

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Wednesday 3 rd March
Author:	Abbie Mulcairn
Purpose:	Record of decision making
Status:	For approval
Paper:	UC 085

UC 085 – 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, Serene Sexton

Voting members present: Annabelle Lambert (BIO - Student), Padraig Smead (PPL - Student), Hanna Laniado (PPL - Student), Joseph Williams (LDC - Postgraduate Researcher), Georgia Hubbard (HIS - Student), Natasha Tsekiri (BIO - Student), Taylor Sounes (UEASU - Staff), Holly Summers (EDU - Student), Alice Bethell (LDC - Student), Luke Johnson (LAW - Student), Sophie Handyside (LDC - Student), Charlie Davis (LDC - Student), Matthew Stothard (HIS - Student), Ella Goodman (PSY - Student), Yvette Ng (LAW - Student), Matt Newbould (ENV - Student), Alice Ocraft (ECO - Student), Finlay Scollick (DEV - Student), Evie Drennan (UEASU - Staff), Milo Fletcher (DEV - Student), Kirsty Soanes (BIO - Student), Eleanor Matthews (NBS - Student), Emilia Page (ENV - Student), Sophie Hopkins (DEV - Student), Elise Page (UEASU - Staff), Oliver Radcliffe (PPL - Student), Joe Hanson-Kahn (ECO - Student), Alice Goldsney (HIS - Student), Thomas Carvalho (BIO - Student), Sophie Ciurlik Rittenbaum (PPL - Student), Aryan Dharan (CMP - Student), Liz Bigalke (BIO - Student), Tom Durrant (ECO - Student), Callum Pullen (PPL - Student), Macey Clarke (MED - Student), Felicity Eardley (PHA - Student), Ali Sabba (DEV - Student), Nathan Wyatt (PPL - Student), Chris Njoroge (NBS - Student), Elspeth Leslie (LDC - Student), Aaron Campbell (UEASU - Staff), Ben Baldwin (NBS - Student), Lucas Liorancas (ENV - Student), Katie Millar (BIO - Student), Rose Ellis (MED - Student)

Voting records: Can be viewed here

Section 1: HOUSEKEEPING

073 Statements from the Chair

The Chair took a quorum count and 45 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.

074 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on [23rd March 2023](#)

075 Matters Arising

The Chair noted that an emergency motion had been received which can be viewed on the website here. The Chair ruled the motion out of order on grounds that the motion contained statements that could be deemed defamation. J Williams challenged the Chair's ruling and the Chair stepped down. O Thornton, Deputy Chair of Union Council took over the Chairing for this procedural item. J Williams spoke in favour of the procedural motion, noting that the motion is not defamatory and is in line with motions passed by other trade unions. They noted that the motion did not mention individuals, but was about expressing a collective motion of no confidence in the Executive Team of the University. The Chair spoke against the procedural motion, noting that they believed the motion to contain defamatory contents. The Deputy Chair moved to a vote on the item.

54 votes were cast with 28 in favour of the procedural motion, with 15 rejections and 11 abstentions.

The procedural motion was therefore accepted and the emergency motion was placed at the end of the agenda.

076 Club, Society and Peer Support Group Constitutions

The Chair noted that were no society constitutions received for consideration

078 Annual Report and Accounts for year end

The Chair noted that the Annual Report and Accounts for year end were available in the agenda for councillors to view, but that no approval on the item was required. There were no questions raised on this item.

079 Appointment of Auditors

The Chair introduced the item and noted that the auditors appointed by the board are Crowe UK LLP. One councillor asked if there was any reason that these were the auditors selected. T Sounes responded that Crowe UK LLP had been the Union's auditors for the last few years and that they specialise in students' unions. No objections were raised to this.

51 students voted with 46 approvals, 1 rejection and 4 abstentions. The auditors were therefore approved by Union Council.

080 Financial Estimates and Approval of Budget

The Chair noted that the financial estimates had not been submitted and the item would therefore be delayed to the following meeting.

081 Affiliations to External Organisations

The Chair noted that the affiliations would need to be approved.

The following affiliations were approved by Union Council:

- Advice UK
- National Union of Students
- WonkHE

Section 2: REPORTS

077 Student Officer Committee Report

The Chair of SOC gave a verbal update on SOC activities. L Bigalke (Chair of SOC) reported that SOC had been working on the campaign against the proposed UEA redundancies and cuts to student services and were working with Save UEA on a campaign and day of action on Monday 22nd outside of University Council.

078 Trustee Board Report

The Chair of the Trustee Board, Elise Page, delivered a verbal report. They explained that the Trustee Board was made up of student and external trustees. They noted that the Board had completed all the work that they needed to be compliant. They noted that they are undergoing a governance review. There were no other updates from the Trustee Board.

079 Full-Time Officer Reports

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

Undergraduate Education Officer – Taylor Sounes

Taylor gave a verbal update. They noted that they were unable to submit a written report due to illness and annual leave. They gave an update on the UCU marking boycott noting that the MAB is now taking place and assessment materials may not be marked. They noted that conversations about mitigations for students were ongoing and course reps and convenors are being supported to raise issues in SSLCs. The SU will step in to support if no movement is happening in SSLCs.

They also gave an update on University Council. They noted that they met yesterday to decide on the business case for professional services and decisions on faculties will take place on May 22nd. Council has two student members but Serene, the other officer rep, has been unwell and unable to attend. Over the last few months the key aim for the officers has been to lobby the university inside of meetings. Some movement has been made for example on getting more communications out to students. They noted that until yesterday they believed that the SU were a powerful voice in the room and their work their was important and valued and even argued that point at the previous Union Council. They believed that all officers would be consulted over the cuts. However, they noted that they were disgusted yesterday to realise that the University regarded

Taylor's presence in meetings alone enough to constitute a full student consultation on the proposed cuts. When concerns were raised at Council, non-answers were received. Taylor noted they were the only member of University Council to vote against the proposed plan, as they did not believe the proposals were in line with the position agreed by Union Council on behalf of the student body. They noted that opportunities for lobbying are over, and the SU would have to take a more external lobbying position and will be working with Save UEA to campaign for the University to listen to and work with students on an alternative proposal. They noted that SOC would be meeting the next day to decide the next steps for the campaign.

Activities and Opportunities Officer – Evie Drennan

Evie gave a verbal update and noted that UEA had won another Derby Day and was working with the rest of SOC on the Save UEA campaign.

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

- Officers (Aaron, Taylor and myself) and some career staff visited Cambridge Students Union. We had a tour of their offices, and learnt about their facilities and services. We got some good ideas about a number of things, including how to engage as many students as possible, as well as supporting students to organize and campaign.
- Aaron, Taylor and I also attended a conference at the University of Staffordshire Students Union. It was about LGBTQ+ issues, and I particularly enjoyed the presentation about Queer Britain, a museum in London celebrating Queer history of Britain and related to Britain.
- The UEA Green Film Festival group met to discuss final details of how the festival will run, sorting out some logistics and finalising the plan. Really looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the festival, you can book FREE tickets here!
<https://www.ueagreenfilmfestival.co.uk/2023-programme>
- I was on annual leave from April 6th until April 13th.
- After the break we had a Postgraduate Committee meeting. One of the big discussions we had is how to use the rest of the PG Committee budget, including what sort of legacy the committee would like to have. We thought about the possibility of a bicycle hire scheme, but we don't know the feasibility or the technicalities yet. The committee has also been working on communication, and this week we got the university to send out a message to all UEA postgraduate students on our behalf. It includes a link to sign up to the PGSU newsletter – PGs, sign up!
- I met with career staff in the UEA Voice team to plan out some strategy for postgraduates at uea(su) for the rest of my term in office (until July 2024). Some of the key points involve: providing quality events, sport and societies that PGs want; engaging more postgraduates within postgraduate-only democratic spaces; developing postgraduate researcher communities and student-staff liaison committees, as well as

all the points on my manifesto. I am always open to thoughts and change, because at the end of the day it's about what students want – we're here to represent you.

- I took part in a training session, run by Citizens UK and hosted by Civic UEA, about how to build communities of power and make change in the university and beyond. I'm really excited to be involved with this project going forward.

Campaigns & Democracy Officer – Serene Shibli Sexton

S Shibli Sexton sent apologies to the meeting and no written report was received

Section 3: OPEN DISCUSSIONS

The meeting discussed the upcoming Marking and Assessment Boycott action taken by UCU and action that students and the SU could take to support UCU and demand either mitigations or a resolution from the University.

Section 4: POLICY MAKING

080 Zero Redundancies at UEA, Part II

J Williams proposed the motion and spoke in favour. They noted that this motion follows on from a previous motion that was amended at the last meeting. It brings back the amendment that was removed which mandates the full-time officers to maintain a position of zero redundancies for the duration of the Strategic Review Programme. They noted that an argument was made at a previous meeting that there is no other option to redundancies and argued that this is not the case and money could be saved in other ways including selling off assets, introducing a pay cap of £100k, and scrapping the digital transformation project.

One councillor asked about what the University's response to the alternative cost saving proposal might be. The seconder of the motion responded that this is expected and is the reason why the SU is also planning other campaigning activity outside of Council.

J Williams delivered a summation speech noting that the motion gives a written mandate for officers to oppose the redundancies.

There were no speeches against the motion. The Chair moved to a vote.

The resolution was adopted with 32 votes for, 4 rejections and 14 councillors abstaining.

081 Demilitarise UEA

S Ciurlik-Rittenbaum proposed the motion and spoke in favour. They argued that the UK defence sector contributes to the climate change emergency, and that

the military industrial complex is supported by banks like Barclays who UEA banks with. They noted that the purpose of the motion is to give students the tools to fight against complicity in the military industrial complex and climate injustice through the production of arms.

The Chair took questions of clarification from councillors around the financial involvement of UEA in the military complex and how the motion has been sourced. Questions were raised around students who are involved in the military through society activity and their courses, and around funding from the military which contributes towards teaching and learning.

A councillor spoke against the motion arguing that students deserve investment from and partnerships with the military, especially students involved in the Officer Training Corps.

The proposer spoke in favour of the motion and there were two additional rounds of speeches.

The Chair then moved to a vote on the item.

The motion was rejected with 17 votes for, 18 votes against with 11 councillors abstaining from voting.

082 Spray another Day – Install More Bidets on Campus

A Sabba proposed the motion and spoke in favour. They argued that bidets are much cheaper and cleaner and an important facility especially for Muslim students who often have to return home to use the toilet.

There were no speeches against the motion. The Chair moved to a vote.

The resolution was adopted by 32 votes for, 6 votes against with 7 councillors abstaining from voting.

082A Emergency motion – No Confidence in Executive Team

J Williams spoke in favour of the emergency motion, arguing that since the UEASU officer team have been shut out of decision making, the Exec Team should be held to account for their failure to engage with students. They echoed Taylor's comments from their officer report, noting that the University's response to students was disgusting. They argued that the student body should not have confidence in a team which conducts itself in this manner. They noted that all three campus trade unions have passed motions of no confidence in the executive team and though this is mostly a symbolic gesture, it communicates the message that students do not support the redundancies.

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

The resolution was adopted by 37 votes for, 1 vote against with 2 councillors abstaining from voting.

083 Any Other Business

There was no other business considered by the meeting.

084 Details of the next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the 25th May at 5pm in LT3

The deadline for motions to this meeting is 16th May