

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.