

Minutes

Meeting:	Student Officer Committee
Date:	Thursday 5 Nov 2015
Paper:	SOC 4 15-16
Author:	Tony Moore
Purpose:	Record of Decision Making

Key Discussions

- **Legality of expenditure on coach for Climate Change demo**
- **Removal of election of Lead Delegate to NUS National Conference from SOC Cycle of Business and decision of Management Committee not to devolve the election to SOC**

Key Actions

- **Approve funding requests for:
Light up Campus (£140)
Migrant Solidarity Campaign (£118)
Anti-Austerity Campaign (£200)
Climate Change Demo Coach (£780)**

Union of UEA Students Purpose:

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"

Minutes of the Student Officer Committee

5 November 2015

Members present:

Voting Members Present: Tom Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer), Beth Smith (Women's Officer), Sam Jones (Environmental Officer), Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer), Liam McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer), Philippa Costello (Non-Portfolio Officer), Cameron Mellows (Non-Portfolio Officer), Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer), Yinbo Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer), Paul Erasmus (Mature Students' Officer), Alex McCloskey (Ethical Issues Officer), Hussam Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Jo Swo (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer).

Non-Voting Members Present: Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive)

Chair:

Theo Antoniou Phillips (LGBT+ Officer).

In attendance:

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

1479 Departmental Presentation: Campaigns and Policy

Presentation given by J Clare.

JC outlined the staff structure of the department, highlighted the work that had been done in the current year and plans for the coming year.

Responding to question, JC noted that there had been a fair number of responses to the Better UEA exercise on change based ideas.

P Erasmus noted some of the voting options on the website were confusing as if you clicked on a petition the site registered this as a signing of the petition and this was problematic. JC noted this would be investigated and change the wording.

J Clare left the meeting.

1480 Chair Update

Deputy Chair noted the success of the National Demo and the current Fossil Free camp.

1481 Attendance and Apologies

Chris Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy), Aaron Hood (Students' with Disabilities Officer), Ting Ni (International Officer Officer).

1482 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2015/Matters Arising/Action Log

Migrant Solidarity: Collection Point will open again soon, materials are being stored in Union House.

Breast feeding: Jo Swo will take over implementation

1483 Election of Deputy Returning Officer

SOC discussed the constitutional provision and noted this matter would be considered by the Democratic Procedures Committee and a recommendation for an appointment of a staff member to this position would be brought to a future meeting.

1484 Funding Request

Requests were approved for:

Light up Campus (£140)

Migrant Solidarity Campaign (£118)

Anti-Austerity Campaign (£200)

SOC noted J Dickinson's advice that the Climate demonstration (£780) would need to be referred for consideration to the Trustee Board.

SOC noted that the Students with Disabilities Caucus had approved the hiring of a non-wheelchair facility coach when no wheelchair users wished to attend a particular event and that this would reduce costs.

SOC approve the Climate demonstration funding (£780) by 5 votes for with 8 abstentions.

SOC asked that a campaign budget update be brought to the next meeting.

1485 Items for Discussion

Policy implementation review, postponed to next meeting in the absence of C Jarvis.

1486

Policy Implementation

SOC approved the following allocation of Officers and staff to lead on the implementation of policy passed by Council on 29 October:

1768 It's time for us to WALK OUT in solidarity	Yinbo/Ting/Josh
1769A Oh, the beautiful guillotine	Chris/Tony
1769B Making our democracy more accessible	Chris/Tony
1770 UEA – Time to sort out Organisation and Management	Connor/Josh
1772 Recorded lectures and the use of technology	Connor/Josh
1773 Student Opportunities for all: Tackling Barriers	Connor/Lynne
1774 Good Housekeeping: Procurement, Strategic Plan and Trustee Board Sub-committees: An Amendment to the Bye-laws	Chris/Tony
1775 The EU Referendum and UEASU	Connor/Jim
1776 Student Strike Ballot	Chris/Liam/Josh
1777 Union Access for All!	Jo/Chloe
1779 Ace and Aro Awareness Week	Jo/Theo/Louise
1880 Improving the rule-making process for Union Elections	Chris/Josh

1487

Projects, Campaigns and Policy Reports

Saving our Union: Y Yu reported that the petition would be launched the following week

Black History Month: H Hussein reported this had been a notable success with over 650 students attending events hosted by 23 Societies.

Mental Health Awareness: J Swo noted that there had been a big campus meeting focused on saving local mental health services which had been attended by many students. JS noted that there would be a push to complete the Recovery Book.

Anti-austerity: Chair to update at next meeting

Cost of Living: L McCafferty reported that the Food Bank would be launched on 13 November with a high profile event. SOC agreed that anyone who would like to lead one of the three campaign sub-groups should contact L McCafferty in the week ahead but noted that all Officers were welcome to take part in the sub-groups.

Transforming Education: C Rand reported the campaigning was making good progress: a blog launch would be published the following week and there would also be an organising meeting that week.

1488 Finance Update

Deferred to the next meeting when the Chief Executive will present a paper with Year End Report and recent minor amendments to the Budget.

1489 Cycle of Business

Deputy Chair noted that the election of the Lead Delegate to NUS National Conference had not appeared on the agenda.

T Moore advised that Chair had reported that the election was taking place at Management Committee and would, therefore, not need to be a SOC agenda item.

C Rand noted that, for the last two years, the election had been devolved to SOC.

L McCafferty, as Chair of Management, noted that the previous year there had been a misreading of the Constitution that the decision needed to be made at SOC whereas, in fact, the task of holding the election was, clearly that of Management. LM noted, for the current year, the Committee had become aware of the correct constitutional position and, although it had thought this matter should be looked at in future, and should possibly be included in the main elections, had decided to hold the meeting within Management Committee. L McCafferty noted that it was unfortunate that the election had been mistakenly put in the Cycle of Business as the election had already been called.

C Rand thought it unfortunate for democratic legitimacy that the lead representative of 15,000 students could be elected by a total of three votes, including their own. CR believed this did not reflect well, particularly over the fact that in the Management Committee election process there had, originally, been two candidates which had been followed by re-open nominations and then, in the final round, there had been only one candidate. CR noted the concerns of students and Officers as to the fact that the elected Lead Delegate had not been part of the previous year's delegation.

L McCafferty believed the latter to be irrelevant and argued that in a democracy one tried to follow the rules and not just make them up as one went along.

J Robinson noted disappointment that SOC had not been consulted and given a voice.

T Etheridge thought the most disappointing aspect of the matter was that the election had taken place and Officers still did not know who had been appointed: nobody had seen fit to inform SOC.

L McCafferty noted that the voting had not, as yet, finished.

J Robinson advised that, with one candidate standing, it would be reasonably easy to guess who would be the winning candidate.

Deputy Chair expressed disappointment at the election being taken out of the Cycle of Business without notice and of the decision to not consult SOC on the election.

L McCafferty commented that rules were rules and that if, SOC disagreed with this particular rule, then, they could propose to Council a change to those rules.

Deputy Chair commented that rules could, on occasion, be very 'handy'.

L McCafferty believed that this comment was not appropriate and asked that this observation be minuted.

1490 Any Other Business

J Robinson: fun for Christmas event

S Jones: Union Christmas party

J Robinson: December nursing cohort arrival greeting.

J Swo noted appointment to the NUS Welfare Committee and Y Yu's to Union Development Committee.

1491 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting

To note the next meeting will be held at 5.00 pm on Thursday 25th November in the Board Room, Union House