

Meeting:	Student Officer Committee
Date:	Thursday 23 April 2015
Time:	5.00 pm
Location:	Committee Room 1, the Council House
Code:	SOC 1404

- 1404 Statements from the Chair**
- 1405 Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015**
(See pages 2-5)
- 1406 Matters Arising**
- 1407 Action Log**
(See page 6)
- 1408 Campaigns' Budget Update**
(See page 7)
- 1409 Anti-Austerity Demo**
A funding request from the PG Education Officer.
(See pages 8-9)
- 1410 General Election Polling Day Publicity**
A funding request from the Campaigns and Democracy Officer.
(See pages 10-11)
- 1411 Decisions made by Union Council**
(See pages 12-29 for policies passed on 16 April)
- 1412 Officer Go Around/Reports**
- 1413 Reports on Priority Campaigns/Projects Any Other Business**
- 1414 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting**
To note the next meeting will be held at 5.00 pm on 30 April in Committee Room 1, the Council House.

Minutes

Subject:	Student Officer Committee Minutes
Date:	Thursday, 12 March 2015
Paper:	SOC 1405
Author:	Tony Moore
Purpose:	To approve

Key Discussions

- Part Time Officer Handover
- Budget Setting

Key Actions

- Joint SOC meeting of incoming and outgoing PTOs to be organised
- Half day handover event for PTOs to be organised

Union of UEA Students Purpose:

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"

Minutes of the Student Officer Committee

12 March 2015

Voting Members present:

Yinbo Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer), S Glakousaki (International Officer), Freddie Redfern (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Max Levene (Students with Disabilities Officer), Josh Wilson (Ethical issues Officer), Liam McCafferty (PG Education Officer), Chris Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), Tom Etheridge (Non Portfolio Officer), Theo Antoniou Phillips (Non Portfolio Officer), Dan Wrigglesworth (LGBT+ Officer), Iain Goddard (Environment Officer), Dolly Ogunrinde (Women's Officer), Connor Rand (UG Education Officer), T Liz Cody (Non Portfolio Officer).

Chair

Holly Staynor (Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer)

Non-Voting Member present:

Jim Dickinson (Postgraduate Education Officer)

In attendance:

Toby Cunningham (Deputy Chief Executive).

Apologies:

Tom Southerden (Non Portfolio Officer), Josh Clare (Head of Student Engagement), Tony Moore (Democracy and Governance Coordinator), John Taylor (Mature Students' Officer), David Hall (Postgraduate Officer).

1393 Statements from the Chair

There were none.

1394 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2015

The minutes of this meeting were approved.

1395 Matters Arising

C Jarvis noted that Management Committee minutes had not been circulated prior to the meeting as noted in the agenda

Chair noted that this matter would be followed up and the papers published on the website.

1396 Action Log

Chair noted that there had been progress on most of the items.

1397 Part Time Officer Handover

SOC discussed the possible content for any handover sessions.

SOC agreed that:

- *There would be a joint SOC meeting of incoming and outgoing PTOs*
- *Outgoing PTOs to come to April meeting of Council*
- *Chair to send a Doodle Poll to find out outgoing and incoming PTOs' availability for a half-day handover event. The handover event to include: a feedback session for PTOs on how they might be better supported, guidance on the constitution and SU structure, skills training, info on SU and University contacts and a SOC social.*

1398 Budget Setting Exercise

Chair noted that, if the SU's request to the University for increased funding, there might be a need to spend less and it would be helpful for the Trustees if SOC were to give them a steer as to where spending might be reduced.

SOC conducted an exercise to match provision of resources for SU's activities with attainment of the SU's core objectives.

SOC discussed the approach to be adopted in negotiation with the University for increased funding.

I Goddard asked as to why there had not been earlier consultation with SOC.

J Dickinson advised as to the difficulties of fitting consultation on the budget in to the present model where Union Council, the legislative body, did not meet for six months of the year.

SOC discussed the logistics of calling an emergency meeting of Union Council, before the next meeting between the FTOs and the University, and concluded this would not be practicable.

1399 Decisions made by Union Council

Due to the length of discussion on the previous item, consideration of implementation of policies passed by Council was postponed until the next meeting.

1400 Officer Go Round/Reports

S Glakousaki and T Etheridge made short reports

1401 Reports on Priority Campaigns/Projects/AOB

There were

1402 Management Committee Minutes

See Matters Arising.

1403 Time, Date and Place

To be confirmed.

SOC Action Log for 23 April 15

Date Commissioned	Action Required	Status	Assigned To:	Date to be actioned by:
16 October 14	Letter to be send to NUS concerning trans-exclusion in election regulations	Liaising with NUS	Holly, Dan, Dolly	Nov 14
16 October 14	Public statement to be made on DSA Cuts in collaboration with NUA and City College	Liaising with University over joint declaration with NUA/City	Holly, Max, Chris	Nov 14
26 February 15	Updated set of campaign budgets to be brought to a future meeting.	Agenda	Josh	30 April 15
26 February 15	Proposed amendment on the Referendum Bye-Laws to be brought Council.	To be brought to Council	Chris	16 Apr 15
26 February 15	Some signage in the Shop as to information on product boycotts.	Signs to be in position	Chris/Alex	End of March
12 March 15	Referendum on change of Ethnic Minorities Officer job title	Referendum to be called	Josh/Holly	End of May

Ongoing Actions

Date Commissioned	Action Required	Status	Assigned To:	Date :
5 June 14/2 October/23 Oct	Constitutionality of reserved places on Union Council for Rep Organisers to be investigated	Proposal to brought to SOC from Student Engagement	Chris	
16 October 14	University to be lobbied over student accommodation in city centre	Lobbying continuing	Holly	
26 February 15	Officers to, in future, submit short written reports on policy implementation to be included in the SOC agenda papers	Ongoing	All	

Recorded granted Funding Requests to SOC 14-15

18 September	£100 for attendance at the lobby of the UKIP national conference.
2 October	the revised figure of £2,200 on publicity and coaches for the TUC demo and to the associated Action Plan for the event. Overall Campaign Budget agreed
6 November	Reported spend of £650 on attending the TUC Demo
4 December	General Election Student Manifesto £1,500
15 January	£400 World Cafe £200 International Women's Day of which £100 to come from Liberations Budget; increased liberations budget from £100 to £150
5 February	Standing OUT LGBTQIA Women in Leadership; the amount requested was £100
26 February	UEA Palestine Solidarity Campaign £150 from Campaigns

Facebook requests approved by SOC-

£173.35- Black Students winter conference

£120- Mature student Christmas Get-together

£62- NUS women's campaign activist network.

Project/Campaign Title: Anti-Austerity Demo

Amount of money requested: £400

Budget requested from: General Campaigns

Details of project (500 words max)

In response to the most recent budget, with a letter published in the Guardian, Trade Unions, MPs, campaigns & economists, have called for the biggest mobilisation possible against austerity at the People's Assembly national demonstration on Saturday 20 June. UUEAS has policy to support action against cuts, to support the Student Assembly, as well as an affiliation to the local People's Assembly.

Given that this is out of term time, it is unlikely we would be able to fill a coach from UEA. We can however part-fund a coach with the Norfolk People's Assembly to provide free places for students. The amount above is roughly half the cost of a coach.

How will this benefit our members? (300 words max)

Number of members directly benefited:

Number of members benefited by extension:

How will you ensure this benefits hard to reach/liberation/underrepresented groups? (300 words max)

Project/Campaign Title: General Election Polling Day Publicity

**Amount of money requested: £450
(£320 for stickers, £130 for banner)**

Budget requested from: Priority Campaigns

Details of project (500 words max)

Along with a range of other activities in the run up to and on polling day, we are looking to run a lot of publicity around voting, to maximise turnout on the day. Thus far we have focussed on voter registration, now we need to focus on voter turnout.

This request is for a giant General Election banner for the square, as well as 2,000 'I have voted' stickers for distribution on polling day.

While a chunk of our General Election publicity has come from funding we have been awarded through NUS, either through their own fund, or through Cabinet Officer money. Goats for Votes, smoothies, our general election t-shirts and our giant ballot box on polling day are all funded externally.

However, the manifestos were funded in house, as they wouldn't pass the required criteria for cabinet office or NUS funding, due them being explicitly 'political'. Likewise, the remaining funding we have from the Cabinet Office would not be able to be spent on polling day stickers, and so must come from internal budgets.

How will this benefit our members? (300 words max)

As part of a massive 'get the vote out' exercise on polling day itself, we'll be helping to ensure that as many students as possible remember to turnout to vote.

This will help deliver a General Election result that is reflective of student views. In doing so, we can collaboratively deliver the change that students want to see through the ballot box.

How will you ensure this benefits hard to reach/liberation/underrepresented groups? (300 words max)

Throughout our campaign for the General Election, we have held activities across campus, including in places that are frequented by students we often failed to engage with, including in the Edith Cavell Building and the Queens building. In addition, we have specifically targeted international students, many of whom are unaware that they are able to vote in the election.

We will seek to continue to deliver a broad based campaign on polling day with these materials.

Policies passed by Council 16 April 16

1707 More than a rainbow flag

Passed 16 April 15

Proposer: Daniel Wrigglesworth (PSI undergraduate rep)

Secunder: Theo Antoniou-Phillips (LGBT+ officer)

Union Notes:

1. That Loft is currently the only night club offering a student night out for LGBT+ students in Norwich and it isn't accessible for disabled students.
2. UEA Pride has become more visible over the last year and seen more members join and get involved in the LGBT+ community
3. There is a need for an accessible LGBT+ night in the student union.
4. The student union should host events through LGBT History month to raise awareness of LGBT+ students and to make the union a more inclusive place.

Union Believes:

1. The diverse student body UEA SU is best served by ensuring that the social needs of all students are catered to within the locality of The University.
2. The creation of a LGBT+ club nights on campus is essential for an accessible night out for LGBT+ students
3. An event without gender neutral toilets' is not accessible for all LGBT+ individuals.

Union Resolves:

1. To mandate UEA SU to introduce a LGBT+ club night, working with UEA Pride committee, LGBT+ Caucus and the LGBT+ officer to ensure it is inclusive for all.
2. To Mandate UEA SU to run a range of events through LGBT History month, to educate students on LGBT+ issues, awareness campaigns and also social events to ensure that we remember the unbelievable work of activists for the LGBT+ movement and celebrate our identity.
3. To ensure all union staff are trained on LGBT+ issues to ensure all students feel welcome in the union and its events.

1708 A better election

Passed 16 April 15

Proposer: Tom Etheridge, Non-Portfolio Officer

Secunder: Rob Drury, UEA:TV

Union notes:

1. That the 2015 Union Elections ('Leadership Race') had numerous rule changes, and unclear rulings throughout
2. That less than a third of candidates were women, when more than half of the student population are women, with just four women officers elected.
3. That many candidates were unduly stressed by the events of results night, with some experiencing extreme anxiety.
4. That there was little support offered throughout the week, and none available on results night.

Union believes:

1. That any student should be able to run in the elections
2. That no student should feel unable to run owing to personal circumstance
3. That the Union of UEA Students has a duty to protect candidates during elections, and should strive to support candidates to the best of its ability.
4. That the Union should not seek to create a spectacle with students' or candidates' emotions.

Union resolves:

1. To mandate the Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer to ensure there is sufficient welfare provision and support for candidates throughout the election process, especially results night.
2. To mandate the Women's Officer to run a 'she should stand' campaign (or similar) in the run up to elections.
3. To mandate the Campaigns and Democracy Officer to ensure that election rules are made sufficiently clear before, and not altered during the election periods, to ensure that hustings are suitably advertised, to ensure candidates welfare is considered when deciding upon the results process, and to ensure candidates are informed in advance of this process.

1709 Student Media Broadcasting in Union Premises

Passed 16 April 2015

Proposer: Rob Drury (UEA:TV)

Secunder: Tom Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer)

Union Notes

1. UEA:TV is one of the members of the UEA Media Collective, alongside Livewire1350 and Concrete
2. Recently the media societies benefitted from the £50,000 Annual Fund Grant, allowing for the move to the new Media Centre and the purchase of new equipment, giving them the space and means to grow and widen outreach & output
3. At the most recent NaSTA (National Student Television Association) awards, in the second year of re-affiliation after a period of absence, UEA:TV were nominated for twenty awards and received praise from those in industry.
4. UEA:TV have had discussions with Union staff about potential broadcasting in Union House
5. UEA:TV have, since September 2014, produced more content in a semester than any other student station in the UK, have supported union campaigns such as Never OK and Black History Month, and recently produced over 25 live edits in a day for Derby Day 2015 working with the Media Collective to cover the event.
6. UEA:TV Produce videos as promotional materials, news reporting of events, original programming, and society spotlights as part of the programme *Viewpoint*
7. Currently, sound output is not supported on the screens in the bars. Refurbishment works are being carried out over the summer period.
8. Unlike its counterparts in the Media Collective, UEA:TV's work is not distributed or visible in Union House.
9. It is current Union Policy to broadcast Livewire 1350 within its premises, although this is often not followed

Union Believes

1. All forms of student media are of great importance to the student experience, and support the functioning of the union and university
2. UEA:TV is a developing society after a period of inactivity, unlike its counterparts Livewire1350 and Concrete, and as such the Union should help promote the work of the society as well as utilise it internally
3. UEA:TV helps members learn invaluable skills not only for the media industries, but across disciplines, and increased promotion and screening of work could encourage more to take part and develop personally from their involvement.
4. UEA:TV provides training on industry standard equipment and software that is not offered as part of the University curriculum.
5. With UEA:TV controlling their content for broadcast, this could allow for inter-society engagement with other groups to benefit both parties, and would allow for another area of specialism in distribution skills.

Union Resolves

1. Where possible, screens in Union premises should show UEA: TV content when appropriate during opening hours; exceptions would be for events in Blue Bar and occasions where sports matches are playing as examples.
2. The Union will ensure that the facilities in Union premises are able to screen audio-visual content as best befits the reception of the medium.
3. The Union will ensure a system between the society and management is created to allow for the continual maintenance and update of a playlist for the screens – this system should come under annual review where achievable weekly content quotas are set by the society.
4. The Union will mandate the Activities & Opportunities Officer to ensure that this link and the system are established, maintained and upheld.
5. Further, to mandate the Activities & Opportunities Officer to ensure that Livewire continues to be broadcast, and as per policy, the Union includes provision for this in any renovations

1712 Liberation and Equal Opportunities – Amendment to the Byelaws and Constitution

Passed 16 April 2015

Proposer: Chris Jarvis (Campaigns & Democracy Officer)

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

Union Notes:

1. UUEAS has four part time liberation officers – LGBT+, Womens, Ethnic Minorities and Students with Disabilities
2. UUEAS has three part time equal opportunities officers – International, Mature and Postgraduate
3. Over the past year, we have run a series of trials of new democratic structures for liberation and equal opportunities.
4. These have taken the form of 'caucuses' and 'assemblies'.
5. The processes and existence of these bodies has not been formalised or placed into the constitution and byelaws, thus meaning there has lacked consistency between the different bodies.
6. This year, UUEAS has also introduced a full time Postgraduate Education Officer for the first, and in the future will be launching a purpose built Graduate Centre and a bespoke Graduate Students Strategy

Union Believes:

1. These caucuses and assemblies have had mixed success, with some being very well attended, and others less so.
2. However, the central principle of self-defined liberation groups and students who have specific and unique needs having a forum in which they can come together, discuss issues that directly affect them and holding their representatives to account is a principle we should keep within our democratic processes.
3. A bespoke strategy for communication and engagement is needed for each of the fora that are established.
4. As the aforementioned officers are elected only by their self-defined constituents, it is right that the bulk of the accountability processes and political mandates come from that sub-section of the student population.
5. A graduate student strategy should be designed by a postgraduate committee
6. As the Graduate Centre comes online, a Graduate led committee should be responsible for its management.

Union Resolves:

1. To adopt the following constitutional and byelaw amendments:

- a. Add new clause 95 to the Constitution as follows and renumber accordingly:

Caucuses and Assemblies

95. Caucuses and assemblies shall be Politically Autonomous bodies that are responsible for the formation, deliberation and determination of policy, except that caucuses and assemblies shall be subject to the powers of the Trustee Board under Article XX. [Overrule]
- 95.1 Caucuses and Assemblies may hold policies distinct from and contradictory to existing UUEAS policies.
- 95.2 Only those Individual Members that self-define as being a part of a liberation group or else are deemed to be part of a group represented by an assembly by their student status shall be entitled to participate in the governance, discussion or activities of the caucus or assembly.
- 95.3 Assemblies may be created and wound up by Union Council by creating Bye Laws. The powers, composition and procedures of the Assemblies shall be further defined in these Bye-Laws.
- 95.4 A resolution may be referred by Union council to an assembly or caucus by way of a procedural motion

- b. Add new byelaw 3 and renumber accordingly

Byelaw 3: Assemblies and Caucuses Graduate Assembly

3. 1 There shall be a Graduate Assembly which shall include as members those students registered on a Postgraduate programme of study.

Graduate Assembly Meetings

- 3.1.1 Assembly meetings, which will be open meetings of all Postgraduate students, will be entitled to form, deliberate upon and determine Assembly policy in accordance with regulations based on those of Byelaw 2: Code of Conduct for Union Meetings and approved by an Assembly meeting.
- 3.1.2 The Graduate Assembly shall have the power to send policy recommendations to Union Council, should at any stage the assembly wish to form, alter or lapse any existing UUEAS policy.
- 3.1.3 The Graduate Assembly shall elect a chair for the academic year who shall be responsible for impartially chairing meetings and compiling any necessary papers.
- 3.1.4 The Graduate Assembly shall meet at least twice per semester and may, at the discretion of the Chair, hold additional meetings during the examination period and the summer.
- 3.1.5 The Graduate Assembly shall have the power to pass motions of censure and commendation in members of the Student Officer Committee in relation to their work as it relates to Postgraduate students.
3. 1.6 The Graduate Assembly shall have the power to pass motions of no confidence, in members of the Postgraduate Committee. Any member of the Postgraduate Committee who is subject to a successful motion of no confidence shall cease to hold office on the Postgraduate Committee with immediate effect. A motion of no confidence shall require a two thirds majority of voting members present at a quorate meeting of the assembly.
- 3.1.7 The Graduate Assembly may elect 5 members who shall sit on both Union Council and the Postgraduate Committee.
- 3.1.8 The Graduate Assembly may elect one member to sit on the UUEAS Board of Trustees
- 3.1.9 There shall be a quorum of 20 members.

International Students Assembly

- 3.2 There shall be an International Students Assembly which shall include as members all international students

International Students Assembly Meetings

3.2.1 International Students Assembly meetings, which will be open meetings of all international students, will be entitled to form, deliberate upon and determine caucus policy in accordance with regulations based on those of Byelaw 2: Code of Conduct for Union Meetings and approved by an assembly Meeting.

3.2.2 The International Students Assembly shall elect a chair for the academic year who shall be responsible for impartially chairing meetings and compiling any necessary papers.

3.2.3 The International Students assembly shall act as the primary accountability body for the International Students Officer. As such, the International Students assembly shall have the power to pass motions of censure and commendation in the International Students Officer.

3.2.4 The International Students assembly may elect five members to sit on Union Council. The caucus shall decide the make-up of these positions.

3.2.5 There shall be a quorum of 20 members.

Mature Students Assembly

3.3 There shall be a Mature Students Assembly which shall include as members all international students

Mature Students Assembly Meetings

3.3.1 Mature Students Assembly meetings, which will be open meetings of all international students, will be entitled to form, deliberate upon and determine caucus policy in accordance with regulations based on those of Byelaw 2: Code of Conduct for Union Meetings and approved by an assembly Meeting.

3.3.2 The Mature Students Assembly shall elect a chair for the academic year who shall be responsible for impartially chairing meetings and compiling any necessary papers.

3.3.3 The Mature Students assembly shall act as the primary accountability body for the Mature Students Officer. As such, the Mature Students Assembly shall have the power to pass motions of censure and commendation in the Mature Students Officer.

3.3.4 The Mature Students assembly may elect five members to sit on Union Council. The caucus shall decide the make-up of these positions.

3.3.5 There shall be a quorum of 20 members.

LGBT+ Caucus

3.4. There shall be a LGBT+ caucus which shall include as members all students who identify as LGBT+

LGBT+ Caucus Meetings

3.4.1 LGBT+ Caucus meetings, which will be open meetings of all LGBT+ students, will be entitled to form, deliberate upon and determine caucus policy in accordance with regulations based on those of Byelaw 2: Code of Conduct for Union Meetings and approved by an caucus Meeting.

3.4.2 The LGBT+ Caucus shall elect a chair for the academic year who shall be responsible for impartially chairing meetings and compiling any necessary papers.

3.4.3 The LGBT+ Caucus shall act as the primary accountability body for the LGBT+ officer. As such, the LGBT+ caucus shall have the power to pass motions of censure and commendation in the LGBT+ Officer.

3.4.4 The LGBT+ caucus may elect five members to sit on Union Council. The caucus shall decide the make-up of these positions.

3.4.5 There shall be a quorum of 20 members.

Women's Caucus

3.5 There shall be a Women's caucus which shall include as members all students who identify as Women

Women's Caucus Meetings

- 3.5.1 Women's Caucus meetings, which will be open meetings of all Women students, will be entitled to form, deliberate upon and determine caucus policy in accordance with regulations based on those of Byelaw 2: Code of Conduct for Union Meetings and approved by a caucus Meeting.
- 3.5.2 The Women's Caucus shall elect a chair for the academic year who shall be responsible for impartially chairing meetings and compiling any necessary papers.
- 3.5.3 The Women's Caucus shall act as the primary accountability body for the Women's caucus. As such, the Women's caucus shall have the power to pass motions of censure and commendation in the Women's Officer.
- 3.5.4 The Women's caucus may elect five members to sit on Union Council. The caucus shall decide the make-up of these positions.
- 3.5.5 There shall be a quorum of 20 members.

Students with Disabilities Caucus

- 3.6 There shall be a Students with Disabilities caucus which shall include as members all students who identify as Students with Disabilities.

Students with Disabilities Caucus Meetings

- 3.6.1 Students with Disabilities Caucus meetings, which will be open meetings of all Students with Disabilities, will be entitled to form, deliberate upon and determine caucus policy in accordance with regulations based on those of Byelaw 2: Code of Conduct for Union Meetings and approved by a caucus Meeting.
- 3.6.2 The Students with Disabilities Caucus shall elect a chair for the academic year who shall be responsible for impartially chairing meetings and compiling any necessary papers.
- 3.6.3 The Students with Disabilities Caucus shall act as the primary accountability body for the Students with Disabilities caucus. As such, the Students with Disabilities caucus shall have the power to pass motions of censure and commendation in the Students with Disabilities Officer.
- 3.6.4 The Students with Disabilities caucus may elect five members to sit on Union Council. The caucus shall decide the make-up of these positions.
- 3.6.5 There shall be a quorum of 10 members.

Ethnic Minorities Caucus

- 3.7 There shall be an Ethnic Minorities caucus which shall include as members all students who identify as Ethnic Minorities

Ethnic Minorities Caucus Meetings

- 3.7.1 Ethnic Minorities caucus meetings, which will be open meetings of all students who identify as Ethnic Minorities, will be entitled to form, deliberate upon and determine caucus policy in accordance with regulations based on those of Byelaw 2: Code of Conduct for Union Meetings and approved by a caucus Meeting.
- 3.7.2 The Ethnic Minorities Caucus shall elect a chair for the academic year who shall be responsible for impartially chairing meetings and compiling any necessary papers.
- 3.7.3 The Ethnic Minorities Caucus shall act as the primary accountability body for the Ethnic Minorities caucus. As such, the Ethnic Minorities caucus shall have the power to pass motions of censure and commendation in the Ethnic Minorities Officer.
- 3.7.4 The Ethnic Minorities caucus may elect five members to sit on Union Council. The caucus shall decide the make-up of these positions.
- 3.7.5 There shall be a quorum of 10 members.

c. Add new byelaw 1.19-1.23 and renumber accordingly:

Sub-Committees of the Student Officer Committee Postgraduate Committee

- 1.19 There shall be Postgraduate Committee which shall consist of:
- 1.19.1 The Postgraduate Education Officer
 - 1.19.2 The Campaigns & Democracy Officer
 - 1.19.3 The Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer
 - 1.19.4 The Activities & Opportunities Officer
 - 1.19.5 Five members elected by the Single Transferable Vote by the Graduate Assembly, at least two of whom shall self-define as Women
 - 1.19.6 One member from the Graduate Students Association Committee nominated to sit ex-officio
 - 1.19.7 One part time officer elected by the Student Officer Committee
 - 1.19.8 One member elected from the Student Voice Committee of the Institute for Food Research
 - 1.18.9 One member elected from the Student Voice Committee of the John Innes Centre

1.20 They may all be removed from office by two thirds majority resolution of the Assembly.

1.21 The Postgraduate Committee shall co-ordinate a programme of campaigning and activities for Postgraduate Students.

1.22 The Postgraduate Committee may elect three lay members to sit on the Graduate Centre Management Group.

d. Add new byelaw 1.23-1.25 and renumber accordingly

Byelaw Graduate Centre Management Group

- 1.23 There shall be a Graduate Centre Management Group which shall consist of:
- 1.23.1 The Postgraduate Education Officer
 - 1.23.2 The Campaigns & Democracy Officer
 - 1.23.3 Three lay members nominated from the Postgraduate committee
 - 1.23.4 Mature Students Officer
 - 1.23.5 One member of Graduate Centre student staff elected by their peers

1.24 The Graduate Centre Management Committee shall be responsible for the day to day management of the Graduate Centre.

1.25 The Graduate Centre Management Group is a sub-committee of Management Committee, and as such will report regularly to Management Committee as to its activities and progress.

e. Add new byelaw 1.8.11:

1.8.11 Five members elected from each of the following: Graduate Assembly, International Students Assembly, Mature Students Assembly, LGBT+ Caucus, Women's Caucus, Students with Disabilities Caucus, Ethnic Minorities Caucus

f. Add new byelaw 2.26.11:

2.26.11 That an item be referred to an assembly or caucus.

g. Amend Clause 33-34 and add new clause 35 and renumber accordingly to read:

33. Subject to Clause 35, up to four Student Trustees shall be elected by Union Council.
 34. Subject to Clause 35, one student trustee shall be elected by the Graduate Assembly.
 35. Each student trustee must be a student at the time of their election (and shall continue to be a student for the duration of their term as a student trustee.'

2. For these byelaws to be reviewed by the relevant bodies in the new academic year, with subsequent amendments brought forward to Union Council.

1713 Standing Up For Sex Workers, Supporting Decriminalisation of Sex Work

Policy passed 16 April 2015

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

Seconder: Yinbo Yo (Activities and Opportunities Officer)

Council Notes:

1. Sex work refers to escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcams, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex (on and off the street)[1].
2. Selling sex is not illegal in the UK – but it is criminalised [2]. Almost everything that sex workers do to stay safe is illegal [3].
3. Financial reasons, and any criminal record gain due to the criminalisation of sex work, are usually cited as the main reason for staying in sex work [4].
4. There are a disproportionate number of disabled people, migrants, especially undocumented or semi-documented migrants, LGBT people and single parents (the vast majority of whom are women) involved in sex work [5].
5. The financial cost of being disabled, the cost of childcare, the cost of medical transition and hormones, racism in the workplace, the vulnerability of undocumented migrants to exploitation in other forms of work and the prejudice faced by LGBT and disabled people undoubtedly contribute to this overrepresentation.
6. The criminalisation of sex workers' clients, known as the Swedish Model, was recently passed in the Northern Irish Assembly, despite government-commissioned research showing that 98% of sex workers working in Northern Ireland did not want this introduced [6].
7. Organisations that support the decriminalisation of sex work include the World Health Organisation [7], UN Women [8], the Global Commission on HIV and the Law [9], Human Rights Watch, the National Union of Students and the Royal College of Nurses [10].
8. The Global Alliance against Traffic in Women opposes introducing criminal penalties against the clients of sex workers. Their research found that criminalising clients does not reduce sex work or trafficking, but infringes on sex workers' rights & obstructs anti-trafficking efforts [11].
9. The decriminalisation of prostitution was introduced in New Zealand in 2003 [12] by Labour MP Tim Barnett, who called the debate on decriminalisation the most significant debate on a moral issue since the decriminalisation of homosexuality [13].
10. The criminalisation of sex workers' clients has been proven to lead to further distrust of the police amongst sex workers, a willingness of sex workers to

engage in more risky behaviour/safety procedures out of desperation, and does not reduce overall levels of prostitution [14].

Council Believes:

1. Sex work is work. Sex work is the exchange of money for labour, like any other job. It is different because it is currently criminalised and stigmatised.
2. People should be free to choose what they do with their time, their labour and their bodies. If they have fewer choices, our solution should be to expand their choices, not take options away through further criminalisation.
3. The right of consenting adults to engage in sexual relations is of no business to anyone but the people involved.
4. The moral panic around sex work and prostitution echoes the moral panic that was present when homosexuality was in the process of being decriminalised. It is no coincidence that many who argue for harsh anti-prostitution laws under the guise of feminism also voted against equal marriage and similar civil rights measures.
5. With the rise in living costs, the increase in tuition fees, and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some students do sex work alongside their studies.
6. The lack of funding for postgraduate education makes it likely that some students use sex work as a means to fund their postgraduate degrees.
7. Stigma against sex work means that sex workers are less likely to seek out help and support if and when they need it.
8. Regardless of their reasons for entering into sex work, all sex workers deserve to have their rights protected and to be able to do their jobs safely. This includes sex workers who do not find their job 'empowering'. Whether or not you enjoy a job should have no bearing on the rights you deserve while you do it.
9. Legislation targeted at combatting poverty, austerity, universalising childcare and a living wage, sufficient social housing, and accessible education funding and living grants, is more likely to ensure those who do not wish to work in the sex industry do not feel forced to by economic circumstances.
10. Decriminalisation would ensure that sex workers feel able to report unsafe clients or violence at work without the worry of criminal repercussions, that several sex workers can work together for safety and that those who wish to leave the sex industry are not left with criminal records as a result of their job.
11. The pushes for legislation which would criminalise the purchase of sex are often spearheaded by anti-choice, anti-LGBT right-wing fundamentalists, working with radical feminists [15].

12. Legislation of this kind is often brought forward in the name of anti-trafficking programmes – in reality it is primarily being used to target immigrant sex workers for raids and deportations.
13. The ILO estimates that over 75% of trafficking globally is into industries such as fisheries, agriculture and domestic work - not into sex work [16]. An effective anti-trafficking strategy would strengthen the rights of all migrant workers in order to crack down on exploitation by managers. Treating the sex industry as exceptional leaves the majority of exploited migrant workers out in the cold - and the police aren't the allies of migrant workers, whether they're sex workers or agricultural workers.
14. A recent example of how simplistic 'anti-trafficking' policies harm migrant sex workers was the Soho raids – 250 police broke down doors of brothels operating in Soho, dragging handcuffed immigrant sex workers in their underwear out on the street. No evidence of trafficking was found and the flats have now been reopened, but women were deported against their will as 'trafficking victims'.
15. The Joint Committee on Human Rights report on Human Trafficking confirmed that "victims often find themselves treated as immigration offenders" and face detention and removals [16].
19. Criminalising the purchase of sex puts sex workers, especially those who work on the street, in danger. It is impossible to criminalise an aspect of someone's job without it having a negative impact on the person at work [17].

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the student officer committee to support and campaign for the full decriminalisation of sex work.
2. To mandate the student officer committee to campaign against any attempt to introduce the Nordic Model into the UK.
3. To support sex worker led organisations, such as the English Collective of Prostitutes, Sex Worker Open University and SCOT-PEP, who work to improve the lives of sex workers across the UK.

[1] From here on, references are made to 'sex work' in this motion refer to full service sex work – escorting, prostitution, etc. Other strands of sex work are stigmatised, but not criminalised in the way that full service sex work is criminalised.

[2] Similar laws operate in Scotland, Wales & England. Prostitution (the exchange of sexual services for money) is not illegal, but associated activities (soliciting in a public place, kerb crawling, operating a brothel) are. The main laws around sex work in the UK are: the Vagrancy Act of 1824; the Sexual Offences Act of 1956 and the Street Offences Act of 1959 (England and Wales);

the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892 and the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act of 1976, Sexual Offences Act 2003, Policing and Crime Act 2009, Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2002, Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

[3] See <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/jan/06/prostitutes-criminalised> & <http://sabotagetimes.com/people/sheila-farmer-and-the-brothel-that-never-was/>. Sheila Farmer is a disabled sex worker who entered the industry after her disability left her unable to work – working with friends for safety after being raped, she was charged with brothel keeping but the charges were eventually dropped after she began to campaign publicly about what she had been put through by attackers, the police and the authorities. Her experiences are not uncommon.

[4] <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-criminal-justice/prostitution-report-nov-update.pdf>, p.8;
<http://www.justice.govt.nz/policy/commercial-property-and-regulatory/prostitution/prostitution-law-review-committee/publications/plrc-report/documents/report.pdf>, p.15

[5] Safety First Coalition

[6] <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-criminal-justice/prostitution-report-nov-update.pdf>, p.11

[7] http://www.who.int/hiv/mediacentre/feature_story/sti_guidelines/en/

[8] <http://sexualrightsinitiative.com/2013/sri-partners/sri-welcomes-un-womens-strong-position-on-sex-work-sexual-exploitation-and-trafficking-in-persons/>

[9] <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2012/july/20120711lawcommission>

[10] <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2005/apr/27/health.crime>

[11]

http://www.gaatw.org/publications/MovingBeyond_SupplyandDemand_GAATW2011.pdf

[12] Prostitution Reform Act 2003

[13] http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/debates/debates/47HansD_20030625_00001319/prostitution-reform-bill-%E2%80%94-procedure-third-reading

[14] <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-criminal-justice/prostitution-report-nov-update.pdf>;
http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/debates/debates/47HansD_20030625_00001319/prostitution-reform-bill-%E2%80%94-procedure-third-reading;
<http://prostitutescollective.net/2014/11/05/victory-amendment-criminalise-sex-workers-clients-defeated/>; <http://prostitutescollective.net/2009/02/04/letter-from-tim-barnett-former-new-zealand-mp-on-the-policing-and-crime-bill-2/>;

<http://prostitutescollective.net/2014/10/30/urgent-mps-trying-criminalise-clients/>; The National Board of Health & Welfare, 2008

[15] <http://prostitutescollective.net/2009/02/04/letter-from-tim-barnett-former-new-zealand-mp-on-the-policing-and-crime-bill-2/>

[16] E.g. the Democratic Unionist Party, CARE, Ruhama, End Demand.

[17] http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_214472.pdf [19]

<http://prostitutescollective.net/2014/10/30/urgent-mps-trying-criminalise-clients/>; Twenty-Sixth report of session, 2005-6, Vol. 1 [20] Safety First Coalition

1714 In support of international law and human rights in Palestine

Passed 16 April 2015

Proposer: Alex Bustos (Amnesty International) Seconded:
Hussam Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer)

Union Notes:

1. That the Palestinians are a dispossessed peoples, and currently have no recognised sovereign state.
2. That Israel continues to expand its settlements in the occupied West Bank. The settlements are widely regarded as illegal by the United Nations and the international community,¹ and their expansions are facilitated by the annexation of privately owned Palestinian land through the demolition of houses and violent confiscation of property.
3. That Israel is an *apartheid state*, as defined by international law² and as widely evidenced by the discriminatory legal system which subjects Palestinians to the constant threat of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention, with no right of representation or trial; rampant violations of their basic human rights including extra-judicial killing, torture, violent harassment and inhumane treatment, and many other documented deplorable "crimes against humanity"³. Furthermore, the restriction of movement and separation of communities and families through the illegal 'apartheid' wall and extensive system of military checkpoints which cripple Palestinian access to education, healthcare and employment are further manifestations of Israeli apartheid.
4. In the summer of 2014 Israel conducted 'Operation Protective Edge', the most recent of its numerous offensives in the Gaza Strip. Over 2,300 were killed, and 10,626 wounded, a large proportion of which were children. The Gaza strip has been under siege by land, sea, and air since 2007, prohibiting access to many basic supplies for reconstruction. Conditions are so severe in the besieged Gaza strip that they were recently described by a senior official in medical charity *Medicins San Frontieres* like working

¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/articles/news/2014/09/israel-must-scrap-illegal-land-grab-west-bank/>

² <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201015/volume-1015-I-14861-English.pdf> *International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 November, 1974*

³ <http://www.russelltribunalonpalestine.com/en/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/RToP-Cape-Town-full-findings2.pdf>, "Are Israel's practices against the Palestinian People in breach of the prohibition on Apartheid under international law, Findings of the South Africa Session (Cape Town, 2011), Russell Tribunal on Palestine

in an 'open-air prison to patch up prisoners in between their torture sessions' ⁴

5. Arabs living in Israel continue to openly face discrimination, living in what

wish identity to receive citizenship automatically, yet deny Palestinians who marry Israelis from full citizenship and the right to live with their family in Israel. ^{6 7}

6. That UUEAS has existing policy to show solidarity with the Palestinian people.
7. That the Boycott Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) campaign was called for by Palestinian civil society in 2005 to pressure Israel into complying with international law.
8. The NUS Women's Conference, the NUS Postgraduate Conference, and the NUS Black Students Conference recently passed resolutions in support of BDS tactics. Also the NUS National Executive Council has a position to support BDS.
9. The BDS movement is growing on campuses across the UK, with Kent, Goldsmiths, Birkbeck, Kingston, Swansea, Exeter, Brunel, the University of Strathclyde, Edinburgh, Dundee, Essex, Sussex and SOAS students all voting in favour of joining the campaign. ⁸
10. Many notable academics, such as Stephen Hawking, have endorsed calls for an academic boycott of Israel. Supporters highlight links between Israeli universities and the military, which has a long history of supporting the Israeli Armed Forces in its oppression of the Palestinian people. Tel Aviv University, for example, recently offered fee waivers for students taking part in operation Protective Edge. ⁹
11. The declaration in March 2015 of the current Israeli PM Netanyahu "If I'm elected, there will be no Palestinian state" is not constructive for a peaceful and just resolution of the conflict and is against the consensus of the international community.
12. Companies such as British private security firm G4S play a key role in Israel's apartheid system, providing security services and equipment to Israeli prisons, checkpoints, the Apartheid Wall and the Israeli military and police. This is against Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the transfer of prisoners from occupied territory into the territory of the occupier.

Union Believes:

1. That the ongoing 66-year long occupation of Palestine, Israel's multitude of human rights and international law violations, its flagrancy and

⁴ <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/israelgaza-conflict-medical-charity-official-likens-job-to-patching-up-torture-victims-in-an-openair-prison-9613296.html>

⁵ <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-makdisi-israel-apartheid-20140518-story.html>

⁶ http://itisapartheid.org/get_informed.html

⁷ <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2007/oct/11/highereducation.uk1>

⁸ http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/malaka-shwaikh/sussex-bds_b_6961884.html

⁹ http://english.tau.ac.il/operation_protective_edge_scholarships

unaccountability to the international community is abhorrent and should be condemned.

2. That Israeli expansion in the Occupied Territories is a settler-colonial project, predicated on the ethnic cleansing and expulsion of its indigenous people.
3. That racism is systemic within Israeli state policy, with documented anti- Arab, anti-African and anti-migrant discrimination. ¹⁰
4. That Palestinian students have a fundamental right to an education unhindered by the discrimination they currently face.
5. That global boycotts are a non-violent, legitimate, and effective tactic that assisted in the successful struggle against apartheid in South Africa.
6. That international solidarity from students is a crucial part of the Palestine liberation struggle.
7. That international solidarity should be conducted on the terms by the Palestinian people, as per the BDS campaign.
8. That all other methods of pressuring Israeli and the ending of the occupation have failed.
9. As students, we have a duty to show solidarity with oppressed students in other parts of the world.
10. As part of an academic community, we have a responsibility to ensure that ethical considerations and social justice are at the heart of research and academia.

Union Resolves:

1. To continue to support the Palestinian cause and remain in solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine.
2. To mandate the Ethical Steering Group to conduct internal research into which union services, products and departments use, employ or work with companies which facilitate Israel's human rights abuses, military capacity, or settlement expansion.
3. To adopt a policy of BDS (as defined here¹¹) across all union outlets by severing ties with companies identified as above.
4. To work with BRICUP (British Committee for Universities of Palestine) to lobby the university to adopt an academic boycott of Israeli universities.
5. To lobby the university to provide scholarships for Palestinian students.
6. To support the annual Israeli Apartheid Week initiative through awareness-raising activities.
7. To monitor and be ready to lobby the university to end any contract they might have or intend to sign with G4S or other companies specified as facilitating the occupation as specified above.

¹⁰ <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-makdisi-israel-apartheid-20140518-story.html>

¹¹ <http://www.bdsmovement.net/activecamps/consumer-boycott>