

# Minutes

Subject:	Student Officer Committee Minutes
Date:	Thursday, 30 April 2015
Paper:	SOC 1425
Author:	Tony Moore
Purpose:	Record of decision making

## Key Discussions

- Welcome Week
- General Meetings and referendum rules

## Key Actions

- Agreed £350 for material for the General Election night party
- Welcome Week suggestions to be brought to next meeting

**Union of UEA Students Purpose:**

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"

**Minutes of the Student Officer Committee**

**30 April 2015**

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**Voting Members present:**

Aaron Hood (Students with Disabilities Officer), Chris Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), Connor Rand (UG Education Officer), Yinbo Yu (Activities and Opportunities 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), Tom Etheridge (Non Portfolio Officer)

**Chair**

Holly Staynor (Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer)

**Non-Voting Member present:**

Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive)

**In attendance:**

Josh Clare (Head of Student Engagement), Tony Moore (Democracy and Governance Coordinator), Victoria Cook (Enterprise and Activities Coordinator)

**Apologies:**

Ting Ni (International Officer), Jack Robinson (Non Portfolio Officer)

**1412 Departmental Presentation: Enterprise and Volunteering**

V Cook gave a detailed presentation on her work facilitating enterprise and volunteering opportunities for students. VC noted her belief that enterprise did not, always, involve commerce but was central to any activity that needed drive and enthusiasm to succeed.

A Hood wondered whether the Real Ale Society would be able to put on a beer festival in Union House. VC noted that this would be a matter

for bars management to agree but was something she would certainly be happy to help facilitate.

**1413 Statements from the Chair**

There were none.

**1414 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2015**

The minutes of the meeting were approved.

**1415 Matters Arising/Action Log**

H Hussein asked as to the situation with regard to the referendum on the job title for the Ethnic Minorities Officer post.

J Clare advised that the general meeting called as part of the referendum process had not been quorate; so the referendum would not go ahead.

C Jarvis noted he would be bringing a proposal to Council in the autumn to change the referendum rules which would take away the need to hold a quorate general meeting and which would allow different groups, including Liberations Groups, to hold their own referendums on policy issues.

J Clare further advised that no candidates had come forward to stand for election to the Democratic Procedures Committee. JC advised that the DPC elections should be held together with those for Council in a single coherent bloc.

L McCafferty thought there might be a need to review how DPC members were elected as it might prove difficult to attract candidates for cross-campus ballots and it might make sense for them to be elected by Council or by caucuses.

Chair had to leave at this point and her place was taken by C Jarvis, the Deputy Chair.

**1416 Social Policy Review**

This item was withdrawn.

**1417 Scrutiny Panels**

This item was withdrawn.

**1418 Budget update with totals**

SOC noted that there was an under-spend across the amalgamated budgets.

J Clare advised that the budget request and approval system would be streamlined in time for the coming academic year.

## **1419 General Election Night**

SOC agreed the funding request of £350 for publicity material for the election event.

Chair confirmed that the Red Bar would open if there was an overspill of people wanting to attend and that there would be a range of non-alcoholic drinks available.

## **1420 Welcome Week**

J Dickinson advised that initial planning work had begun and would be reported to the 21 May SOC meeting which would provide Officers with an opportunity to feed into the plans for the non-commercial offer. JD asked as to Officers initial thoughts as to what had not worked the previous year.

H Hussein: most events had occurred in September and were missed by the majority of PG students starting in October; L McCafferty noted there had been some work on this the previous year but there would be a more comprehensive set of events in place for PG students this coming year as well as for MED and nursing students.

J Dickinson noted Y Yu's request that the student staff Welcome Week Coordinator's Report for the previous year be circulated.

J Dickinson noted the importance of the, possibly, imminent move to a full Welcome Week for the great majority of the University as a result of the cut in the length of the exam period.

T Etheridge: more aggressive SU social media marketing to stymie the influence of counterfeit social media. Free food taster events to introduce new students to the SU and Union House.

A Hood: some students had fallen victim to bogus entry schemes for city night clubs during the previous Welcome Week. Possibility of Gaming Tournament.

C Mellowes: Part Time Job Fair.

S Jones: Cycling Promotion Day, possibility of tying in with bike auction.

J Dickinson advised that Management Committee had formulated four key purposes for Welcome Week and he would circulate these to SOC. Deputy Chair noted he would email SOC to ask for further ideas to bring to the 21 May meeting.

## **1421 Officer Go Around/Reports**

L McCafferty: presented PG Student Experience Report to the University, working on issues concerning large group of international PG students in NBS.

Y Yu: developing internationalise strategy, analysing student staff recruitment feedback.

T Etheridge: Society Awards shortlisting.

S Jones: discussing with the University expansion of the Sustainability Network to include student groups.

T Antoniou Phillips: coordinating's Pride's support for a LGBT+ group in HMP Bure, working on response to the University's refusal to fly the Rainbow Flag.

C Rand: lobbying for individual exam feedback, accessibility of University committees for student reps, recognition of hidden course costs.

A McCloskey: Officer handover.

A Hood: Officer handover, working on think tank initiative for mental health, working on VC's commitment to more mental health resources.

C Mellowes: researching SU campaigns on bus fares, benchmarking against Leeds SU's successful campaign.

J Dickinson advised that the annual round of negotiations between the University and First Buses was due to take place by 1 June and representations should be made before then.

H Hussein: following up on halal and kosher food provision, preparing survey on what events students want featured in Black History Month.

C Jarvis: support for the Fossil Free campaign gaining pledged support from around 100 UEA academics.

## **1422 Reports on Priority Campaigns/Projects/AOB**

- Green standard for insulation of property on Home Let
- Hidden Course Costs Report sent to the University
- Parliamentary candidates signed up to oppose DSA Cuts
- Working closely with Unison to gain the Living Wage across the University
- PG Employment Charter adopted

L McCafferty asked for a report to be made to SOC from NUS National Conference. Deputy Chair noted he would contact all the delegates and bring a report to the 21 May meeting.

## **1423 Time, Date and Place**

5 pm., Thursday 21 May in Committee Room 1, the Council House.