



University of East Anglia Students' Union

Trustee Board Meeting

24th February 2025; 1700

Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Yinbo Yu (YY – Chair), Olivia Hunt (OH – Deputy Chair), Nathan Wyatt (NW), Rebekah Temple-Fielder (RTF), Chris Kershaw (CK), Bhaskar Bukkanahalli Shivanna (BBS), Ali Shaker (AS), Peter Robertson (PR), Kat Iliopoulou (KI)

Apologies: Anwar Azari, Simon George

Attending: Jumara Stone (JS, Chief Executive Officer), Liz Bigalke (LB, Governance and Democracy Coordinator), Tim Cave (TC, Director of Finance – part attendance)

Administration

YY opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

A2: To approve new Trustees

Peter M and Nora are unanimously elected as External and Student Trustee, respectively.

A3: Apologies for Absence

YY noted quoracy was met with 11 voting members present and reminded about confidentiality.

Apologies were received from Anwar Azari and Simon George.

A4: Conflicts of Interest

CK shared that he joined the UEA Senate.

NW shared he joined the UNIPOL Student Advisory Group.

BBS shared he also sits on the UEA Senate.

A5: Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

A6: Chief Executive Officer Report

Following the December meeting, JS met with PR, AA, Yusra, and LB, and they agreed to uphold the original proposal to pause the disciplinary hearing panel with the supervising trustee.

JS praised the UEASU career staff for their achievements during a transitional year, highlighting the success of Welcome Term, HR updates managed with Unison, and ongoing discussions on freedom of speech with NUS and UEA. The Southern SU event was a success, strengthening stakeholder relationships. UEASU's inclusion in UEA's Heart of Campus working group marks a key collaboration. The Union Council motion was implemented for elections, ensuring candidate readiness. JS focus on interfaith work, particularly with Jsoc, will be discussed at the Yad Fellowship conference which she will attend with the SU's Jsoc president Ben Hirschfield.

A7: Officer Reports

Rebekah – Undergraduate Officer

RTF secured £4,500 to fully fund the revived Transforming Education Awards in May. The Lecture Capture Policy was approved, though implementation is delayed until September. She and OH gained insights at the Southern SU event, and despite a delayed Essex meeting due to illness, she is actively developing new ideas.

Bhaskar – Postgraduate Officer

BBS led successful Chinese/Lunar New Year celebrations and postgraduate (PG) community events. He launched a summer experience working group, collaborated with Career Central on PG and international employability, and helped organize a record-breaking PGR social. Planning for PG Fest in June is underway with student input.

Chris – Campaigns and Democracy Officer

CK is organizing around potential UCU strike action and ensuring student awareness. He supported UEASU's first Queer History Conference, advocates for better pharmacy student funding, and is developing a fast fashion campaign. The SU is exploring business ties in solidarity with Palestine, and he has discussed rising right-wing radicalism with the NUS president.

Olivia – Activities and Opportunities Officer

OH is organizing a Reclaim the Night March for International Women's Day and has revamped committee training with a phased approach. She led a welfare officer review, launched a WhatsApp community for societies, and contributed to Mental Health and Climate Week events. She also participated in UEA Sport's kit panel and ran networking sessions at an FTO conference.

Nathan Wyatt – Welfare, Communities and Culture Officer

NW has been lobbying for rental reform, developing a Safe Buses scheme, and planning a 60th-anniversary concert. He expanded the Community Pantry, launched the Gender Expression Fund, and is pushing for lower bus fares. He also joined the UEA Award mentorship scheme to support students.

A8: Annual Accounts and Finance Update

Tim updated on the pension liability increase (■■■■), near-completion of the audit (finalizing by March 17), and a slight financial improvement due to staff vacancies, though a deficit remains. He flagged a potential ■■■■ VAT liability on catering but noted the risk is low. Discussions on deficit reduction include shared spaces with UEA and joint ventures. The SU secured a ■■■■ council grant for the alcohol impact scheme. KI raised concerns about audit timing and financial oversight post-Tim's departure, but he reassured continuity with Counterculture's support. The board is asked to approve a draft document, with final approval delegated to YY and OH.

A9: Waterfront Report

JS secured a break clause for the Waterfront lease, allowing an exit with 12 months' notice at no cost. The agreement includes the garden and a two-month rent-free period. NUASU isn't joining the lease but may collaborate on student use. Chelie, the head of Waterfront, is managing costs, securing event bookings, and creating a promotional brochure. YY suggested closer collaboration between the Waterfront and comms teams for branding consistency.

A10: Union Council Update

CK updated on Union Council activities. OH corrected a byelaw conflict on deadlines, a working group was renamed, and a motion ensured both verbal and written updates. The meeting was dominated by a successful no-confidence vote in the chair, with the deputy chair taking over until a new chair is elected.

A11: Dorothy's Report

JS updated on Dorothy's bar, noting lower sales due to financial pressures but highlighting efforts to boost engagement through SU socials, karaoke, and an upcoming LGBTQ+ club night. NW added that LGBTQ+ History Month events, like a packed drag quiz, were successful but drew customers from Blue Bar. YY raised concerns about postgraduate (PG) students, but JS assured that Dorothy's has become more inclusive. NW noted that PG cohorts change frequently, easing past frustrations. PR emphasized balancing social and financial goals, while JS stressed the bar's value as a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community.

A12: Governance Review Part 2

JS proposed Nick Smith for phase two of the governance review, noting his familiarity with the work, which would speed up the process. While open to other bids, she felt Nick's involvement would be more efficient. PM suggested comparing bids for value but acknowledged Nick's previous positive experience. PR mentioned other options like Advanced HE and Counterculture, but noted they were unavailable or more expensive. The board unanimously approved the governance review with Nick Smith.

A13: U18 Policy

OH shared that the under-18 policy received mostly positive feedback from society leaders, particularly on including under-18s in group chats and mandatory training for all. Some concerns about extra responsibility and risks were raised, but no further discussions were requested. With revisions made by Adam and Yusra, the board unanimously approved the U18 policy.

A15: Warwick Arms Pub

JS updated the board on a potential new off-campus pub opportunity, the Warwick Arms, aimed at diversifying income sources due to declining student club night revenue. The pub, located in a thriving area, could be leased for around [REDACTED] with rent-free months for refurbishments. While there are some risks, the team believes it could be a lucrative venture. Concerns about staffing, competition, and potential impact on the union's reputation were raised, but the board acknowledged the opportunity's potential. After further discussion, the board approved the proposal to allocate [REDACTED] for the project in principle, with continued negotiations on terms.

Action Point: JS to clarify income figures from Andy and email to Board members.

Action Point: JS to speak with agent on a rent reduction, break clause, and 2 months rent free.

Action Point: LB to put together working group for further discussion.