



Meeting:	Postgraduate Committee
Date:	03 March 2020
Paper:	Postgraduate Committee Winter 20
Author:	Bright Archibong
Purpose	Record of Decision Making

Minutes of the Postgraduate Committee 03 March 2020

Committee Members Present: Alicia Perez (Activities and Opportunities Officer), Amelia Trew (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), Sophie Atherton (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), Martin Marko (Postgraduate Education Officer), Benjamin Pinsent (AMA), Gina Kim (ENV), Lewis Martin (PPL), Megan Pay (PPL), Matthew Gallagher (PPL)

Chair: Matthew Gallagher (PPL)

Apologies: Subeer Sarkar, Syed Saad

In Attendance: Josh Melling (Student Engagement Coordinator – PG), Bright Archibong (Advocacy Assistant).

547 Statements from the Chair [s]

Matt welcomed committee members and kicked off the meeting by reminding everyone of the ongoing elections and the need to adhere to rules regarding SU involvement and endorsement.

548 Minutes of the Last Meeting [s]

Minutes Approved with no amendments.

549 Action Log [s]

Doctoral College Strategy: Martin explained that the objective of the strategy in works is to make approach to PGR issues more coherent. He further explained that meetings regarding the doctoral college strategy are being delayed by the UEA 5-year plan being drafted. Josh suggested that Martin communicates to the school, what he recommends the strategy should be and how it will fit into UEA's 5-year plan. Josh also recommended that for a more effective approach to achieving a strategy, Allister should be engaged directly.

Martin expressed that the school is currently keeping information about the strategy confidential. He further suggested that the best way to cross the confidentiality barrier would be to have a meeting with Allister in order to get insights into the strategy being worked on. In line with that, Matt asked everyone to come with their top ideas on the needs of PGRs.

Considering this, Martin is expected to set up a meeting between Allister and the committee, for conversations on the strategy being worked on.

Library update: Matt and Benjamin shared challenges they have observed such as problems that result from copyright issues. These include limitations in materials that can be downloaded and the inability to store PDF versions of books.

Action: Martin to share updates with the committee on the union policy. Martin to set up a meeting with Allister for the committee, in order to have a conversation on the strategy and all committee members are to come with their ideas on the needs of PGRs.

550 Update from Assembly [s]

The PG Assembly has been postponed to April 28, 2020

551 Response from Neil Ward

Considering Neil Wards response to the committee's questions, Amelia raised the need to have a meeting with the University management to discuss issues and challenges with the AT rights and

representation. Megan further recommended advising the University to have a working group comprising of PGRs, ATs who aren't PGRs and executive members of the University.

Action: Committee members to set up meeting with the University Management.

552 Transphobia on Campus

The committee received a response from the school about Transphobia in school, however no commitments were made by the school to resolve it. Amelia mentioned that she believes that the seminar won't get cancelled however, the University is looking into measures to ensure inclusivity after the seminar with Kathleen Stock. Amelia has more meetings with Sarah to decide what can be done on the day of the seminar and after. Updates of the meetings will be shared at the next PGC meeting.

Action: Amelia to share updates on the meetings regarding actions and support for Trans students at the next PGC meeting. Lewis to share updates from his meeting with David and Francis.

553 UCU Strike Update

Lewis mentioned that the VC and Sarah went to the pickets to have discussions with UCU members. Also, a meeting between UCEA and UUK is scheduled to hold on Thursday, 5th of March on the upcoming campaign about pay casualization.

Action: Committee to organize a meeting to discuss PG education necessities for a more coherent work experience and to define more specific roles for the successor of the PG Student Officer.

554 Union Council Policy 2425: Transparency of Process and Communication for Associate Tutor Applications

Martin is currently collating information on this.

555 Fieldwork Support Group

Martin mentioned that the report had been shared with Allister and he's currently working on it. He also says that he is awaiting clearer directions on the next steps forward from Allister.

Benjamin mentioned the need for a freer flow of communication between the SU and University. Matt suggested that a formal mechanism for interaction between the SU and the doctoral college be drafted, to ensure there's clarity on what the union's position is supposed to be.

Action: Martin to draft a policy idea on his vision for the relationship between the SU and the doctoral college.

556 Easter Events

The easter budget was reviewed at the meeting and the approved activity is Tubing. Committee members also volunteered to manage the easter activities; Gravity (Josh), Tubing (Lewis), Easter egg hunt (Alicia and Amelia).

Matt suggested that the conversation for summer events begins early in order to give ample time for deliberations and approvals.

Action: A committee member to set up a channel on Teams for discussions on summer activities.

557 Any other business

Gina expressed discomfort with the way the corona virus is being framed to affect the Asian community as they've become walking targets for racism. Amelia concurred and stated that reports of Xenophobia in campus have also been made.

With regards to this, Amelia is expected to set up a meeting to discuss how to tackle xenophobia on campus. The aim of this is to map out ways to offer mental support on the current impacts of the corona virus on students. Amelia also suggested leveraging the platform of report and support and eradicate hate to ensure that students report any issue of racism they witness.

Due to the corona virus, students won't be able to travel home during the Easter break. Further discussions will take place on teams, to map out a plan for these students.

Alicia mentioned UEA Sports' request to take on the PG Yoga and Swimming however, concerns lie around the continued exclusivity to

PG students. She mentioned that the potential benefit of PG Yoga moving to UEA sports is that the space will accommodate more students and an increase in space will ultimately lead to more participants and less expenses. Martin also suggested that when the move in PG Yoga location takes place, it should remain PG only sessions to ensure increase in attendance.

Actions: Committee to sort out plans for students unable to travel during Easter. Further discussions on tackling Xenophobia on campus to be continued on Teams. Martin to share ideas on funds allocation and what the PGC should advocate for. Josh to share the cost of running subsidized Yoga and Swim Sessions for PGs.

558 Time date and place of next meeting

21st of April 5.15pm, corner of the SU office.