

All Policies Passed by Council 21 January 2016

Emergency Motion Saving American Studies passed 21 January 2016

Proposer: Aliyah Rawat (BME LGBT+)

Seconded: Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

UNION NOTES

1. There are proposed changes concerning degrees in the American Studies department (courses affected would include BA American Studies, American History, American and English Literature, English and American Literature, American Literature with Creative Writing and Film and American Studies) which would see the replacement of a very significant number of second year module options with two generalised compulsory modules and a significantly reduced amount of optional modules for second year study, thus significantly reducing the diversity and appeal of what is designed to be an interdisciplinary humanities course
2. These changes have been proposed in order to a) make the American Studies degree 'more streamlined' and b) as a cost-cutting procedure
3. These changes are set to be finalised in the immediate future, and will affect current first year American Studies undergraduates in their second year as well as future students
4. No current American Studies undergraduates have been consulted about these proposed changes and any information about these changes has been deliberately withheld from students until the proposed changes are entirely finalised
5. UEA's webpage advertising the degree boasts that it is number one in the country for American Studies and holds a 96% student satisfaction rate, and still currently lists that a large, diverse number of modules are available for second year study¹ for both current students and prospective students, which is false advertisement
6. It is a requirement of the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs)² that universities provide clear and correct information regarding courses, including course structure and module information. Under the CPRs, giving misleading or outdated information or a misleading impression constitutes what is known as a misleading action and breaches student's consumer rights.
7. There currently remains no information openly available about these changes to current students who are investing large sums of money into their undergraduate degree, nor is there information openly available to prospective students who will have made a misinformed choice with the 2016/17 entry UCAS deadline having been 15th January 2016. There is insufficient information provision which presents an issue under consumer law

¹ <https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/degree/detail/ba-american-studies> [accessed: 15th January 2016]

²

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/415732/Undergraduate_students_-_your_rights_under_consumer_law.pdf [accessed: 15th January 2016]

UNION BELIEVES

1. The current variety of module options available for second year American Studies undergraduates is hugely varied and allows for specialisation into specific topics which is highly beneficial in preparing students for their dissertations, in allowing students to advance and broaden their intellectual knowledge, in providing representation outside of the canon, and for allowing staff who have done significant amounts of research on these fields to teach their specialisation
2. The proposed module changes for second year American Studies would negate all of the benefits stated above
3. Students should have been consulted in regards to these changes and should have openly been made aware that these were set to happen, and should not have to wait until the changes are finalised and cannot be actively opposed to be told about these
4. UEA's American Studies department is currently ranked as first in the country with a very high student satisfaction rate, and much of this is due to the diversity of the course, its options for specialisation, and that it is taught by professors who have done research in the fields many of these modules are about. Reworking the course in this way, which many students may oppose, may lead to UEA losing its number one status and lowering its student satisfaction rate

UNION RESOLVES

1. The information regarding the proposed changes to American Studies courses should be openly published on the university's website for all students, potential students, staff members, potential staff members and members of the general public to have access to
2. Current American Studies undergraduates and teaching staff should be consulted on these changes, and should be made aware of the routes they can take to oppose these changes, both before they are finalised and after they have been finalised if they are taken forward
3. Current first year American Studies students (including those on joint degrees) and incoming first year American Studies students should be directly informed of these proposed changes to their degree. Although the details of these changes are still being worked upon on a week-to-week basis, current undergraduates who this will affect should be kept updated on a week-to-week basis and should not have this information deliberately withheld until the changes are finalised

1835 Supporting the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) scheme

Proposer: Hussam Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer)

Seconder: Connor Rand (UG Education Officer)

Union Council notes:

1. That the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) is a structured mentoring system in which first year undergraduate students are mentored by students in higher years. The aim of PAL is to mentor first years through the transition into higher education.

2. Mentors provide academic support – and some pastoral support - by sharing the experience and skills they have gained.

3. PAL is being introduced into UEA to benefit both the recipients and deliverers of PAL. Interacting with mentors helps first years understand university processes and requirements as well as develop good study habits. Mentors and officers develop key skills that should aid in their future employability and career development.

4. PAL mentors provide mentoring to small groups of first year students. Working in pairs or trios PAL mentors prepare and attend regular sessions to facilitate discussion around academic subject material. PAL mentors plan each session, taking into account students' learning needs. Advice and guidance is based on the mentors' own experience and university guidelines.

5. Mentors are supported and guided by PAL officers (usually Postgraduate UEA students). PAL does not replace existing teaching or academic and pastoral support. Instead, it ensures that there are additional opportunities for students to learn from each other. PAL is run by students for students.

6. PAL has been in place as a pilot project at UEA since January 2013, it is now in its 4th phase , and has been confirmed only until the end of this academic year. No decision has been made so far on renewing it.

7. In its 3rd phase (2014-2015), about 650 mentees and 145 between mentors and officers have benefited from the PAL scheme.

8. Currently, the PAL scheme is operational in 8 schools: AMA, CHE, CMP, DEV, ENV, HSC, MED; and NBS.

9. Research has shown that students of marginalised backgrounds have strongly benefited from the PAL scheme as it provides them a supportive tool to adapt and familiarise with a new academic and/ or cultural environment.

Union Council believes:

1. That PAL has been having a valuable positive impact on both mentees, mentors and officers since January 2013.

2. It is important to provide students with opportunities to learn new skills from other peers in a structured programme like PAL.

3. PAL is an important tool for providing mentors and officers with skills and work experience on mentoring and teaching, which is valuable for improving students' CVs,

employability and future work opportunities.

Union Council resolves:

1. To mandate the Undergraduate Education Officer and the Postgraduate Education Officer to lobby the university to maintain and further support the PAL project.
2. To mandate Council representatives and Officers on the relevant committees, including Learning and Teaching Committee, to put the issue of PAL's long-term existence on the agenda and to strongly support and voice the students support for the PAL scheme.
3. To mandate the Undergraduate Education Officer to write an email to the Vice Chancellor and all others concerned in expressing the position of the SU in support of the PAL scheme and demanding its continuation and support for the next year, within a week of the approval of this motion.
4. To mandate the Undergraduate Education Officer to write an email to the PAL administrators thanking them for their work and expressing SU support for the continuation of the scheme for the next year, within a week of the approval of this motion.
5. To advertise and raise awareness about this unique opportunity of peer support learning during Welcome Week.

1836 Better educational support for sexual assault victims

Proposer: Emily Cutler (Refuge)

Seconder: Jo Swo (Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer)

Union notes:

- One in five women aged between 16 and 59 have experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 16. ³
- Nearly half a million adults are sexually assaulted in England and Wales each year.¹
- Approximately 90% of those who are raped knew the perpetrator prior to the offense.¹
- Where the age is known, those aged under 24 represent 25% of service users.¹
- 1 in 7 Hidden Mark survey respondents has experienced a serious physical or sexual assault during their time as a student.²
- One in four victims of serious sexual assault stated that their studies had been affected by the incident. ⁴
- One in seven victims of serious physical assault reported that their attendance had suffered.²

Union believes:

- Being a victim of rape; sexual assault; domestic violence or revenge porn has a large impact in your life.
- No one should have their education impacted upon because of sexual assault.
- University students are particularly vulnerable to being a victim of rape; sexual assault; domestic violence or revenge porn.

Union resolves:

- To lobby the university to make being a victim of rape; sexual assault; domestic violence or revenge porn an allowable extenuating circumstance.
- To mandate the Student Officer Committee, led by the Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer, to write a letter to the Vice-Chancellor appealing for a separate pot of funding for counselling for victims of rape; sexual assault; domestic violence and revenge porn.
- To campaign for the university to train all advisors in basic techniques of what to do if your advisee is a victim of rape; sexual assault; domestic violence or revenge porn.

³ <http://rapecrisis.org.uk/statistics.php>

⁴ http://www.nus.org.uk/Global/NUS_hidden_marks_report_2nd_edition_web.pdf

1837 Amendment to the Byelaws: Removing Prohibitive Referendum Rules

Proposer: Chris Jarvis (Campaigns & Democracy Officer) –

Christopher.jarvis@uea.ac.uk

Seconder: Liam McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer) – l.mccafferty@uea.ac.uk

Union Notes:

1. The current constitutional framework surrounding referenda is outlined in byelaws 1.3-1.6
2. This framework requires a General Meeting to take place prior to the voting period of the referendum for the purpose of discussion, but not voting.
3. The General Meeting is required to have a quorum of 80, if it does not reach this, the referendum will not go ahead.
4. In two instances over the last year, an adapted version of these referendum rules – for Postgraduates and Ethnic Minority students failed to reach the required quorum for the respective General Meetings, therefore meaning the issues did not go to a ballot and the question was left undecided.
5. There currently does not exist a formal constitutional provision for a ballot of sub-sections of the membership of UUEAS.
6. There are currently no provisions for referenda that amend the byelaws or articles of association, meaning that in previous such referenda (as was the case with the 2013 officer roles referendum), decisions on the required majority have been taken by the returning officer.
7. The meeting of Union Council on 9th October 2014 heard a proposal from the Democratic Procedures Committee regarding General Meetings that has not yet been enacted into the byelaws.

Union Believes:

1. Student attendance at a General Meeting is not necessarily reflective of their willingness to debate, weigh up the pros and cons of, and ultimately vote upon a matter in their Student Union.
2. While it is important for UUEAS to provide a forum for free and fair debate outside of the traditional campaigning methods, enforcing prohibitively high quorum rules on this is unhelpful and in fact hinders debate and student democracy, rather than strengthening it.
3. Byelaws 1.3-1.6 are messy and are a combination of constitutional frameworks intended for the provision of referenda and simultaneously for general meetings of students outside of the referendum context.
4. UUEAS should have clear and effective governing documents that give fair provision for open and democratic processes.

5. In order to allow for autonomous decision making of liberation groups, and of specific groups of students such as Postgraduates, international students and mature students, a framework for referenda of these groups is necessary.

Union Resolves:

1. To amend byelaw 1.3-1.6 to read as follows:

1.3 A Referendum may be called on any lawful issue, in accordance with the Articles of Association and these Bye-Laws, by:

1.3.1 A resolution of the Trustees

1.3.2 A resolution of the Student Officer Committee

1.3.3 A majority vote of Union Council; or

1.3.4 A Secure Petition signed by at least on thirtieth of the ordinary members within 30 calendar days of its formation. A Secure Petition shall be defined as “a written request to the Union from ordinary members, which shall be fixed in a pre-arranged place or places or held securely on-line, and shall state the name, school and year of each signatory”.

1.4 Subject to Clause 72 of the Articles of Association, a resolution may only be passed by Referendum if at least one thirtieth of the ordinary members cast a vote in the Referendum and a majority of the votes cast are in favour of the resolution.

1.4.1 If a resolution being decided upon by referendum includes an amendment to the byelaws or articles of association, a two thirds majority of votes cast must be in favour of the resolution in order for it to be passed.

1.5 Referenda shall be conducted in accordance with the Articles of Association and Bye-Law 5: Election Regulations Pursuant to the Articles of Association, with the addition that after campaigning has begun but before voting is open, a General meeting must be held for the purpose of debate, but not to vote, in accordance with the following conditions:

1.5.1 The meeting shall be chaired by the Chair of Union Council or in their absence by an ordinary member appointed to do so by the Student Officer Committee;

1.5.2 The Returning Officer shall be responsible for choosing the venue or venues to be used for the general meeting.

1.5.3 A general meeting shall be called by at least 7 clear days' written notice. The notice calling a general meeting shall specify the place, day and time of the meeting and the business to be transacted.

1.6 Every ordinary member shall have the right to attend and speak at general meetings. Subject to Clause 58 of the Articles of Association the ordinary members may set Policy by Referenda. Policy set by Referenda may overturn Policy set by the Union Council.

- 2) To add new byelaws 1.7 and 1.8 and renumber accordingly:

1.7 Should a referendum be held in which only subset of the membership shall be eligible to vote, the rules in byelaws 1.3-1.6 shall apply, save for the following adjustments:

1.7.1 Only ordinary members of the relevant subset of the membership will be eligible to vote in the referendum

1.7.2 Only ordinary members eligible to vote in the referendum will have the right to attend and speak at the General Meeting for that referendum.

1.7.3 A turnout requirement proportionate to the number of students who are part of, or who self-identify into the respective subset of the membership shall be determined by the Returning Officer.

1.8 A referendum of a subset of the membership may be called where only the following students are available to vote:

1.8.1 Self defining LGBT+ students

1.8.2 Self defining women students

1.8.3 Self defining disabled students

1.8.4 Self defining ethnic minority students

1.8.5 Mature students

1.8.6 International students

1.8.7 Postgraduate students

1.9 A referendum of a subset of the membership may be called by Union Council on recommendation from the relevant caucus or assembly

3) To mandate the campaigns and democracy officer to draft a constitutional framework for the provision of general meetings as was discussed at the meeting of Union Council on 9th October 2014 for discussion at a meeting of Union Council this term.

1838 Mummy's Ill- making life easier for those with illness in the family

Proposer – Emily Cutler (Refuge)

Seconder – Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer)

Union notes:

1. If you have a parent who is termly ill or has a long-term illness, you have added stress, which can harm your academic and social experience at university.
2. There is no list on the university's website that states exactly what evidence counts towards extenuating circumstances for students with significant adverse personal/family circumstances.
3. Having an ill parent can cause anxiety, sleep problems, depression as well as a range of other emotional, physical and mental health problems.
4. The delay in receiving counselling support from the Dean of Students means students with ill parents often face struggles with their academic work.

Union believes:

1. Students with unwell parents should not have their education put at risk because of bureaucracy.
2. Students with unwell parents deserve special consideration with regard to deadlines and extensions.

Union resolves:

1. To lobby the university to provide a clearer list into what constitutes as evidence for extenuating circumstances.
2. To mandate the Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer to develop support in the Advice Centre for those who need advice about what to do when it comes to issues related to parents being terminally ill or having a long-term illness.
3. To lobby the university to enhance support towards students whose parents suffer from long term illness, including increased funding towards support services.

1839 Stand By Me – Standing in solidarity for survivors of sexual violence

Proposer: Jo Swo (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer)

Seconder: Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer)

This Union Notes

1. 1 in 7 women students (14%) has been the victim of serious sexual assault or serious physical violence while at university or college.
2. Approximately 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped in England and Wales alone every year; that's roughly 11 rapes (of adults alone) every hour
3. The NUS Lad Culture Audit report revealed that there's lack of clarity around the complaints and disciplinary procedures in universities across the country.
4. In The NUS 2015 lad culture and sexism survey 61% of students stated that they were not made aware of any codes of conduct and 66% stated they were not aware of the procedure to report these incidents.
5. ueasu conducted their own survey and found that:
 - a. 78% had experienced unwanted groping, pinching or touching in a sexual manner
 - b. 50% were not aware of how to report an incident on harassment or assault on campus outside of Union settings
 - c. over 70% said "I didn't think any action would be taken" as a reason for not reporting incidents
6. The Zellick Report was created in 1994 to give guidance to universities about how to deal with sexual assault cases. It tells universities not to investigate cases and not to go through disciplinary procedures until the victim had gone through the police system.
7. Evidence shows that 82% of rapes are never reported to the police and of these, only 1 in 5 results in court proceedings. For the few cases which do enter the court system, the average length of the court process is 1 year and 4 months from report to verdict – at which point many

victims may no longer be studying at the university. This means in practice, the majority of victims of sexual violence would see no action taken by their university.

8. Approximately 75,000 men are victims of sexual assault or attempted assault a year according to data from 2012/13 while 9,000 men are victims of rape or attempted rape each year according to figures released in 2013, yet police figures show fewer than 3,000 offences of male rape or sexual assault were recorded in 2013/14.
9. NUS has launched a campaign called #StandByMe which calls for the repeal of the Zellick guidelines and for a national consultation which listens to the student movement and specialist services in order to develop new reporting and disciplinary guidelines and survivor support.
10. Neither Rape Crisis England & Wales nor any of their local member Rape Crisis centres has any central government funding confirmed beyond March 2016.

This Unions Believes

1. The quality of University reporting procedures and support services across the UK are inconsistent and inadequate.
2. That Universities need to have a clear, preventative strategy with dealing with sexual violence
3. That Universities need to fund and support support services for survivors
4. The Zellick Report is out of date and campuses provide proper support for survivors of sexual assault when institutions base the procedures on this guidance.
5. Universities should have accessible reporting procedures for sexual assault and provide access to specialist support for victims during their time at university.
6. Rape Crisis Centres provide vital support services for survivors of sexual assault.
7. The cuts to Rape Crisis centres are fatal and these organisations deserve to be fully funded through government money.

The Union Resolves

1. To support the NUS #StandByMe campaign calling for better support for all survivors on campus and sustainable funding for services across the country.
2. To call for the repeal of the Zellick Guidelines and for a national consultation to develop new reporting and disciplinary guidelines and survivor support.
3. To lobby the Vice Chancellor to support the statement and call for change at a national level.
4. To lobby the University to reveal and clear and comprehensive preventative strategy towards eliminating sexual violence at UEA
5. To lobby the University to fund and support student-led support services for survivors, as well as improving their own support services
6. To look into forming a partnership with our local rape crisis centre.

Student Sport at UEA Composite Resolution 1840/1841

Main Motion

Proposed: D Morales (TAEKWONDO)

Seconded: Yinbo Yu, Activities and Opportunities Officer

Amended by L McCafferty

Union Notes

1. That the Sports Development Team is heavily utilised by Clubs as a first point of contact.
2. Motion 1560 was passed by Union Council on 20 March 2014 by a majority of 43-6
3. Motion 1560's aim, according to the proposer (Joe Level, Finance Officer), was to put all sides round the same table for discussions to take place to improve sports for all students. 1560 mandated the formation of a joint University/Union partnership group on sport at UEA. Its aims were to:
 - a) Ensure a joint strategy for external funding for sport, and a joint Union-University capital expenditure plan for sport.
 - b) Strive to enhance the student sport / physical activity programme through improved promotion and coordination across campus, working closely together on participation targets.
4. The sport partnership group (SPG) had only had 1 meeting in July 2014 to set up the working relationship before the Union passed Motion 1587.
5. The sports executive team (2015/16) carried out a sports review without the knowledge of the SU or UEA Sport.
6. The summary results showed that the majority of the clubs are unhappy with the current management and organisation of sport.
7. The union operates and supports student run Sports Clubs at UEA through the Union Sports Association, providing help and advice to Union clubs and ensuring they operate safely, as well as holding their funds and running an insurance scheme through the SAM card.
8. The university Department of Sport (based at Sportspark) is responsible for student sport activity, including the 'Ziggurat' challenge and intra-mural programmes.
9. A further motion that year (1587) was passed that reaffirmed working in partnership but placed a limit on it, namely that we would rule out a takeover of Sports Clubs by the University.
10. Motion 1560's aim was to focus on reducing any duplication of effort between the Union and University, maximising the use of students' money.

Union Believes

1. That the links with the University, particularly the Sport Department, are essential to the successful running of sports at UEA.
2. One of the core parts of the Students' Union mission to provide student opportunities is to support and fund Sports Clubs.

3. That the results of the summary carried out by the sports executive team demonstrate that the sports presidents and their committees wish to have a complete review of sport.
4. The University has explicitly stated that if it takes over Sports Clubs "that no extra funding will be available".
5. Around the UK a number of Universities are attempting to take over student sport or have already done so.
6. There are a myriad of successful partnership approaches (for example Leeds) where students enjoy the benefits of being supported by both the Union and University rather than having to choose.
7. The Union is explicitly democratic- students make the decisions, student elect the Activities & Opportunities Officer, and students make grant funding decisions.
8. The current support for Sport that the Union offers is not perfect because the Union is dramatically underfunded.
9. Taking part in Sport at UEA is expensive because the Union is dramatically underfunded.
10. Where this has happened students report a dramatic loss of control and autonomy.
11. This is a coordinated attack on student autonomy and democracy that we have a responsibility to resist at UEA.

Union Resolves

1. To continue to work in partnership with the University, as per Policy 1560, and hold open discussions between the University Sport Department and the Union, with student involvement, to make improvements to sport that students want.
 2. To continue to work together on the Sports Partnership group to deliver better support for Sport, including joint governance, budgeting and planning
 3. To lobby for increased funding from the University for Sport
 4. To reaffirm the value and benefits of Student Sports Clubs being part of the Union in any partnership group meetings
 5. As part of the University/Union partnership group on sport at UEA, to rule out moving the control of Student Sports Clubs to the University.
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