

**1663 Motions to NUS National Conference** adopted by Union Council 12  
February 2015

### **1663 (a) Motion to HE Zone**

#### **“Students aren’t consumers but they do have rights”**

Proposed: Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

Seconded: Theo Antoniou-Phillips (Non-Portfolio Officer)

#### **Conference Believes**

1. Over the past few years Government has tripled HE fees in England yet has done nothing to strengthen students’ rights.
2. The marketization of education has brought with it a flurry of suggestions that students are now consumers.
3. This “students as consumers” approach promised more power to students that has never materialised.
4. Research by “Which?” in 2014 found widespread problems in the practices of HEIs - in poor information and advice, standards for complaints, and exploitative and one sided student contracts.
5. This year the Competition and Markets authority found institutions seriously lacking in their procedures and practices.

#### **Conference Further Believes**

1. “Which?”, the consumers association, campaigns “to make consumers as powerful as the companies they face every day”, and in doing so they work to support individuals with information about their rights, and consumers collectively with campaigns for change.
2. Few of us would argue with the idea that we should campaign to make students as powerful as the universities and colleges they face every day, and in doing so we should work to support students with information about their rights, and students collectively with campaigns for change.
3. Whilst our squeamishness about viewing students as consumers is understandable, it plays into the hands of powerful university and college managers who want to do all they can to retain disproportionate power over students.
4. A smart student movement would say “No” to students as consumers whilst supporting and championing regulation that makes students powerful in the face of well funded, exploitative and highly defensive institutions
5. Often what should be basic student rights are touted as special features of a particular HEI as part of the process of competing with others, or labelled “consumer rights” to put us off arguing for them.
6. That a system of Post qualifications admissions is long overdue, has clear WP benefits and should be imposed by Government as a condition of funding
7. That UCAS should consider offering an institutional switching service for all students after their first term, incentivising institutions to provide a good student experience
8. There should be a statutory duty on HEIs and FEIs to fund and support students' union/independent advocacy for students
9. A new code of Post 16 Governance should be issued guaranteeing student and staff involvement in both the Governance and executive management of Universities and Colleges

10. There should be legal backing for student charters which should exist in every HEI and FEI
11. The Government should introduce regulation for any HEI or FEI charges made to students outside of a main fee- and if there are fees, what students get in exchange for that fees should be subject to clear regulation
12. If there have to be student loans, the terms of repayment should be specified in statute

### **Conference Resolves**

1. To work with the CMA and Which to strengthen students' rights in HEIs and FEIs
2. To mandate the NUS HE Zone to include student protection demands in post election work with political parties
3. To run a major campaign involving SUs calling on these issues to be included in legislation or regulation as soon as possible

521 Words

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## **1663 (b) Looking Past May – Fighting Fees and Cuts After the General Election**

Proposer: Chris Jarvis (Campaigns & Democracy Officer)

Seconder: Liam McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer)

### **Conference Believes:**

1. The current coalition government has presided over devastating economic policy which has seen ruthless cuts to public services, education and welfare.
2. The economic approach of austerity has proven to be a failed model. Since 2010, we have seen rising unemployment, ongoing pay freezes for ordinary workers and millions of people turning to food banks, at a time when the rich have increased their wealth and the public debt has not disappeared.
3. The trebling of tuition fees as well as cuts to education budgets, EMA and support for disabled students have been part of an intentional process of marketization of further and higher education, whereby the aim has been to create a system where a degree is seen as a commodity to be bought, rather than a public good.
4. The political and economic system which has produced these attacks on education and students is the very same one that is overseeing ongoing austerity and the mass privatisation of our public services.
5. Whichever political party wins in May, the outlook is grim – the parties who will be able to win a workable majority or be the largest party in any ensuing coalition are currently wedded to austerity and a market based approach to education.

### **Conference Further Believes:**

1. NUS has a long history of campaigning against fees and cuts, and has played a key role, along with other groups within the student movement in

overturning the proposed privatisation of student debt and delaying cuts to DSA.

2. Working with allies within the student movement, trade unions and other campaign groups, an effective and broad based campaign can be built and sustained to fight and end the marketization of education and austerity policies.
3. It is vitally important that after the General Election, we continue to campaign in this vein. Whoever wins in May, they must be held to account and as a movement we must continue the campaign against fees and cuts.

#### **Conference Resolves:**

1. To continue to campaign aggressively against the marketization of education and austerity.
2. To work with allies within trade unions, NGOs and campaign groups to this end.
3. To support and call localised days of action on campuses throughout the year to co-ordinate the fight against tuition fees, austerity cuts and a marketised education system.
4. To call a national demonstration to end austerity and for free education in the Autumn term.

426 words

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#### **Motion to HE Zone**

#### **1663 (c) Bad organisation and management makes for a bad student experience**

**Proposer:** Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

**Seconded:** Dan Wrigglesworth (LGBT+ Officer)

#### **Conference Believes**

1. In the NSS, the "organisation and management" category comes out as a consistent concern for students.
2. O&M on a course underpins the entire academic experience – it directly affects students' ability to learn.
3. Problems with organisation and management are stressful and distracting for students.
4. Conversely, when a course is well organised and running smoothly, students can concentrate on their studies rather than having to focus time and energy on administrative issues.
5. High-quality organisation and management facilitates positive relationships between staff and students by eliminating unnecessary points of conflict and dissatisfaction.

6. Good organisation and management promotes widening participation.

### **Conference Further Believes**

1. The choice to study part-time or to enter higher education as a mature student or a student with caring responsibilities is often determined by factors such as a timetable that is amenable to balancing study with other responsibilities.
2. Other issues like placements and assessment "spacing" all impact on the student experience. Too often these decisions are reached without input from students and with the needs of the institution, not students, at the forefront.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. Student officers and reps need advice and support on the issues that directly matter to students.
2. O&M is an area where guidance and bargaining support from NUS on good practice can enable reps and officers to campaigns for a real difference that will directly impact on students.
3. This is the sort of thing that trade unions do all the time on issues, terms and conditions impacting on workers- it is the sort of thing NUS should do on educational issues.
4. To mandate the VP Higher Education to develop bargaining resources for SU officers and reps on organisation and management issues in 15/16.
5. To commit to researching and issuing a wider, regular programme of bargaining resources and to monitor wins that unions have when using them.

Word Count: 307

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### **1663 (d) Amendment to 301 "Supporting for Success" Welfare Zone Motion**

Proposer: H Staynor (Welfare, Diversity and Community Officer).

Seconder: C Jarvis (Campaigns & Democracy Officer)

#### **Add amendment**

#### **Conference Believes**

As the demand for Student support services increase, institutions should review resourcing annually to ensure that advertised services are delivered and that student expectations are met.

Institutions should ensure the full complement of services is offered throughout the year including vacation periods.

#### **Conference Resolves**

To call on institutions to ensure that staff who manage appeals and complaint procedures are aware of how the provision of support services can be the vital lifeline for many students.

To call on institutions to conduct a detailed analysis of support service usage and relate it to access and retention.

To call on institutions to commit to ensuring that financial support lost when the Access to Learning Fund was scrapped are replaced by the institution and that allocation criteria are open and transparent, ensuring that Union officers are be part of the review of how funds are spent each year.

Word Count 143

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### **1668 Dodgy Sugar in my Dodgy Coffee (Starbucks and Tate & Lyle Boycott)** passed 12 February 2015

Proposer: Sam Jones (PSI 2<sup>nd</sup> Year) (Kinversam@hotmail.com)

Seconder: Yan Malinowski (Liberal Democrats)

#### **This Union Notes:**

1. Starbucks paid just £8.6m in corporation tax in the UK over 14 years and nothing in the last four years - despite sales of £400m last year. Total Starbucks sales in the UK amounted to £3 Bn since 2000, resulting in an effective corporation tax rate of 0.286%
2. Tate & Lyle Sugar Group declared £379m profit from their UK sales figures in 2013, but £0 in profits from their UK arm, giving an effective 0% corporation tax rate.
3. A Tate & Lyle Executive has stated that 'Tate & Lyle has minimal revenue-generating operations in the UK'
4. The standard UK corporation tax rate on profits over £300,000 is 21%.
5. While Starbucks is currently banned from advertising within Union House or the Union itself, the union shop currently stocks pre-packaged Starbucks iced coffee drinks.
6. Tate and Lyle Granulated Sugar, Icing Sugar and Demerara Sugar are currently sold in the Union Shop.
7. That the issue of tax avoidance by corporations and rich individuals has become a major political issue since 2010, and that tax avoidance by corporations has been estimated at £4.1bn by the Treasury and at up to £12bn by campaigners.

8. That the UK government is using lack of tax revenue as a reason to cut public Services, including tripling tuition fees to £9,000 in 2012.

9. That Policy 1436 already resolves to refuse to 'host, any branch of', 'refuse advertising space to' or refuse 'access to Union House or other union-owned premises' to any companies that engage in tax avoidance or evasion (Resolves 1,2 and 3, Policy 1436, November 2013).

### **This Union Believes:**

1. That tax avoidance is immoral as it deprives the state of democratically set revenue that could be used to fund higher education, the National Health Service, emergency services and other public services.

2. That companies who promote or engage in tax avoidance or evasion are engaging in an immoral practice.

3. That public pressure has already contributed to making tax avoidance a major political issue, convincing companies to address their avoidance and government to focus more on the issue. However, in this case the government's action so far does not go nearly far enough to address the issue, and so the need for public pressure remains.

4. That we must wholeheartedly condemn tax avoidance/evasion, and endeavour to use alternative services and products where reasonable, and aim not to contribute the profits of such companies whenever feasible.

### **The Union Resolves:**

1. To remove all Starbucks products from the Union Shop and any other Union sales and services, once existing stocks have been sold, and find alternative products if necessary at the discretion of staff.

2. To remove all Tate & Lyle products from the Union shop and from any other Union sales and services, once existing stocks have been sold, and replace with products from the co-op, or any other appropriate replacement, at the discretion of staff.

3. To mandate the Campaigns and Democracy officer and/or the Ethical Issues officer to publicise the withdrawal of these products at a university and wider level, in order to increase public pressure on such companies to comply with the spirit, as well as the technicalities of UK tax law, and pay reasonable amounts of tax on the profits they make in the UK.

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**1669 (a) Reduction of Taught Programme Modules** passed 12 Feb 15

Proposer: Liam McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer)

Seconded: Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

### **Union Notes**

1. Learning and Teaching Committee recently approved a policy that seeks to reduce the number of taught modules with less than a specified number of students enrolled.
2. The number of students that are specified for a module to be 'financially viable' is 10.
3. That many existing courses, particularly at PGT level, contain modules with fewer than 10 students.
4. That the specified number for 'financially viable' modules applies to all schools at all levels, regardless of the number of students in that school or the variation in cost for running individual modules.

### **Union Believes**

1. The reduction in modules to only the most popular will lead to a more homogenised selection of modules available.
2. Many students value choice in modules, and the ability to specialise in niche or specialist subject areas.
3. That any calculation of what is 'viable' for each school should factor in the size of the school, as well considering if modules are vital to offering a holistic course provision.
4. Reduction in modules for PGT will lead to many courses being slashed.
5. Course programmes should be designed to provide a broad range of options to provide rounded education, and not dictated by the market.
6. This policy is a direct consequence of the government drive to marketise the higher education sector, with the outcome being an educational system based on the needs of the market or 'financially viable', rather than providing education for its own sake.

### **Union Resolves**

1. To request that the university review the procedures with reference the above points.
  2. To ensure that where modules are closed, that it is done through proper evidencing and with extensive student consultation.
  3. To demand the university put in place adequate measures to ensure that students on modules due to be closed are protected and that they are not adversely affected.
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**1669 (b) Amendment to the Byelaws – Election Regulations** passed 12 Feb 15

Proposer: Chris Jarvis (Campaigns & Democracy Officer)

Seconder: Holly Staynor (Welfare, Diversity and Community Officer)

**Union Notes:**

1. Our current election rules have not been updated for a long time.
2. The election rules at present are particularly rigid and offer little flexibility or interpretation for a DRO or RO.
3. Some of the rules listed are no longer fit for purpose – e.g. we no longer use a physical ballot paper for voting.
4. Our constitution and byelaws are at present burdensome and lengthy, and are not easily accessible documents for most students to use.

**Union Believes:**

1. The lack of room for interpretation from a DRO and RO in the election rules make for a less effective, accessible election process.
2. Strict election rules being laid out in the constitution and byelaws are unnecessary as this can be compensated for by effective candidate training and are more readily amended by a Deputy Returning Officer from year to year based on what works and what does not.
3. That having rules related to election processes that are no longer used by the organisation and are anachronistic (such as physical ballot papers) does not represent a functioning governing document.
4. Many practices that would be restricted by our existing electoral rules are very difficult to police and enforce and therefore open a DRO to substantial challenge from candidates if judgements appear unevenly spread.
5. Slimming down the governing documents, while not removing their efficacy is an important step in making the internal practices of UUEAS more accessible to more students.

**Union Resolves:**

1. To delete byelaws 4.1 to 4.41 and replace with the following, renumbering accordingly:

**Bye-Law 4: Election Regulations Pursuant to the Constitution**

These are the rules governing the election of Student Officers, Equal Opportunities Officers, Course Representatives, Union Council Representatives and delegates to the NUS National Conference.

## **Rules governing the election of Student Officers and the NUS National Conference Delegates.**

### **Returning Officer**

4.1 The Returning Officer shall be a suitably qualified person external to the University of East Anglia, appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Union of UEA Students and formally approved by the University Registrar. The Returning Officer shall be ultimately responsible for the election.

4.2 The Returning Officer shall monitor the actions of the Deputy Returning Officer, who shall be appointed by the Student Officer Committee and cannot be an ordinary member of the Union, for each election, and will determine any complaint relating to the conduct of the election where appropriate.

4.3 The Returning Officer, and the Deputy Returning Officer, shall undertake any duties necessary to ensure the fair and proper conduct of the elections.

4.4 The Returning Officer shall publish a list of any election rules or interpretations and the timeline for each election in advance of the election taking place having taken advice from the Deputy Returning Officer and the Democratic Procedures Committee.

4.5 The Returning Officer has executive responsibility for interrupting the election regulations and other bye-laws which may impact on the election. They will not normally have "day-to-day" interaction with candidates however retain powers to intervene in the election alongside acting as the final route of appeal for candidates.

4.6 The Deputy Returning Officer will have the delegated powers from the Returning Officer to issue rulings and warning to those taking part in the election in relation to the election regulations and other bye-laws.

4.7 The Deputy Returning Officer shall be responsible for ensuring there is support and guidance provided to candidates and potential candidates wishing to take part in the elections. The details of this support and guidance should be advertised in advance of the election period.

4.8 During the course of the election period additional support may be called on to ensure elections are well run and administered correctly. The Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer have the discretion to introduce other election officials to provide this.

### **Principles of a Union of UEA Students Election and Rules**

4.9 All elections taking place at the Union of UEA Students shall be: fair and open, democratic, accessible and transparent.

4.10 A timetable for the election period will be set out by the Deputy Returning Officer, on advice from the Student Officer Committee and Democratic Procedures Committee and made available to members in advance of the

election period. All voting figures will be published in good time after the election closes.

4.11 The Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officer will publish election campaigning rules, on advice from the Student Officer Committee and Democratic Procedures Committee, that adhere to these principles in advance of the close of nominations for an election.

4.12 It is the role of the Returning Officer, and Deputy Returning Officer, to ensure these principles and the subsequently adopted rules are upheld. Where it is felt that these adopted rules are not being upheld by a candidate the Returning Officer, on advice from their Deputy, make take the following action:

4.12.1 the disqualification of a candidate or candidates from the election

4.12.2 that promotional materials (including but not limited to posters, flyers and online materials) contravening the regulations be removed.

4.12.3 that publicity be displayed at any fixed Union polling stations and online giving details of an infringement,

4.12.4 a re-election, starting the election process at any stage

4.12.5 a re-vote, which shall mean all the election stages which follow completion of nominations, and shall not include the reopening of nominations

4.12.6 the non-payment of a campaign expenses claim

4.13 The Deputy Returning Officer has the power, devolved from the Returning Officer, to issue warnings to candidates in the election and should set out in these warnings the action which shall follow if they are not heeded which could be any of the above.

4.14 The Deputy Returning Officer has the power, devolved from the Returning Officer, to suspend a candidate from the election pending the outcome of an investigation into an alleged breach of rules. During this period, the candidate is not permitted to actively campaign or discuss publicly the reasons for their suspension.

4.15 In a Referendum, there shall be boxes for "Votes For", "Votes Against" and "Abstention"

4.16 The Question for the Referendum shall be determined by the body that calls the referendum, as outlined in Bye-Law 1.3, subject to its approval by Management Committee who shall rule on the wording, being careful to avoid loaded questions. In the case of a petition, students should propose a question for Management Committee's approval before the petition is launched.

4.17 These principles and rules will be kept under review to enable and maximise participation in elections and measures to restrict activity of candidates and campaigns to ensure fairness, and to this effect the Deputy Returning Officer will make recommendations in their Annual Report to the Union Council on adaptations.

## **Standing in the Election and Campaigning**

4.18 Members wishing to stand as a candidate in any election will be required to complete and supply to the Deputy Returning Officer all relevant nomination material in advance of the close of nominations.

4.19 Where possible manifestos or their equivalent will be promoted via student media. It is the responsibility of the Deputy Returning Officer to organise this and no individual candidate should attempt to promote themselves in any Union run student media.

4.20 An opportunity will be provided to members to ask question to the candidates standing in the election. The rules for taking part in this will be developed by the Deputy Returning Officer and made available to candidates in advance of the event.

4.21 Candidates accept any terms and conditions of employment relating to the post at the point of nomination by completing the relevant nomination form.

4.22 Any candidate may withdraw their nomination by informing the Deputy Returning Officer and the Returning Officer, in writing, at any point.

4.23 Whereas candidates may well adopt similar policy stances and use similar publicity materials to other candidates, no candidate shall use publicity to promote another candidate, in the same or other election.

4.24 Should any member have objections regarding the eligibility of any candidates these should be made in writing to the Deputy Returning Officer in advance of the voting period opening.

## **The Ballot Paper**

4.25 In any election where there are any nominations the ballot paper shall include the statement "Re-open Nominations" (RON). RON will be treated like any other candidate and as such will have a campaign budget equal to the other candidates, will have their votes counted in the same manner and will fall under the same disciplinary actions as the other candidates. If at any stage of the count RON candidate gains the required number of votes to be elected, it shall be deemed to have been elected and any surplus and any further votes, transferred to a further RON candidate. This stage shall be repeated as often as required. The returning officer shall declare unfilled the number of vacancies equal to the number of 're-open nominations' candidates deemed to have been elected, if any.

## **Voting**

4.26 Votes shall be cast by Single Transferable Vote.

4.27 Candidates and their representatives shall not attempt to bully or intimidate a member into voting for a particular candidate or preference. As such, they must not approach any member who in the process of casting their vote.

## **Complaints and Results**

4.28 Any complaint on the conduct of the election or of any violation of these Regulations must be made in writing to the Deputy Returning Officer prior to the count, except where the complaint relates to the conduct of the count itself. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the resolution of the Deputy Returning Officer, or the Deputy Returning Officer is the subject of the complaint, the complainant may make the complaint in writing to the Returning Officer whose ruling shall be final.

4.29 All election results shall be reported, by the Deputy Returning Officer to the next meeting of Union Council.

## **The Count**

4.30 The count shall be supervised by the Returning Officer or their nominee

4.31 The Count should be conducted in accordance with rules outlined by the Electoral Reform Society for running elections by Single Transferable Vote.

4.32 Complaints about the count must be made in writing to the Returning Officer no later than one working day after the announcement of the result.

4.33 The results of the election will only come into effect once the Returning Officer has certified that the result is the accurate outcome of a free and fair democratic procedure.

4.34 A count shall only commence once all complaints and appeals about campaigners have been resolved.

4.35 The count should commence only after the Deputy Returning Officer is satisfied that all complaints relating to the conduct and administration of the election have been resolved.

4.36 All election results shall be reported, by the Deputy Returning Officer to the next meeting of Union Council.

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**1670 Motion to amend policy 1398 (Motion to boycott the sale of 'The Sun' and 'The Daily Star' from Union Outlets, passed 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013)**  
passed 12 Feb 15

Proposer – Asia Patel (Norwich Nightline)

Seconder – Chris Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer)

## **Union Notes:**

1. That policy 1398 covers details regarding The Sun but not the Daily Star.
2. That the Daily Star also publishes daily photos of topless women on their page three and their newspaper content is very similar to that of The Sun.

### **Union Believes:**

1. That UUEAS should not be selective when applying policies to the union outlets.
2. That the Daily Star is as problematic as the Sun and should be treated the same.

### **Union Resolves:**

1. To change Union Notes 1 to read "That UUEAS outlets stock newspapers like The Sun and The Daily Star. These newspapers publish daily photos of topless young women."
2. To add a Union Notes 3 which reads "That studies have shown links between viewing sexualised images, images objectifying women and normalising aggressive behaviours (*Government-Commissioned Sexualisation of Young People Review*, Dr Linda Papadopoulos, Feb 2010). Other studies have shown that rape myths and beliefs which condone violence are more accepted by young adults who are exposed to sexualised and objectifying content (Kalof, 1999; Lanis and Covell, 1995; Milburn *et al.*, 2000; Ward, 2002)."
3. To change Union Notes 4 to read "That figures range from 30,000 women being sexually assaulted and 60,000 raped each year to 1 in 4 who have been sexually assaulted."
4. To add section under Union Notes (section 5 under the amended motion) which reads "That UUEAS has a zero-tolerance against sexual harassment and sexual assault."
5. To add a Union Notes 6 which reads "That the Never Okay campaign and the Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign (SAAC) are currently active and trying to stop cases of sexual assault/harassment."
6. To change Union Notes 7 to read "That the Sun and The Daily Star often post controversial headlines perpetuating the oppression of mentally ill, disabled, and LGBT+ people, and ethnic minorities, such as in 7th October's headline '1,000 Killed by Mental Patients' (<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5183994/1200>, The Sun) or The Daily Star's 'Muslim thugs aged just 12 in knife attack on Brit school boy' of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010."
7. To change Union Notes 8 to read "Other Students' Unions including Leeds Metropolitan, Nottingham and Bradford have decided to withdraw the sale of the Sun and the Daily Star in their own outlets."
8. To add in a section under Union Believes (section 1 under the amended motion) which reads "That sexualised images belong in their rightful place such as pornography, and not in newspapers."

9. To change Union Believes 2 to read "Stocking 'The Sun and The Daily Star' is contrary to UUEAS aims of upholding values of equality for all, and of zero tolerance of sexual harassment and sexual assault in conjunction with the currently occurring campaigns."
10. To add in a section under Union Believes (section 3 under the amended motion) which reads "That women are unequally represented in the Sun and in the Daily Star with their worth based on their appearance whereas men are reported based on their achievements."
11. To change Union Believes 5 to read "That The Sun and The Daily Star have accompanying context and content which could be considered as humiliating. Namely the patronising 'news in brief section' which openly mocks the idea that an attractive women may for example read Nietzsche or have whatever intellectual pursuits that the reporters choose to juxtapose against the image on that day. Additionally these images are the largest representation of a women in the 60 pages of The Sun."
12. To change Union Notes 6 to be Union Believes 6.
13. To change Union Resolves 1 to read "UEA should follow other universities and end the sale of The Sun and The Daily Star newspapers in UEA shops in support of gender equality."
14. To change Union Resolves 2 to read "To inform News International and the Editor of the Sun and of the Daily Star of this policy."

**1398 Motion to boycott the sale of 'The Sun' and 'The Daily Star' from Union Outlets (with amendments)** Passed 24 October 13

Proposer – Rachel Knott (Women's Officer)

Seconder – Louisa Kennard (Feminist Society)

**Union Notes:**

15. That UUEAS outlets stock newspapers like The Sun and The Daily Star. These newspapers publish daily photos of topless young women.
16. That UUEAS seeks to uphold the values of equality and diversity of its members.
17. That studies have shown links between viewing sexualised images, images objectifying women and normalising aggressive behaviours (*Government-Commissioned Sexualisation of Young People Review*, Dr Linda Papadopoulos, Feb 2010)<sup>[1]</sup>. Other studies have shown that rape myths and beliefs which condone violence are more accepted by young adults who are exposed to sexualised and objectifying content (Kalof, 1999; Lanis and Covell, 1995; Milburn *et al.*, 2000; Ward, 2002)<sup>[2]</sup>.
18. That figures range from 30,000 women being sexually assaulted and 60,000 raped each year to 1 in 4 who have been sexually assaulted.
19. That UUEAS has a zero-tolerance against sexual harassment and sexual assault.

20. That the Never Okay campaign and the Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign (SAAC) are currently active and trying to stop cases of sexual assault/harassment.
21. That the Sun and The Daily Star often post controversial headlines perpetuating the oppression of mentally ill, disabled, and LGBT+ people, and ethnic minorities, such as in 7th October's headline '1,000 Killed by Mental Patients' (<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5183994/1200>, The Sun) or The Daily Star's 'Muslim thugs aged just 12 in knife attack on Brit school boy' of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010.
22. Other Students' Unions including Leeds Metropolitan, Nottingham and Bradford have decided to withdraw the sale of the Sun and the Daily Star in their own outlets.

### **Union Believes:**

1. That sexualised images belong in their rightful place such as pornography, and not in newspapers.
2. Stocking 'The Sun and The Daily Star' is contrary to UUEAS aims of upholding values of equality for all, and of zero tolerance of sexual harassment and sexual assault in conjunction with the currently occurring campaigns.
3. That women are unequally represented in the Sun and in the Daily Star with their worth based on their appearance whereas men are reported based on their achievements.
4. Action taken in collaboration with other Students' Unions and campaign groups is an effective method of affecting change in institutions.
5. That The Sun and The Daily Star have accompanying context and content which could be considered as humiliating. Namely the patronising 'news in brief section' which openly mocks the idea that an attractive women may for example read Nietzsche or have whatever intellectual pursuits that the reporters choose to juxtapose against the image on that day. Additionally these images are the largest representation of a women in the 60 pages of The Sun.
6. That many UUEAS' members believe features like The Sun's Page Three promotes a racist conception of beauty. In the 42 years that page three has been running, there have only been four black women featured.

### **Union Resolves:**

1. UEA should follow other universities and end the sale of The Sun and The Daily Star newspapers in UEA shops in support of gender equality.
2. To inform News International and the Editor of the Sun and of the Daily Star of this policy.

## Endnotes:

[1] <http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/10738/1/sexualisation-young-people.pdf>

[2]

<http://www.wondercatdesign.com/mecasa/images/pdfs/harms%20of%20porn%20exposure-%202009.pdf>

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## 1671 'No More Nukes' – Support the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament passed 12 Feb 15

Proposer: Josh Wilson, Ethical Issues Officer

Seconder: Holly Staynor, Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer

### Union notes that:

1. The British government intends to replace Trident, its current nuclear weapons system.
2. Estimates for the cost of a replacement over its 30 year lifespan are in excess of £100 billion.<sup>1</sup>
3. Public opinion remains consistently against the replacement of Britain's nuclear weapons<sup>2</sup>, while senior military figures say that it is 'completely useless' in modern warfare<sup>3</sup>.
4. The recent economic crisis has prompted massive cuts to public spending, with tuition fees lifted to £9000 and 1 in 10 libraries closing<sup>4</sup>. Meanwhile, the number of people using food banks has tripled over the past year alone<sup>5</sup>.
5. A single Trident missile is capable of delivering a payload of 100 megatons, in excess of 5 times more powerful than the bomb that killed at least 100,000 at Hiroshima.
6. The UK is a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); replacing the Trident system would be in direct contravention of the obligations established under it.

### Union believes that:

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.cnduk.org/campaigns/no-to-trident>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1286199/David-Cameron-told-Heres-37bn-cuts-started.html>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2009/jan/16/trident-is-20bn-waste-say-generals>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.voicesforthelibrary.org.uk/campaigns/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-library-closurescampaigns/>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.trusselltrust.org/stats>

1. At a time of widespread economic hardship, government spending should not prioritise a weapon of mass destruction that we cannot afford.
2. The money intended to be spent on Trident could be put to better use, for safeguarding our NHS, abolishing tuition fees, or funding the construction of new, affordable homes.
3. The use of nuclear weapons in any circumstance would be fundamentally wrong, since their only capability is indiscriminate killing of a civilian population and instilling terror.
4. The UK should fulfil its obligations as a signatory to the NPT.

**Union resolves to:**

1. Maintain an active stance against nuclear weapons and the replacement of Trident.
  2. Support students taking action against nuclear weapons, including facilitating students attending marches and demonstrations.
  3. Publish a statement expressing this.
  4. Become a signatory to Rethink Trident, calling on the government to cancel Trident replacement.
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**1672 Quality Assurance Agency Student Submission** passed 12 Feb 15

Proposer: Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

Seconder: Liam McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer)

**Council notes**

1. That in October 2015 UEA is to be reviewed by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).
2. That QAA reviews occur approximately every six years.
3. That as part of the review, the Union have been asked to prepare a Student Submission which sets out student views on the quality of the university's education.

**Council believes**

1. That the Student Submission offers an opportunity to improve the quality of students' education at UEA.
2. That the Student Submission should be representative of the views and experiences of all UEA students.

### **Council resolves**

1. To mandate the UG Education Officer and the PG Education Officer to carry out consultation with UEA students as part of the preparation of the Student Submission.
2. That the Student Submission be submitted to Council for comment prior to its submission to the QAA.

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### **1673 Merged schools** passed 12 Feb 15

Proposer: Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

Seconder: Liam McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer)

#### **Union Notes:**

1. That on August 1<sup>st</sup> UEA restructured some of its schools to form three 'Super Schools'.
2. That the Students' Union has produced a paper outlining the problems of the school merger.

#### **Union Believes:**

1. That students in these merged schools have had their experience disrupted by administrative changes.
2. That student representation in these schools has been disrupted due to changes to the SSLCs.
3. That students were assured that this merger would not affect their student experience and this has not been the case.
4. That the University should continue to work with the Students' Union and Student Reps to ensure a smooth transition during any administrative changes.

#### **Union Resolves:**

1. To continue to work with the University to ensure the experience in merged schools is of a high standard.
2. To ensure that the University consults UUEAS fully in any future large administrative changes.

3. To review the merged schools in light of the merged school report at the end of the 2014/15 academic year to ensure the student experience has been restored.

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**1674 Fair Trade University** passed 12 Feb 15

Proposer: Josh Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer)

Seconder: Frith Dunkley (UEA Young Greens Society)

### **Union Notes**

1. Fair Trade fortnight begins on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.
2. Fair Trade is a certification given to goods by the Fair Trade Foundation which has a variety of minimum standards required in areas such as the treatment and pay of hired labour and trading price.
3. The Fair Trade Foundation aims to secure a more sustainable and equitable pricing systems for all those involved in global supply chains of various goods. With the goal of reducing the risk of those involved in these supply chains from falling into poverty.
4. Universities are also able to gain the Fair Trade University accreditation by stocking as many Fair Trade products as possible, promoting Fair Trade to their students and both the Student Union and University having a Fair Trade policy.
5. In the Green League produced by People and Planet released recently UEA scored 0% on sections related to Fair Trade.

### **Union Believes**

1. Fair Trade makes a positive impact to people around the globe.
2. The Union should support the Fair Trade Foundation in its goals.

### **Union Resolves**

1. To stock Fair Trade alternatives to products where possible in all Union outlets.
  2. To ensure all clothing procured by the Union is Fair Trade.
  3. To lobby the University to also adopt a Fair Trade policy.
  4. To work towards getting Fair Trade University accreditation.
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