

Report from UEA50 Democracy system and meetings

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Paper for	Annual General Meeting
Date Written	11 th March 2026
Date of Meeting	19 th March 2026
Summary	Summary of UEA50 meetings and proposals discussed
Action for meeting	To note – if this is for information only
Appendices	none

1. Introduction

UEA50 is the new Democracy system of uea(su). So far this year, there has been two meetings of the UEA50, with another scheduled for the 22nd May 2026. The subcommittees have been meeting regularly, with great improvements evident especially in the wait for approval of new Societies. Paying students for their time has so far improved quoracy, and the random selection of students from across our student population has provided a more diverse group of opinions.

2. Background

External provider Counter Culture was brought in by UEASU to propose a democracy review in late 2024. Counter Culture have brought over a decade of experience to the project, much of which has been spent designing similar democratic systems across the Student Union sector. After working closely with the 2024/2025 Sabbatical Officer team to shape a system that best fits the needs of UEA students and UEASU, the Counter Culture proposal was given assent by the student body through the final meeting of Union Council on the 14th of May 2025. Union Council was then dissolved.

Over the Summer of 2025, work to implement the new system, called UEA50, was completed. The UEA50 system randomly selects 50 students from across the University population to form the UEA50, the highest democratic body in UEASU, and pays them for their time. UEA50 make decisions on motions submitted by UEA students through the UEASU website that affect the whole Union or university. Surrounding the UEA50 are four sub-committees:

1. Sports
2. Societies
3. Community
4. Education
5. Postgraduate

These open subcommittees make decisions on behalf of policy suggestions that affect those communities alone and meet on average once a month. UEA50 was launched to the student body on the 12th September 2025.

3. First meeting of the UEA50 – 24th October 2025.

The first meeting of the UEA50 took place on Friday 24th October 2025 in the LCR. The meeting was quorate. There was an attendance of 41 members, down from 47 RSVPs due to illness on the day. The following proposals were discussed and debated:

NUS: In or Out? - A proposal on holding a referendum of opinion on UEA(SU)'s membership of the National Union of Students.	UEA50	Rejected	24/10/2025
The SU to stand against the stocking of Nestle products at the shop - A proposal to lobby the University to cease stocking Nestle products in its on campus shop.	UEA50	Passed	24/10/2025
PTO Invisible Disabilities Officer Terminology - A proposal to change the Part-Time Officer for Invisible Disabilities title to "PTO Non-Visible Disabilities"	UEA50	Passed	24/10/2025

The meeting was a pleasant experience for those involved, with all conversation remaining very cordial and productive. A feedback form was sent round after the meeting and actions from the passed proposals were delegated amongst the Career staff team at the SU.

4. Second UEA50 meeting – Friday 13th February 2026.

The second meeting of the UEA50 took place on Friday 13th February in the LCR. The meeting was quorate. There was an attendance of 28 members. For next year's planning, the second meeting will try and avoid exam season to boost engagement. The following proposals were brought to the UEA50.

Restructure of Student Officer Roles at uea(su) - A proposal to reduce the Officer roles at uea(su) and pay all Officers for their time with the saved funds.	UEA50	Approved	13/02/26
Establishment of a Care Experienced and Estranged Students (CEES) Part-Time Officer - A proposal to create a part-time Officer for CEEs students at UEA.	UEA50	Amended and partially approved (view minutes for clarification)	13/02/26

The meeting was again a pleasant experience, with constructive discussion around the proposals.

6. Conclusion

All minutes from the UEA50 meetings are available on the uea(su) website here: [UEA50](#)

So far, the system is proving to be a great success and step-up in terms of student democracy. Over the Summer, the project so far will be evaluated and refined to streamline the process for the coming academic years.