

Minutes

Subject:	Student Officer Committee Minutes
Date:	Thursday, 23 April 2015
Paper:	SOC 1416
Author:	Tony Moore
Purpose:	Record of decision making

Key Discussions

- Policy Implementation

Key Actions

- Agreed £400 of funding for transport to the People's Assembly National Demo on 20 June
- SOC agreed £320 for publicity stickers and £130 for an advertising banner for the General Election and getting out the student vote
- Working Group of PTOs to be set up to work with the Campaigns and Democracy Officer on planning for Caucuses and Assemblies

Union of UEA Students Purpose:

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"

Minutes of the Student Officer Committee

23 April 2015

Voting Members present:

Yinbo Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer), Ting Ni (International Officer), Hussam Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Alex McCloskey (Ethical issues Officer), Liam McCafferty (PG Education Officer), Cameron Mellowes (Non Portfolio Officer), Philippa Costello (Non Portfolio Officer), Theo Antoniou Phillips (LGBT+ Officer), Sam Jones (Environment Officer), Bethany Smith (Women's Officer), Jack Robinson (Non Portfolio Officer).

Chair

Tom Etheridge (Non Portfolio Officer).

Non-Voting Member present:

In attendance:

Josh Clare (Head of Student Engagement), Tony Moore (Democracy and Governance Coordinator), J Spiro (Head of Advocacy).

Apologies:

Holly Staynor (Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer), Aaron Hood (Students with Disabilities Officer), Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive), Chris Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), Connor Rand (UG Education Officer).

Owing to the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair, SOC elected Tom Etheridge to Chair the meeting.

1404 Statements from the Chair

There were none.

1405 Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015

The minutes of the meeting were approved.

1406 Matters Arising

There were none.

1407 Action Log

Chair noted that there had been progress on some of the items and that the General Meeting for the Referendum on the change of title for the Ethnic Minorities Officer role was planned for the following Monday.

1408 Campaigns' Budget Update

McCafferty explained to new Officers how Liberations Campaign funds had been ring-fenced from the general Campaigns' Budget and suggested that allocation of budgets was a matter that should be discussed at residential training.

SOC asked for a set of totals for all budget spending to be brought to the next meeting.

1409 Anti-Austerity Demo

L McCafferty noted that the funding would be to attend a national event of an affiliate organisation. He anticipated that, as the event was out of term time, the best arrangement would be to half share a coach with the local organisation and come back for further funding if there was a strong demand for places.

SOC agreed £400 of funding for transport to the People's Assembly National Demo on 20 June.

1410 General Election Polling Day Publicity

SOC agreed £320 for publicity stickers and £130 for an advertising banner.

1411 Decisions made by Union Council

SOC discussed the implementation of policy passed by Union Council on 16 April; the key points of the discussion were:

- *Key Performance Indicators of Policy Implementation to be discussed at residential training*
- *Working Group of PTOs to be set up to work with the Campaigns and Democracy Officer on planning for Policy 1712 (Caucuses and Assemblies) and to report back at residential training*
- Possibility of LGBT+ event as core part of Welcome Week
- For Policy 1714 on Palestine, discussion to be had with the Ethical Steering Group about retail implications and with the UCU as to lobbying the University

1412 Officer Go Round/Reports

L McCafferty: PG Experience Report completed, University adopted the Postgraduate Employment Charter

Y Yu: Club and Society training, sports and the University

S Jones: talks with the University over biodegradability; discussions over more water fountains on campus and possibility of bike hire schemes; discussions with the City Council on the Pink Peddle Way cycle route

T Etheridge: liaising with staff to try and reduce queues during the Union House refurbishment, policy work and attendance at the Transforming Teaching Award

T Ni: discussions with International Society regarding NHS fees for international society

J Robinson: liaising with staff on events and charity material in the Shop

H Hussein: liaising with students over proposed Italian and Latin American Societies, liaising with Islamic Society over kosher and halal labelling

T Antoniou Phillips: running Pride committee elections, meeting with Norwich Pride, working on posters for gender neutral toilets

A McCloskey: liaising over Living Wage campaign and Ethical Steering Group

1413 Reports on Priority Campaigns/Projects/AOB

L McCafferty noted that, with the University's adoption of the Postgraduate Employment Charter, one of the Priority Campaigns had been won.

J Clare advised as to the current state of the Priority Campaigns. He noted that one of the features of the experience of this year's campaigns had been that none of the planned Campaign Teams had been formed and that this failure should be considered in planning for the coming year.

SOC asked for a colour coded chart of progress on the Priority Campaigns to be brought to the next meeting.

L McCafferty registered his concerns that Officers, including himself, had been asked to prepare food as a bonding exercise during Residential Training. He stated his belief that real bonding happened, not whilst one was preparing food but when one was consuming food, preferably accompanied by a fine bottle of wine, which would be one of his specified dietary requirements.

SOC noted that the SU had employed a new staff member, Rob Drury, to co-ordinate the organisation of Welcome Week and agreed to invite Rob to the May meeting to feed in their ideas for Welcome Week. Chair asked Officers to think about possible events with emphasis on hard to reach groups for Welcome Week.

J Clare, on Officer Handovers, advised that all Officers would be given a document to sign on completion of their handovers.

1414 Time, Date and Place

5 pm., Thursday 30 April in Committee Room 1, the Council House.