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| **Subject:**   | Union Council    |
| **Date:**   | Thursday 12th October 2023 |
| **Author:**   | Lindsay Westgarth |
| **Purpose:**   | Record of decision making    |
| **Status:**   | For approval  |
| **Paper:**   | UC 020  |

**UC 020– Union Council Minutes**

**Chair:** Serene Shibli Sexton and Chanel Munroe (elected during meeting)

**Deputy Chair:** Ali Sabba (elected during meeting)

**In attendance:** Lindsay Westgarth (Advice Manager, acting as Secretary to Union Council), Adam Roche (for part, Head of Communities and Programming)

**Voting members present**: Aaliyah Tellez Estrada, Adrian Ashby, Adriana Dujkova, Alexandra Smith, Ali Sabba, Alice Bethell, Alice Older, Ameer Al-Magidi, Amy Watson, Aneetamerine Saji, Ann Johansen, Arielle Bedwei-Brooks, Arooj Khan, Bailey Prevezer, Bayley Soper, Bee Sowrey, Ben Stannard, Ben Wildey, Billy Alexander, Brieanne Johnson, Caitlin Kent, Callum Heath, Charlotte Miller, Daniel Grundy, Deng Deng, Deniz Yazgan, Devan Patel, Eleanor Radford, Elise Carpenter, Elise Page, Ellen Scates, Emily Chiu, Emily Kemp, Emma Packard, Emma Wood, Engji Salihu, Ernest Blas, Eve Harmer, Florence Bourmaud, Freyja Lauwerys, George Carter, Hannah Edwards, Harper Day Pope, Harry Mills, Harry Smith, Harvey Rose, Helen Harrison, Henry Harrison, Holly Summers, Hubert Chua, Ieuan Aston-Davies, Isla Harris, Jake White, James Hawketts, James Warren, Jess Hopcroft, Jimmy Xu Xu, Jo Dunsbier, Josh Bell, Juliette Rebold-Stead, Katherine Hutchison, Katie Farrow, Kaya Lawes, Kimon Fryer-Petridis, Laura Ansell, Leo Henry, Liv Fox, Liz Bigalke, Luke Johnson, Lydia Mitchell, Madie Inman, Maggie Read, Manar Jaber, Mariam Hassabou, Matthew Mclaughlan, Max Wrigley, Mikey Umney, Mitchell Layzell, Molly Good, Mudatheer Mandan, Naomi Garner, Naomi Sabel, Nathan Wyatt, Sunny Ng, Noah Holland, Olivia Hunt, Oscar Robinson, Paige Shaw, Paris Fryer-Petridis, Patryk Szalanski, Paulina Bozetka, Rajaa Shaheen, Rishi Kotru, Roanna Fernandes, Sam Pyle, Sammy Au, Sebastian Magnago, Serene Shibli Sexton, Sofia Caicedo, Sophie Ciurlik Rittenbaum, Stefan Ciobanu, Syed Hamza, Taylor Sounes, Thomas Carvalho, Tom Ramsey, Trinity Tate, Tristan Mclellan, Vienne Cheng, William Ballantyne, Wu Emily, Zebedee Hill

**Voting records:** [Quoracy Check (2) (office.com)](https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?subpage=design&token=6a5af790555842648ea4922c5b572399&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkCTqic-rUyRPqddOa8xMkt5UMERBT1pBQ0lDU01WMEE2SlQ2RUVLT0ZFQy4u)



**Section 1: HOUSEKEEPING**

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

There were 96 voting members present when the vote was closed.

**002 Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair of Union Council**Serene introduced the election of Chair to Union Council and asked for nominations from those in attendance. There were 3 candidates for the position of Chair. Each were invited to deliver a 3-minute speech to councillors.

The candidates were:

* Chanel Munroe
* Stefan Ciobanu
* Ali Sabba

Chanel Munroe was elected as Chair of Council with majority vote. 85 votes were cast in total.

Serene then introduced the election to Union Council for the role of Deputy Chair and invited nominations from those in attendance. There were four candidates for this position, and each were given the opportunity to deliver a 3-minute speech to councillors.

The candidates were:

Mitchell Layzell

Matthew McLoughlin

Stefan Ciobanu

Ali Sabba

Ali Sabba was elected as Deputy Chair of Union Council with majority of the vote. 85 votes were cast in total.

**003**  **Statements from the Chair**

Chair thanked for the election of chair position, and reminded all in attendance that all are here for the same reason, and to be kind to each other. Reiterated that those speaking or asking questions will direct to Chair not personally to each other.

**004**  **Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting**
Councillors voted to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on [Wednesday 3rd May 2023.](https://www.ueasu.org/pageassets/democracy/unioncouncil/councildocumentsandnotices/UC-085-Union-Council-Minutes-April-2023.pdf)

**005**  **Matters Arising**

Serene made members aware that the matters arising from previous meeting have been added to the agenda as appendices, and action taken over summer period due to Council on 25th May 2023 not reaching quoracy. Budget approval and Finance Updates were to be received under Any Other Business, and Appointment of Student Trustees were to be address later in the agenda.

**006**  **Cycle of Business**

In line with Bye-Law 2.34, Serene brought a cycle of business to be proposed as the first Union Council of the Year. Cycle of Business included standing items to be included in each Union Council, as well as a run down of what each meeting in each term should include, or key stakeholders to be invited.

No questions were received on this item.

**007**  **Appointment of Students to University and SU Trustee Panels**

Serene made councillors aware of suggested roleholders onto SU Trustee Panels and University Committees such as University Council, Senate, Student Experience Committee and Learning and Teaching Committee. No questions were asked about this.

A vote to approve Item 006 and Item 007 was then conducted. Both were approved.

**008**  **Election of Student Trustees**

Serene made members aware that after opening nominations prior to the meeting, the voting for the election for Student Trustees was open, and voting members of council could vote to fill the Student Trustee positions. Election results to be announced outside of meeting.

**009**  **Election to positions – Trustee Board Sub-Committees**

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

Appointments and HR Committee

Max Wrigley and Kimon Fryer-Petridis were elected unopposed.

Finance Committee

Seb Magnago was elected unopposed with one position still available.

Risk and Oversight Committee

Zhi-Lin Zhou and Mitchell Layzell were elected unopposed.

**010**  **Election to positions – Democratic Procedures Committee**

Serene invited councillors to nominate themselves to sit on the Democratic Procedures Committee. Five candidates self-nominated and were elected due to more positions being available. The following councillors were elected:

* William Ballantyne
* Matthew McLaughlan
* Erin Whitby
* Josh Bell
* Harvey Rose

**011**  **Appointments to positions – Code of Conduct**

Serene invited councillors to volunteer their interest if they would be interested in joining a Code of Conduct Disciplinary Panel. Mundatheer Manthan and Maggie Read expressed an interest and will be contacted directly if students are required for panel hearings.

**012**  **Club, Society and Peer Support Group Constitutions**

None received.

**Section 2: REPORTS**

**013**  **Student Officer Committee Report**

No Student Officer Committee has taken place yet this year, so no report provided.

**014** **Trustee Board Report**

T Sounes invited to give report as Chair of the Trustee Board. They shared that the Summer had had a focus on development and review of internal governance, and no further meetings had taken place.

**015**  **Full-Time Officer Reports**

**Activities and Opportunities Officer**

**Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer**

**Postgraduate Officer**

**Campaigns & Democracy Officer**

**Undergraduate Education Officer**

**Section 3: OPEN DISCUSSIONS**

**Section 4: POLICY MAKING**

**016**  **Bring Back the Night Bus**

L Johnson proposed the motion and spoke in favour. They noted that over summer have been working towards manifesto pledge to reintroduce the Night Bus. Noted that the Night Bus was a service provided pre 2020, and has been removed from the service provision of First Bus. Believes that the reintroduction of Night Bus will help with safety at night and a more friendly financial option of transport to and from the city for students on a night, instead of taxis or other methods.

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

P Szalanski asked which companies are going to provide the night bus?
LJ responded that it’s restricted based on the companies the County Council have tenders with. First Bus is who we are looking at providing the service as we have received costings for the reintroduction of the service.

P Szalanski asked where the funding is coming from and whether it will come from the Students’ Union?
L Johnson responded that they are approaching County Councillors, City Councillors in first instance to see if they can provide funding. If not, will look to sponsorships with local companies to see if interest there and consider other options.

H Summers asked how we are going to ensure that the bus is accessible for students with disabilities?

L Johnson recognised that they are able bodied and don’t have the same experience, so will be looking to ask for support from officers such as N Wyatt and H Summers to share the experience of students. Hoping that the Night Bus will be a start to keep pushing for a more positive experience for students.

M Wrigley asked given how First Bus can be with buses not turning up due to a lack of driver resources, how can we guarantee that students can get back home?

L Johnson responded that at the moment there is no service, so trying to introduce one to see the uptake and show there is need for service. If strong uptake, feels we may be able to put more pressure on First Bus. Also included MP Clive Lewis, local councillors, and the police to try to work together to make it safer for students. L Johnson also reminded attendees of the Safer Taxi Scheme offered by uea(su) in conjunction with Courtesy Taxis and ABC Taxis.

L Bigalke asked if there was a possibility of service to Bowthorpe as there are none late into evening or for some portion of the weekend.

L Johnson responded that currently for the Night Bus the push is for the 25 route to be extended into the night with a bus every hour into the city between Monday-Saturday midnight to 4am, and once this is agreed and used can push for more. First Bus want us to fund this, so we need to get this service provided to then be able to extend to areas such as Bowthorpe. A roundtable is being arranged with Clive Lewis MP, with Health Union, Members of Public and others to represent more of the local community as we believe this needs a wider reach long term.

P Szalanski asked to revisit the question around the Bus Driver as doesn’t feel the question was responded to in terms of the shortage of these role holders.

L Johnson responded that after discussions with UEA Head of Security, we believe the costings are around £60,000 and believe this will be used towards recruitment for one or two bus drivers to be hired.

M Wrigley asked what time would the buses run, raising concerns that if a bus leaves at 2am, when the club night finished would either need to leave earlier and be time conscious or wait an hour for the next bus.

L Johnson answered it will be similar to 12:15, 1:15 etc, for once an hour to start and if used can request more frequent services.

There were no speeches against the motion.

The summation speech was delivered by L Johnson, thanking councillors for listening to the motion and asking questions.

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

Approve – 98%

Reject – 1%

Abstain – 1%

The motion was therefore adopted as Union Policy.

**017**  **Emergency Motion – Solidarity Motion with Palestinian Workers and Youth**

A vote was held to hear whether emergency motion should be considered by Council. Chair put forward the emergency motion was necessary due to the timeliness of contents of motion being appropriate for this council in comparison to next council in November.

Vote took place for emergency motion. Vote succeeded for emergency motion: 56 % of 71 Votes.

Amendment of motion was proposed by Bailey Prevezer. Proposer share that they believe the amendment is important as the Union is supposed to represent all students and though all is true, there was nothing that condemned the actions of Hamas over period of last six days. As a Jewish student, representing students in their society it has been difficult to support them due to the situation and believes that policies should be inclusive of all. Feels that students should be able to say something in this space and it be heard, not criticised or affect tehri welfare or mental health.

Speech against amendment from Noah who has proposed the motion. She shared that she believes that over the past 75 years Palestine has been oppressed and as an SU we need to be standing against British imperialism upholding oppression, and so Marxist Society have put this motion forward. She feels that the amendment only goes to dilute the point of what the motion is, that there are claims that should think both sides want peace but what peace materially means is wiping out and genocide of the people against a British and American backed state trapping the open air gaza strip. Implore members to support removal of amendment so can support against this form of oppression.

Question received from member of council relating to whether there is a disagreement of the points of concern raised in amendment. Response from proposer of initial motion was that it sends a message of peace against the middle east.

Student in Council further asked what scope would there be for leaving the two proposed amendment but also adding that the root cause is the occupation as stated by the United Nations, condemn violence to all who are affected who are not deserving, and whether the amendment could be changed? Serene clarified as a matter of process that this could not be completed in this meeting but could be put forward for a future.

Speech for the amendment from Elise Page. They shared that they believed they echo the suggestion above for a future amendment to the amendment. They are proudly Jewish and proudly Palestine but feels the amendment doesn’t dilute horrific war crime or horrible situation that is being faced. Feels it is absurd to say that it dilutes as solidarity doesn’t dilute the strength we have together.

Question raised by another council member of whether the amendment point 6 is not to effectively protect Israeli/Jewish and Palestinian populous at UEA? As feels this would be a priority of Union Council.

B.Prevezer thanked for the question and responded to it. Feels it is a good point as they have received messages from Jewish Security anticipating a backlash against Jewish students and feel the amendments that have been put forward are a response, as a SU we are here to represent people – some of which are Jewish Israeli and Palestinian students who have been struggling since the weekend. Feels that the Israeli government has made some horrible actions but as have action from Hamas infiltrating a music festival and similar activities.

Chair called a vote on whether to include the amendment to the policy:

Amendment passed with 56% of the vote.

Speech was then given by proposer to propose to introduce the proposed policy. In this she shared her believes that for the past 75 years Palestinians have been under occupation, and thousands have been killed, there have been military facilitations to see the conflict of this be escalated over the last few years. Israel have cut off power in the airstrip, now basically a concentration camp and are being carpet bombed by people who have been classed as little more than animals. Believes we need to materially coordinate the response against this and the role that the British state provides in this as well as extending solidarity to Marxist Society comrades at UCL (included in amendment in policy) and university based Palestinian solidarity. Believes that the Tories are trying to quench the pro Palestinian rallies as it’s profitable to murder people. She shared that she hopes the people in this room will take a strong stance against this and vote in favour of lives of millions of people and the material organisation to help them.

Chair asked for questions, none received. Asked for a speech against, one was offered from online.

Student started to provide speech but was paused by chair. Chair reminded that speeches needed to relate to the policy in hand and information included within that. Offered time to consider wording and would come back to them if they wished to speak once considered.

Bailey Prevezer provided a speech against and made room aware would speak specifically to the resolves section of the policy which feel very one sided. Feels that the policy should not be passed as the SU currently has a policy to support Palestinian students and that this is a step further. They shared that they don’t believe there is an issue with the policy we already have, but that this policy seems to just condemn everything to do with Israel and those who are struggling there right now. On behalf of the student Jewish Society would like to ask councillors to vote against. Also raised concerns in relation to the amendment to support the Marxist Society at UCL who have been suspended, as believes that in order to be suspended at Universities would need to do something bad, and concerned that as a group we would not want to support that action.

Several questions came from attendees of Council;

A question was asked for clarification on whether this was a policy to request solidarity against the struggle in terms of conflict or democratic and what’s the implication of this. Response confirmed that due to the amendment being passed, the policy would also speak against the actions taken by Hamas.

Question was asked if the issue of the current resolves are relating to the issue of language and that they feel one sided to Palestine and not taken into account the actions of Israeli government are they open to amendments that do not condone actions of Isaraeli government?

B.Prevezer thanked for the question and responded that the amendment for resolves includes what Hamas has done is awful and language was not appropriate to many and so if there were amendments to be discussed, would be happy to discuss policy again.

Another question was asked for more information regarding why the students at UCL were suspended as it is presented here as a freedom of speech issue but their social media looks like it may have caused violence, so would like to be able to make an informed choice.

Response from proposer shared that the Marxist Society at UCL held a public meeting about Palestine, and shared posters and leaflets for this with an image which shared a picture of an Israeli shoulder trying to shoot at the Palestinian, for which they were asked to stop. They continued to share these and so were suspended.

A speech was then given from a Palestinian student who shared their experience of living in Gaza as well as their family.

Welfare Break taken at this point in meeting.

Return from break Chair provided clarification that had stopped speech against motion online as felt it sounded like it would be attacking of individual councillors rather than an external body. Chair took decision to cut speeches for and against for welfare purposes, and asked if there were any further final questions relating to policy before going to the vote.

Member of Council shared that as a representative they are proud of how they are in and represent a diverse school where the student body can work together and get along, asked if when the policy was being written if the intention was to be divisive or unifying?

A response was given by the proposer that the tone was intended to be one of decision, stating with utmost clarity that the SU takes the side of the Palestinian people.

Question was asked about whether the proposers think the student community should be a socialist movement to support the Palestinian community?

Charlie , seconder of the motion, responded that they believe it has tried to be solved under communist society and has not worked , as socialists we understand that only on this basis can we solve the problems in Gaza, they cannot be resolved under capitalism.

Noah , added that capitalism requires division and points to other people to blame. There cannot be any way under a capitalist basis.

Chair asked if any attendee wanted to provide an opposing speech. Samantha Lewkowicz to share believes in a two state solution, sees the Palestinian struggle and acknowledges experiences shared. She shared that she has family in Israel who are stuck and believes that the premise of this policy should be in a way that promotes peace everywhere rather than taking sides. Shared that they felt that this policy is picking a side and dismisses Israeli struggle, acknowledges that they have more freedom but their struggle shouldn’t be dismissed. Also raised concerns of intifada as the working definition for Israeli and Jewish people is the slaughter of hundreds and thousands of people over the world. She believes that the UCL event was cancelled because of their use of this word and by putting that into the policy of the SU it’s calling for the wipeout of all Israeli civilians and doesn’t feel a SU can have this.

Point of clarification by Serene that intifada is in the summary not the resolves. Samantha clarified was referring to UCL which is included in resolves.

Summation Speech was given by Charlie who reiterated that the policy content is to call for the resolves section and to support comrades.

Chair took policy to a vote. Policy was adopted with 52% of the vote.

**018**  **Any Other Business**

Guillotine called, no further items to be discussed. Outstanding items on agenda to roll to next meeting.

**019**  **Details of the next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 23rd November at 5pm in Lecture Theatre 3.

The deadline for motions to this meeting is Thursday 9th November.