society was approved.

The Chair called for speeches in favour of the recommendation to approve Security & Intelligence Society. A member spoke in favour of the recommendation noting that its purpose was to provide a space for students interested in intelligence and spying. The Chair took questions of clarification. Members asked for clarity over what organisations might be invited in by the society, and how the society differs from other groups. There were no speeches against and the Chair moved to a vote.

41 votes were cast and the society was approved.

The Chair called for speeches in favour of the recommendation to approve UEA Women in Surgery Society. A representative from the new society spoke in favour noting that there were many barriers for women in medicine and particularly in surgery and that the society aims to tackle some of these barriers to women working in surgery.

A Talib representing UEA Surgery Society spoke against the proposal arguing that there is a big overlap between the proposed society and the existing surgery society. A Talib noted that the surgery society has an ambassador programme for women in surgery, and women held many key positions in the society already.

The society representative spoke in favour noting that the purpose of the society was not about women getting involved in workplace activity, but was more aimed at actively removing larger barriers to women in surgery and to provide a space for women to discuss activism and social action around this cause.

There were 5 rounds of speeches taken and the Chair moved to a vote on the motion.

45 votes were cast and the society was approved.

The Chair called for speeches in favour of the recommendation to reject the proposed Zumba Society. E Drennan spoke in favour and noted that the society application was lacking detail and it wasn't clear how this society would offer anything different to the current Zumba classes put on by the sportspark.

T Cullum spoke against the recommendation and noted that there are several sports offered by the sportspark where there is an associated SU society. They noted that society run Zumba classes would be different to those offered by the sportspark and noted that many students might prefer to go to a student run class than one facilitated externally.

E Drennan spoke in favour and noted that the application didn't provide enough evidence of desire for the society.

S Shibli proposed a procedural motion to delay the motion to the next Union Council for a decision. Councillors voted in favour of the procedural motion and the item was deferred to the following meeting.

The Chair called for speeches in favour of the recommendation to reject the proposed Game Design & Development Society. E Drennan spoke in favour and noted that the society application sounded similar to the existing games society. One member spoke against the recommendation noting that this proposal was more about game design and development and less about gameplay which would appeal to a different group of students. One member spoke in favour noting that the games society could incorporate this activity relatively easily. The Chair moved to a vote.

41 votes were cast and the society was approved.

The Chair called for speeches in favour of the recommendation to reject the proposed Asian Society. E Drennan spoke in favour noting that there are lots of existing societies for Asian students and having this society might be confusing for new joiners. S Shibli spoke against noting that there are many overlapping cultural societies such as Afro-Caribbean Society and Latin American society. They noted that a broader cultural society for all Asian student would be similarly useful. The Chair moved to a vote.

41 votes were cast and the society was approved.

Section 2: REPORTS

047 Student Officer Committee Report

The Chair of SOC gave a verbal update on SOC activities. L Bigalke (Chair of SOC) reported that SOC held an emergency meeting to discuss the UEA finances and the UCU strikes but there was nothing to report from this meeting. Noted that SOC don't have any more information than most students do.

048 Trustee Board Report

The Chair of the Trustee Board gave a verbal update noting that the Trustee Board was undergoing a governance review and there was nothing else to report from TB aside.

049 Full-Time Officer Reports

The full-time officers gave verbal updates in addition to the written reports which can be viewed in the agenda.

Taylor's Update				
Meetings attended since last council				
University: Learning and Teaching Committee, Monthly meeting with Chair of Council, Pre meeting with UEA Staff on Council, 121 with Ian Callaghan, Reasonable Adjustments and Timetabling, University Council, SCI LTQC, Meeting with the VC, Timetabling Project Board				
SU: Calendar Prioritisation Meeting, Liberation and Awareness Months, Officer and Comms catchup, Management Committee, Catchups about Finance Committee, Education Committee, Auditor Finance Committee, Emergency Trustee Board, Pathfinder Next Steps, Trustee Board, SOC				
Other: I completed some Conducting Investigations ACAS Training				
Projects Summary				
Last updated: 13/02/23				
Project	Status	Priority	Date	Latest Update

University Council	Concern	Urgent	13/02/23	Due to the current financial situation, biweekly Finance Committees have been scheduled starting with the 15th Feb. An extraordinary meeting of Council has been scheduled for 6th March. I am unable to share many details about what is being discussed in this meeting due to the confidentiality of the meetings. But, UEA are looking at all options to try and make sure that they have enough funds to function. We are working to try and mitigate the impact this will have on the student experience and have offered to support on any communications they are sending out.
UCU	Concern	High	13/02/23	Strikes have been taking place over the last few weeks. I'm meeting with UEA semi regularly to understand the impact. If students are being impacted, they should talk to their course reps or reach out to our Advice Team for support.
Rent Apportionment for 2024/25	Concern	High	06/02/23	We are concerned that due to the financial situation, UEA may seek to increase rents that we have agreed for 2024/25. Rents for 2023/24 have already been advertised so there will not be a rise, but we have reaffirmed to UEA the importance of our Memorandum of Understanding and that they must consult us on any future rises.
Timetables	Ongoing - No Action	Medium	31/01/23	New form for students with Ras has been released and can be found here .
Curriculum Review	Ongoing - No Action	Medium	07/02/23	Emma Sutton Pavli and Eloise Ellis came to Education Committee and gave an overview of the curriculum review. We had a really detailed discussion as convenors about what this means for students and what we can do at a school level to support students.
Cost of Living	Ongoing - No Action	Medium	13/02/23	I'm involved in helping organise a study being run by some lecturers in ECO trying to understand why students are working
Trustee Board	Ongoing - No Action	Medium	13/02/23	I've started working on some changes to the Byelaws around the SU Budget and finances and the reporting that needs to take place into Union Council.
Liberation Months - LGBT+	Ongoing - No Action	Low	16/01/23	Have supported the working group on what has been going on with LGBT history month and what input they may want from me, including a blackboard pronouns video to fulfill a manifesto commitment of mine
Academic Reps	Ongoing - No Action	Low	13/02/23	We've started discussing how we can better support convenors as well as starting to look at the Academic Rep Code of Practice which needs to be reviewed before the end of the year

Activities and Opportunities Officer – Evie Drennan

Item	Update
Manifesto Priorities	Engagement Fund
Campaigns	Womens History Month – March This Girl Can Week – 6 th to the 12 th March (UV Zumba is back!) Student events! Strictly, MMA Fight Night, I’m a President & more
Meetings	Student meetings with socs and clubs Derby Day – timetable of the day will be out soon UEA Sport – Planning for the Sports Awards (May) Meeting with the VC next week Election voting and results!
Policy	Motion coming soon on Pathfinder...

Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer – Aaron Campbell

A Campbell sent apologies to the meeting and no written report was received

Postgraduate Education Officer – Elise Page

W/c 23rd Jan 2023

Monday

- SU/Academic catchup. We have this monthly but it lined up nicely with the university’s announcement about the strategic review plan. I told senior uea staff some of what PGRs have been saying to me, how upset and worried they are, and how they would all like to get involved to do something.
- Pathfinder Project. Discussion with people from the Trussel Trust and the associated Pathfinder Project about how UEA and UEASU can be part of social and cultural change to help people access food banks if they need it but eventually to end the need for food banks at all.

Tuesday

- Management Committee
- Planning for Womens History Month
- Put PG Live plan in the month’s plan of events

Wednesday

- The third Postgraduate Committee meeting of the academic year. We discussed: how to communicate to as many and as diverse a group of PG as possible;
- Spoke at University's Student Experience Committee on a paper brought by the Head of the PGR Service. The paper was about PGR student wellbeing and experience at UEA. I brought forward some of the concerns of PGRs, particularly the worry around what happens if your supervisor is made redundant. I also mentioned the impact of the Cost of Living, and that both the University and SU needs to lobby the government to increase the maximum value of the Student Finance Doctoral Loan, at the very least in line with historical inflation. Doctoral Loan value is fixed from the year you applied and payments do not increase year on year.
- Attended the launch of the Research Culture Working Group, which operated like a short conference about different issues facing researchers.

W/c 30th January 2023

Monday

- Monday monthly live
- Calendar prioritization meeting
- Library forum meeting

Tuesday

- Attended a planning session for Womens History Month, which is coming up in March. I've been developing the "PG Live" concept and exploring places to get funding to make it as big an event as possible.
- Caught up with Ayane, the PG Officer before me, about Aurora, the project on which she now works.
- I brought together some part time officers with someone from student support services to talk about University Mental Health Day, which is coming up on March 9th. We thought of lots of brilliant ideas, like having an SU stall alongside the UEA activities, as well as a focus group to give students a safe place to talk.

Wednesday

- I attended the UCU pickets, alongside 200 others, many of whom were students.
- Attended a PGR new starter lunch, publicizing PGSU and everything we have available. We also gave out free PGSU tote bags!

Thursday

- Brainstormed a campaign to lobby the government to increase funding for postgraduates.
- Spent a bit of time at the Time to Talk stall in the Hive, run by the University's student support services. I played a very intense game of jenga.
- I attended (as an observer and interested party) the UEA all-staff in-person Q&A with the Vice Chancellor and the University Executive Team.

- Student Officer Committee. Discussed the work we have all been doing, as well as officer response to the University's finances.

Week 6th – 10th Feb

Monday

- Monthly student experience catchup, chatted to Lucy Kemp about a couple of issues students have brought to me, and suggested student support services have a look at provisions for PGs after UEA's announcement about their financial position, because there is a lot of worry about what happens if their supervisors are made redundant, etc.
- Catch-up with Prof Sam Fountain. Talked about research culture and how to improve it at UEA. What does research culture mean? What do PGRs think it means? There was recently a launch of a research culture group, but it worked more like a lecture than a collaborative session. What were PGRs' expectations? Also spoke about PG Live coming up for Womens History Month, Sam said it sounded like a great idea.
- Gave a short presentation to some new HUM PGRs, about what the SU offers both in general as well as specifically for postgrads! I also learnt about ways PGRs can be supported, such as through the 'PGR PALS' mentoring scheme and the PGR Fieldwork Support Network.

Tuesday

- Management Committee
- HUM FLTQC Pre-Meet
- Women's History Month planning, finalising time and place for PGLive
- Discussed how PGRs can get the reasonable adjustments for studying and working while at UEA in the easiest, most dignified way possible
- Chatted to an academic involved in the Decolonise UEA project, they and others have been working on the Decolonise Teaching & Learning Toolkit, this will be published in the next few months and will provide an exciting conversation starter for those looking to decolonise university education!
- On Tuesday evening we had Education Committee. Emma Sutton-Pavli and Eloise Ellis joined us; they're both part of the Curriculum Review Project, which aims to give students meaningful choice in their courses, standardize the academic year to make it easier to take modules from other disciplines, and provide a wider range of assessment options. Course and faculty convenors were able to ask questions about the process and understand how they can have input into the project. If you have any thoughts or concerns about this project, please get in touch to let me know!

Wednesday

- We had our first regular PG coffee morning of the semester! Every Wednesday morning, there will be free tea, coffee, and biscuits available in Scholar's Bar. You can also grab a reusable "PostgraduateSU" coffee cup! It was nice to see and chat to people. Some were skeptical as to why there was free stuff - "what's this for...?" We said it's just for fun! Others

were curious and came and got some freebies after being invited over. Looking forward to seeing more people there in future weeks! :)

Thursday

- On Thursday I visited the picket and spoke to some students who were there in solidarity. I held my “this is for the students of tomorrow” placard with pride! I also helped to refill some of the hot water canisters in the main picket tent because coffee is very important when you’re fighting the power!
- PGSU put on a taster session for PhDiggers. In Bookable Rooms 7&8 you could plant some seeds, I planted a few and they are now sat on my windowsill, I will update you if they grow!!
- Had a catchup with student support services and part time officers about plans for university mental health day.

Friday

- I recorded a podcast for UEA about motivation for PGRs. It was good to reflect on myself as well as how I can inspire and help others. I’m also trying to remember to take my own advice!

Week 13th – 17th February

Monday

- Made some plans of how to integrate the Pathfinder project into the SU’s priorities, and how to raise awareness and funds. Some awesome ideas include using the platform of Derby Day to spread awareness of the cause. The next stage is to understand which students/societies/clubs have been involved with Pathfinder/the Trussel Trust before, or would like to get involved. That way we can see what people want to do.

Tuesday

- The officers had a meeting to discuss a few things around the cost of living, the university’s financial situation, and the UCU strikes. We discussed what students want and need from us around these issues. Lots came of out this, and this will be reflected in our work going forward.
- I wrote this update!

Campaigns & Democracy Officer – Serene Shibli Sexton

Union Council Update Feb 2023: Serene Shibli Campaigns and Democracy Officer

Priorities Since last Union Council:

UEA’s Finances	Most of my time in Feb/late Jan has been spent focussing on UEA’s financial situation, they’re not looking very healthy. The University have opened voluntary staff redundancies and are expected to be moving towards making compulsory redundancies.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I've been in regular contact with the UCU and Unison to keep track of the campus trade Union's position on things, they have the stance that they will work with the university provided there aren't any compulsory redundancies and that they intend to fight compulsory redundancies by all means they have available. • The UCU had a vote that happened before Council, they voted on three things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A vote of no confidence in the VC, Dep-VC, and CRO ◦ A vote to have Uni Exec capped at 100,000 ◦ A vote to begin local industrial action if the University insist on compulsory • We, through council, had a briefing from the VC in late January. • We've had a University Council meeting last Monday (their Union Council equivalent, the space which holds the VC to account) it was anger inducing and very frustrating. I'm not happy about it. • We have another Council meeting in March that apparently the UCU are invited to so that's going to be interesting. • We are in regular contact with the other staff members on council
Strikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm sure you all know the strikes are ongoing. • Apparently from the UCU the national negotiations are going well, so we can cross our fingers that there is a resolution in sight. • The SU and the UCU have asked that the pay striking lecturers are losing from striking goes to support student welfare, in previous years it has gone into supporting the hardship fund, this year the University have said they will not be doing this • We're having a think about our comms on the strikes, so if there are any thoughts on this, especially about what you or your friends, soc's etc don't know or have questions about or have general thoughts, please let us know so we can work to support you!
Personal Health	<p>I'm going to keep this brief, but so you are all aware my physical health hasn't been great recently and I have gone down to 2.5 days a week for the time being. This has meant I'm less able to get as much done and I might be slower than usual getting to emails and messages so this is a heads up and a pre-emptive apology.</p>

Projects/ Manifesto Updates: The big projects I'm dedicating time to because they're either big problems or it was on my manifesto

This Big thing is between my health and UEA's drama I haven't had time to dedicate to these as I'd like

Policy Review -Same as last Council	<p>What is it: I'm slowly going through and reviewing our policies finding out what actions need still need to be done and trying to make sure they're upheld and implemented, this is part of my efforts of doing the democracy review and trying to understand what is the place of policy and how do we make sure student policy is valued and completed</p>	<p>I'm working on it but progress is slow</p>
	<p>What is the problem: The last couple of years Policy Lapse wasn't done and thoroughly enough so a lot of our policies have lapsed undemocratically, this means that student work has been made unceremoniously defunct, also we have a lot of policy, so much we don't really know what we have</p>	<p>It's a problem but because policy was a mess before we have been continuing as progress as usual</p>
	<p>Aim: I want to work with Democratic Procedures Committee and Student Officer Committee to bring lapsed policy to Union Council, either as a new and improved policy or in its original form to recover (or not) policy that was undemocratically lost also I'm hoping to come up with a better way of understanding and representing it all so it can actually be effective and implemented</p>	<p>I'm not at this stage yet, sorry</p>
Bye-law Review -Same as last Council	<p>What is it: I am going through, reviewing our byelaws and rewriting our bye laws, this is also part of my efforts of doing the democracy review, doing rewrites that will in impact material changes to improve the accessibility in terms of student involvement and understanding for our democratic structures</p>	<p>I'm working on it; it's taken priority over the policy review.</p>
	<p>The problem: our bye-laws are a mess, they're jumbled, they're inconsistent, sometimes the ordering seems logical and then it's just not. This makes them hard to read and use and a lot of stuff we're meant to do according to the bye laws we just don't do, and a lot of stuff we do isn't in the bye-laws</p>	<p>This is our constitution and, in some way, a guide book on how to do things in the su, most problems have a solution in the bye-laws. So them being a mess is bad for our governance and for student experience and our ability to give a consistent student experience</p>

	Aim: make the structure simple, make them easier to read, reduce the number of bye-laws so they're more understandable, and update them actually be a representation of what we do as a union and how we should be doing it, work out what we're not doing and why not, because some stuff just became redundant but other bits are important	I have a new structure I'm working on, I'm happy to present something at a later date if people would like, or answer any questions
Democracy Review UPDATE!	What it is: we're trying to rework our democratic structures, understand what works and what doesn't, if low active engagement with the SU is the symptom of a problem, what are we doing that isn't working	I went to UCL two weeks ago to talk to their equivalent of me and it was great! I talked to their team for 4 hours and got loads of ideas and shared information and have a idea in my mind that I want to talk through with DPC (should be actioned before this Union Council)
	What's the problem: across Student Unions democratic engagement is going down, including ours and we have systems that are old, some are not running at all, others are struggling	we gain our ability to do things for student from their engagement with our democracy, we are officially the advocates and voice of the student body and if we don't have students feeding into our democratic structures then we lose our student voice that gives us the power to advocate for students in the university
	Aim: to make things easier to understand and clear so it's easier for to students wanting to get involved and do things with the Union and more efficient to get things done	We've been making small changes, such as the policy review, the-bye law review, and the new code of conduct and complaints process that was brought last week but unfortunately there is still a long way to go

Policy Update: Updates on policies passed at last Union Council and any progress that has been taken to implement them		
Goodbye my lover...Goodbye my inactive committee member	Actions: We need to Update the bye-laws to reflect the change	

(Amendment to the Bye-Laws)		
Lobbing the UEA Student Union to return to being a Living Wage Employer	Actions: This has been implemented, it has been taken to senior management and the trustee board, when the Union can afford to pay a living way to all it's staff it will, however currently it can't	-Same as last Council
Remove the suicide statues: Time to take down Antony Gormley statues	Actions: I've spoken to the PTO that proposed it, we have a plan of action and hopefully, especially now I'm back on campus be able to work on this more	This has unfortunately fallen to the way side a little but Alice has been canvassing on this and doing amazing
Make the Code of Conduct more conductible	Actions: This has been adopted and is now being used, we have updated on the website and in a copy of the bye-laws, I'm going to ensure the changes are carried forward into the bye-law review	Completed, Will be removing this from the next officer Update
For the Union to Explore Options for External Student Representation	Actions: It has passed through management committee, and I have spoken to various student staff (I'd like to do a little more of this, more officially) and Reps for the Trade Unions active on campus to explore our options and clarify some concerns, it just needs to be brought to management committee to be agreed, which I will do	Will be bring to management committee I put it on the agenda for the last meeting but was unwell
Make UEA Warm: Introduce warm banks and spaces to campus this winter	Actions: the funding request for blankets and warm supplies went through student officer committee, and the Union has been working with the Siz to ensure warm spaces are available on campus, aligned with our efforts on this, the full-time officers met with the VC just before the end of term to discuss the cost of living and what else the Uni could be doing to support students	There has been a conversation about donating the blankets either to turkey or the library who have run out of theirs, especially as the weather should only be improving

Other actions: Things I've done/been involved in since last Union Council that I can remember

Went to UCL

Went to the Drug and Alcohol Impact Awards, talked to people about strategies to get the University to change its policy

Attended the Union strike solidarity protests and lost my voice at it
worked with the A&O officer to draft a policy amending the bye-laws to make student group committees and the subcommittees of Union Council more effective.
Spent Thursday worrying about UEA, meet with Lectures and Post grads to work out how they all felt
Went to the VC staff Q&A which was an interesting and illuminating experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Went to a Q&A with Clive Lewis, our local MP • Questioned him about abstaining on the commons vote to Veto the SNP's decision to change how gender recognition works in Scotland. His answer was fine, satisfactory at best. • But in my follow up question he said he would go against the Labour whip if needed to vote in favour of trans rights, and this was said in front of maybe 100 people and a UEA journalist, so that's exciting and hopefully on a record somewhere
Attended an event for a decolonial project working with indigenous people in Peru and Peruvian activist, they had made short films to raise awareness and campaign for Indigenous rights in Peru. I'd been asked to attend because Student Unions in Peru are massively policed and obstructed so the organisers had asked I attend to build inter Union Solidarity. Also they'd just shown the films in the House of Lords and had joined the strike protests in solidarity with the workers of the UK.
Proofread the motion on Gender Neutral bathrooms
Supported the motion on mitigating the impact of UEA's finances on students
Wrote a motion on lobbying the University on making it's lifts and alerts on lift breakdowns better
Been supporting the donation collection and fundraising for Syria/Turkey relief aid
Went to spectrum! Had fun but also helped out with running the ballroom part of Spectrum

Meetings: The meetings I can remember attending since last Union Council that I haven't alluded to above

Met with the UCU and Unison	As mentioned above
Met with the chair of council	Just to prep for University Council
Met with the staff members of council	It was a good meeting and we have agreed to start meeting regularly before council to prep
Student Officer Committee	<p>This meeting is part- and full-time officers to work on campaigns and oversee Union policy, we discussed finances and strikes and the Union's position on them,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also decided to reach out to the UC and the VC's office to see if either would come to Union Council to do a Q&A on strikes, the UCU have said they are happy to the VC's office are noncommittal

Management Committee	I've been chairing management committee: this oversees our day-to-day operational strategy but have missed a couple due to illness
Council!	As mentioned above
Liberation and awareness months	LGBT+ history month is under way! So, we're prepping for woman's history month!
SU Trustee board	Talking about the SU's future and strategy
SU/Student Experience Catch up	<p>Catching up with key people in the University as a more informal, regular way to raise student concerns with the Uni, I raised that the lifts have been breaking and that the building has made some paths inaccessible to wheelchairs, raised the earthquake in Syria/Turkey to student support and asked what they were doing to support students impacted</p> <p>They raised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are looking for an FMH student rep • that the period dispensers in different buildings across are now running
SU Auditor Finance Committee	We've had our audit, from what I understood it went okay, there was feedback on places to improve but generally it was fine!
DPC	<p>We set the agenda</p> <p>I presented the findings from UCL</p>
Meeting with one of the heads of student services	To discuss UEA's prevent Policy/ training for future student residency wellbeing team and running accommodation rep elections

Section 3: OPEN DISCUSSIONS

T Sounes led discussion. UEA announced to staff yesterday that deficit figure is worse than before. Scale of cuts is huge. Most information from university council is confidential. Students received an email talking about finances.

Louis (mountaineering) asked what the actual figure for the amount of debt the uni is in is. TS responded that publicly announced figure is 30 million next year rising to 45 million the year after. Uea have decided that there is no way to get money back without making staff redundant.

E Whitby shared the VCs response to students who signed an open letter

S Shibli noted that the VC or ET were invited to speak to union council and the invite was refused.

L Robson asked if there are any steps being taken by the Uni to make finances transparent. TS responded that SU is always telling UEA to be more transparent, and noted that they have provided a financial summary for students on their website.

M Fofana noted that the UCU strikes are about pushing UEA to be more transparent.

A member asked if this is a common state for universitys to be in or if this situation is rare and how does UEAs position compare to other university's. TS responded that it depends on the reason that UEA are citing – student numbers nationally are down. Not every university is in as much of a deficit publicly. Equally other university's have fared through covid better than UEA. UEA have also cited student drop out rates but have not declared how many students have dropped out. TS noted that UEA didn't make staff cuts under covid when other unis did and that could be a reason why.

A member asked the timescale of how long this has been going on for. TS noted that UEA have had an admissions problem for a number of years and intake targets have been set too high. The scale of the problem has been underestimated for a while. UEA were hoping that the situation would improve and it hasn't and this has taken them by surprise.

N Wyatt asked if officers had a response to the statement signed by 700 students. Asked why students at council were asked to not talk about the vice-chancellor.

L Robson asked why so much information is being kept confidential and students are paying so much money to be here, and how can potential students make an informed decision on attendance without adequate information. TS responded that as part of any redundancy process there has to be a lot of planning before publishing a business case. This has to be created before going into a consultation process with the campus trade unions. Once this is created they will be able to talk about it. They are still in planning phases of this. Strange that they announced the redundancies before agreeing a plan. The two officers on university council and finance committee are not able to share any information including with other officers. However TS noted that they agree with the members point.

SS noted that strikes will pick up again in two weeks time. Negotiations are happening with external parties who aren't just the UEA UCU branch. VC sits on UUK but isnt involved directly in UCEA. UCEA set national pay for lecturers.

A member representing Sustainability Soc asked why students haven't heard of the marking boycott before. TS responded that the way that the ballot was done included that a MAB would be a potential option of action to take, but UCU only need to provide 2 weeks of notice for this.

The member asked if there's any way students can get either a refund or a recognition that their studies have been disrupted. TS noted that if a student can prove materially that they didn't receive what they promised then they can take up a case with an independent adjudicator. However the SU argues that it isn't worth students individually applying for this as money in refunds would go straight back to student finance england, not into the pocket of students. However students can approach the SU advice team if they do want to pursue this. A member asked if there will be any mitigations for students. SS said that it

is illegal for the university to ask any striking staff to make up time/hours and work that was missed due to strikes. However individual lecturers may choose to make up individually to students. TS responded that there will always be some kind of mitigations but the scales may differ depending on UEAs situation then.

A member representing Dev Soc asked where this puts international students. TS responded that in terms of financial compensation, students can speak to the SU Advice Centre. Generally speaking though things like visas should accommodate international students but advice should be sought through the advice centre.

Section 4: POLICY MAKING

050 Oh UEA...Home of the Broken Lifts

G Hubbard proposed the motion and spoke in favour. They noted that the aim of the motion is to get the SU to lobby the University to fix lifts on campus. They noted numerous examples of students not being notified about broken lifts on campus.

There were no speeches against and the proposer waived the summation speech. The Chair moved to a vote.

The resolution was adopted by 38 votes for, 0 votes against with 0 councillors abstaining from voting.

051 Staff Support UEASU Motion

M Fofana proposed the motion and spoke in favour. They noted that Union Council has been discussing UEA's finances and the UCU strikes a lot and noted that strikes are nationally paused currently. They argued that the strikes are likely to resume soon as a negotiation isn't looking likely. They argued that UEA planned for higher student numbers than they were able to recruit and have wasted money on projects such as millions spent on the plans for skyhouse that never materialised. They argued that UEA's financial situation isn't just due to external factors but also mismanagement of funds. They noted that if passed this motion would commit the SU to a zero redundancies position and to build a strike assembly consisting of students and staff.

The Chair took questions of clarification from councillors.

There were no speeches against the motion.

The Chair moved to a vote.

The resolution was adopted by 29 votes for, 3 votes against with 4 councillors abstaining from voting.

052 UEA: Protect Student Facing Services!

T Sounes proposed the motion and spoke in favour.

There were no questions of clarification and no speeches against the motion. The Chair moved to a vote.

The resolution was adopted by 34 votes for, 0 votes against with 1 councillor abstaining from voting.

053 Accessibility of Gender-Neutral Toilets

E Whitby proposed the motion and spoke in favour. They noted that they had audited bathrooms on campus and there were not many gender neutral toilets and students who needed to use one would likely need to leave the building they are in and travel to another to use a bathroom. They argued that this wouldn't be a hard issue to fix and would only require a change in signage. They noted that the motion resolves to get the SU to lobby for more gender neutral toilets and to put up better signage as the UEA interactive map is wrong and badly labelled.

G Hubbard asked a question about whether UEA will turn disabled toilets into gender neutral ones which could disadvantage disabled students. T Sounes responded that the campus development plan is still fully funded and all building projects will continue so officers can lobby for this in meetings about the CDP. They noted that UEA currently have a £100 million loan that can only be spent on building projects.

There were no speeches against.

E Whitby gave a summation speech and the Chair moved to a vote.

The resolution was adopted by 31 votes for, 0 votes against with 1 councillor abstaining from voting.

054 Any Other Business

There was no other business considered by the meeting.

055 Details of the next meeting

The Chair noted that the next meeting is scheduled for the 23rd March 2023 and deadline for motions to this meeting would be 14th March 2023.