

# agenda

Meeting:	Student Officer Committee
Date:	Thursday 18 February 2016
Time:	6.00 pm
Location:	Bookable Room 2, Union House
Code	SOC 16 ST 02

- 1535      Departmental Presentation: Housing**
- 1536      Chair Update**
- 1537      Attendance and Apologies**
- 1538      Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January/Matters Arising/Action Log**  
(See pages 1-11)
- 1539      Funding Requests**  
  
  - Never OK! New posters**  
(See page 12)
  - Israeli Apartheid Week**  
(See pages 13-15)
- 1540      Items for Discussion**
- 1541      Policy Implementation**  
  
  - Policy passed at Council 11 February (See pages 16-32)
- 1542      Projects, Campaigns and Policy Reports**
- 1543      Cycle of Business**  
  - The note the Cycle of Business for 2015-16. (See page 33)
- 1544      Any Other Business**
- 1545      Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting**  
  - To note the next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 10 March, Union House

# minutes

Meeting:	Student Officer Committee
Date:	Thursday 28 Jan 16
Paper:	SOC 7 15-16
Author:	Tony Moore
Purpose:	Record of Decision Making

## Key Discussions

- Provision of funding on campus
- Caucus hustings and election rules
- PTO term of Office
- Number of attendees that each Caucus can send to NUS democratic events
- Financial estimates
- Possible location of a snooker table in Union House

## Key Actions

- Approved funding requests for:  
Stand By Me  
Students not Suspects  
Light Bulbs  
Reclaim the Night
- noted the DRO Appointment and receipt of the Election Timetable and Election Campaigning Rules and made comments to be passed on to the RO
- To propose to Council that PTO term of office should start on 1 July each year
- Agreed to join a commercial partnership with the green energy companies concerned as a charity affiliate
- Agreed no space for snooker table: options are to lobby Sportspark for space and/or to secure a better deal from Riley's Snooker Hall in the city

## **Union of UEA Students Purpose:**

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"

## **Minutes of the Student Officer Committee**

**28 January 2016**

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### **Members present:**

Voting Members Present: Theo Antoniou Phillips (LGBT+ Officer), Tom Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer), Sam Jones (Environmental Officer), Liam McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer), Philippa Costello (Non-Portfolio Officer), Cameron Mellows (Non-Portfolio Officer), Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer), Alex McCloskey (Ethical Issues Officer), Hussam Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Jo Swo (Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer), Yinbu Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer), C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

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

### **Chair:**

Chris Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy)

### **In attendance:**

Tony Moore (Democracy and Governance Coordinator), J Raywood (Sports Development Coordinator).

### **1521 Departmental Presentation: Sport**

J Raywood (Sports Development Coordinator) sketched a background to the current landscape of provision for sport at UEA.

JR emphasised that UUEAS staff in Opportunities worked well with their colleagues in the Sports Department. JR noted that the

work of the University Sports Department consisted of building participation events such as the Ziggurat Challenge and allocation of space at Sportspark and Colney.

JR reported, as to metrics, that, in recent years, the numbers of Club members had been increasing and performance had been improving and the budget had not been able to keep pace with this demand.

JR advised that the reality of the situation was that, because of the low level of block grant, sport at UEA was grossly underfunded and this had led to expressions of dissatisfaction from Club members as to the resources available.

JR reported that, in the summer of 2014, the Sports Partnership Group had been formed with the Activities and Opportunities Officer, UUEAS staff, student representatives and University Sport staff as members and chaired by the PVC Academic. JR believed that for a year the Group's meetings had not been productive but noted that faced with the lack of progress the PVC Academic had asked group members to visit other universities to find out how they ran sports. JR noted the visits had now taken place.

JR noted the PVC had recently attended a Sports Presidents meeting and made two clear position statements: there was no extra money available for sport and that sport would be better managed under a central identity as this would provide more leverage when seeking funds from alumni and external sponsors. As to the former, JR noted the possibility that the PVC had since changed position as the University had now mentioned the possibility of Sports Scholarship provision.

JR noted that UUEAS policy 1587, which had called for a partnership approach, had been met with an uncompromising attitude from University Sport which had rejected any idea of partnership unless overall control was handed to the University. The UUEAS team, bound by policy 1587, had, in turn, had to reject the University's demands.

JR noted listening to the Council debate the previous week where the majority of representatives had reaffirmed support for the partnership model. JR advised that the members of Sports Executive who had brought the motion to repeal 1587 had been disappointed that the motion had been rejected; JR noted puzzlement as to this sense of disappointment as the Sports Executive members had emphasised that they did not want a total shift to University control, they needed UUEAS input and they wanted a partnership.

JR reported meeting with the members of Sports Executive to address their concerns by stressing that UUEAS policy would allow everything to be put up for discussion, including funding, pooling of resources and working in partnership, but would keep the bottom line safeguard of ruling out the transfer of control of Clubs.

JR advised that the next meeting of the Sports Partnership Group would be the following week. JR advised that the best possible course would be to follow the Leeds University approach which had had consultative meetings with interested students and all stakeholders to work out how to maximise the sporting opportunities offered and to meet the demands of students. JR noted there was a debate to be had as to whether all operational sports staff should be based in the same space which would be a more complex operation to effect than it first seemed. JR noted, however, that this centralisation as well as a deepening of the partnership might be accomplished without seismic changes in governance, staff employment status or ownership of assets. JR advised that, if a successful partnership were to be formed, there could be a creation of a Sports Board for strategic and financial decision making and a real attempt could be made to ascertain what student autonomy should look like. JR noted that both UUEAS and Sports Executive had conducted surveys which had produced differing results with students wanting autonomy and the ability to run their own Clubs yet wanting tasks like engaging a new coach to be done for them. JR believed that as fees have risen students have had less time to devote to outside activities and were less willing to spend time on the organisation of their Clubs or Societies and wanted UUEAS to have more input.

JR concluded the presentation by advising that one of the first tasks of a successful partnership would be to identify what inputs students wanted and what tasks they would like to be left to undertake themselves.

Chair thanked J Raywood for the presentation.

**1522 Chair Update**

There were none.

**1523 Attendance and Apologies**

Apologies from B Smith and A Hood noted.

**1524 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2015/Matters Arising/Action Log**

J Swo (JS) clarified that the funding request for torches was part of a wider campaign which would benefit the totality of students

this was why the number given was more than the specific number of torches; JS added that the funding included publicity leaflets.

H Hussein (HH) noted their name had been misspelt on one occasion in the minutes.

HH noted that as to the 14 January meeting the minutes gave the reason for cancellation as staff unavailability whilst Officers had been informed via Facebook that it had been cancelled due to the failure to make quorum; HH asked for clarification. Chair noted it had been a combination of both factors and they, personally, had made the call to cancel the meeting.

## **1525 Funding Requests**

*SOC noted prior online approval of requests for:*

**Light Up Campus**  
**NUS Women in Leadership Conference**  
**Nothing Rhymes with Orange (Muscular Dystrophy)**

### **Stand By Me**

J Swo noted the policy had been approved by Council and that the request had a full breakdown of costs.

*SOC approved the funding request.*

### **Students not Suspects**

J Swo noted the NUS Tour would be coming to campus in February and the funding would be for publicity materials. JS noted that the speakers for the event had not, as yet, been confirmed. JS noted, to a query from T Etheridge that SOC had already funded earlier publicity for Prevent and the present request was for extra materials.

C Rand noted no problems with the funding but asked that events be fully scoped before they were brought to SOC.

*SOC approved the funding request.*

### **Light Bulbs**

S Jones noted that the plan would be to buy £140 of light bulbs in bulk. SJ argued that a problem was that landlords bought the bulbs and students paid the bill. SJ noted that the bulbs would save £1250 for students over the life of the bulbs. SJ noted the bulbs would be given away as a promotion at the Go Green stall that would highlight ways to reduce energy use.

*SOC approved the funding request.*

H Hussein asked as to the recording of how much money had been spent by SOC in the different budgets.  
Chair noted that the information had been posted on the SOC Facebook page but noted that there was some time lag due to the processing of payments.

### **Reclaim the Night**

J Swo (JS) reported this would be the first march of its kind at UEA and would be intersectional. JS reported that the main speakers were from NUS and they were confident the other speakers would be non-controversial.

J Swo noted that there were ongoing negotiations with First Buses to try to secure a bus for free but the funding request covered the cost of a coach if the negotiations fell through.  
H Hussein asked as to the plans for the start of the march at the Flaunt venue. JS this would be activity related and not alcohol related.

L McCafferty wondered as to policing arrangements and road closure. JS noted talks with the police were ongoing.

J Dickinson wondered what rules would be set about participation by allied individuals or groups. JS noted the event would be totally intersectional.

Chair thought that mini-buses might be an alternative to a coach. JS thought this might prove complicated and a coach could make several journeys.

*SOC approved the funding request.*

*Chair noted that the funding request for Go Green Week that had been missed off the agenda would be circulated online.*

**1526**

### **DRO Appointment, Timetable and Election Campaigning Rules**

Chair noted that the DRO appointment had been made online.

T Etheridge noted that the previous year there had been a ban on campaigning at Union Council and it seemed somewhat contradictory to now podcast the hustings to Council and also whether this would be unfair to candidates who were not Councillors.

SOC discussed procedural issues around having a mini-hustings at Council and whether these would include PTOs as well as FTOs.

SOC moved on to discuss the ramifications of caucuses holding their own hustings.

J Dickinson advised that it would be important to decide whether hustings called by caucuses were informal or formal meeting subject to supervision by the RO.

SOC noted the question would be investigated by the RO.

T Antoniou Phillips believed that if the hustings were ultimately outside the control of the caucus members then it would be best not to continue with them.

J Dickinson advised that, at NUS caucus hustings, the chair was often a non-subscribing member of the campaign.

*SOC noted the DRO Appointment and receipt of the Timetable and Election Campaigning Rules and that the Chief Executive would pass on the above comments to the RO.*

**1527**

## **Items for Discussion**

### **PTO's Term of Office**

Chair noted there was no formal start time for PTOs and it was a matter of debate when the best time should be; Chair noted the matter had come into focus due to the extraordinary length of the spring term occasioned by the vagaries of the system for fixing the date for Easter.

SOC discussed the benefits and disadvantages of the idea of PTOs starting at Easter or in July.

*SOC agreed that a better option would be start the PTO term of office on 1 July and to bring a proposal to Council to formalise this in the Bye-Laws.*

### **Starting times of SOC meetings**

Chair noted SOC had reached prior agreement to have 6 pm starts for the rest of term.

### **Good Energy Affiliation**

S Jones argued the proposal for affiliation to what was, essentially, a commercial partnership would benefit students financially as well as UUEAS whilst at the same time promoting green energy.

Chair noted this would not be a formal affiliation that would need to be approved by Union Council.

*SOC agreed to join a commercial partnership with the companies concerned as a charity affiliate.*

### **Equality and Diversity Committee**

H Hussein wondered as to why the Equality and Diversity Committee (EDC) had not, as yet, met.

J Swo that, as EDC Chair, they would be setting up the first meeting for the following week and the Committee would be looking at its role and remit.



Chair noted that the EDC was a sub-committee of the Trustee Board without an explicit remit and the future discussion would be as to whether the committee might play a wider role across the organisation.

### **Process for using/processing the funding of the liberation officers**

H Hussein asked for more clarity as to the accessing of funding for liberations officers and whether this needed approval from the EDC.

Chair clarified that the budget given to liberations officers was owned by SOC and not by the EDC and was just signed off as correct by staff or an FTO. Chair noted it was also circulated to members of the EDC for comment not for approval.

### **Statements on behalf of the Ethnic Minorities Caucus**

H Hussein (HH) noted being mandated by caucus to ask about the NUS Black Students Conference. HH noted that in the past UUEAS had sent one delegate and one observer, usually the incumbent and the incoming officer. HH noted that in the current year it was only budgeted to send the present EM Officer and the Caucus had been surprised and dismayed by this and had asked that four members be sent and budgeted for. HH noted that the allocation for the Caucus compared unfavourably with that of other caucuses.

Chair noted that the numbers of attendees for each conference reflected the allocation made by NUS; for example for LGBT+ conference UUEAS would have seven delegates, and this was down to the internal politics of the NUS.

JD advised that SOC earlier in the year had pre-authorized funding for all voting delegates to attend NUS democratic conferences with an assumption made that funding for observer places would be dependent on separate requests to SOC. JD advised there might be scope for pre-authorization by SOC for additional places for ethnic minorities and disabilities events in next year's budget.

**1528**

### **Finance: Estimates Steering Discussion**

J Dickinson (JD) noted the democratic framework for finance with the overall financial estimates being approved by the final Council of each academic year being followed by detailed budget planning over the summer.

JD noted an example of the way the finance estimates worked was that if there was a shortfall in income from Social Enterprises this would be reflected in reduced spending in the charity.

JD noted that the Block Grant would be £555,000 which compared unfavourably with comparator SUs.

JD advised that under the Improvement Plan UUEAS was committed to controlling costs in the Charity whilst driving efficiencies in the Social Enterprises. JD noted an important development with the proposed restructuring of the balance sheet to reflect more realistically any financing of replacement of fixed assets in order to free up more funding for membership surveys.

JD advised that developed from officer feedback the priorities that would be fed into the estimates would be:

- Staff support for campaigns
- Staff support for students who wanted to run events
- To clear capital backlog in sports
- More support for a joint approach on student representation.

JD asked Officers if they had any additional priorities for feed them into the process.

L McCafferty asked as to the process for the funding of student representation. JD advised this was envisaged as a lobbying effort to persuade the University to fund its commitments contained in the Code of Practice.

L McCafferty asked as that in the estimates campaign funding should not get lost in other wider representation funding.

Chair asked as to the funding for PTO support whether this would be purely staff support. JD advised that the details had not been worked up at the current stage it had been just identified as a problem area.

**1529**

## **Projects, Campaigns and Policy Reports**

**Snooker:** Snooker: Policy Implementation Report

Y Yu noted that UUEAS staff had investigated all possible venues for a snooker table on campus, including Sportspark, in line with policy and had drawn a blank. Snooker Club had since proposed moving the Nap Nook and placing the table there.

L McCafferty noted there was no direct mandate to place a table in Union House and that SOC was only bound to look into the possibilities. LM noted disappointment that University Sport were attempting to take control of Clubs yet at no time had they offered any of the vast open spaces in their leisure centre to the Snooker Club.

SOC held an extensive discussion as to any possible spaces for placing a table in Union House.

The utilisation of and location of the Nap Nook were examined.

T Antoniou Phillips suggested several locations for the table including the downstairs Green Room.

J Dickinson advised that the latter location was, at present, the only bookable public space available to certain wheelchair using members.

Chair summed up the discussion that there was a consensus, excepting T Antoniou Phillips, that there was no practical space in Union House and that the two options remaining should be pursued, these were:

- To strenuously lobby Sportspark to place a table there
- To work directly with Riley's, the external provider in the city, to gain an improved deal for the Snooker Club

**1530 Policy passed by Union Council on 3 December and 21 January**

SOC approved the previous allocation of Officers and staff to lead on the implementation of policy passed by Council on 3 December and the following allocation for policy passed on 21 January:

Emergency Resolution on Course Closures in AMS	Connor/Josh
1835 Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) scheme	Connor actioned
1836 Better educational support for sexual assault victims	Connor/Jo
1837 Referendum Amendment to the Bye-Laws	Chris/Tony
1838 Better extenuating circumstances for students with family illness	Connor/Jo
1839 Solidarity with victims of sexual violence	Jo/Jack
1840 Composite Motion on Sport	Yinbo

**1531 Management Committee notes from 1 December meeting**

Noted without comment.

**1532 Revised Cycle of Business**

Noted

**1533 Any Other Business**

Chair noted that a Councillor had requested written reports be submitted by PTOs.

**1534 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting**

To note the next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 18 February in Bookable Room 2, Union House

## SOC Action Log for 18 February

Date Commissioned	Action Required	Status	Assigned To:	Date to be actioned by:
16 October 14	Public statement to be made on DSA Cuts in collaboration with NUA and City College	<b>Liaising with University over joint declaration with NUA/City</b>	Jo, Aaron, Chris	Ongoing
26 February 15	Proposed amendment on the Referendum Bye-Laws to be brought Council.	<b>Actioned</b>	Chris	16 Apr 15
17 September 15	Investigate location for breast feeding space	<b>Report to be made</b>	Jo Swo	December 15
26 November 15	Actual spend figures to be added to budget updates	<b>Actioned – google doc live</b>	Josh	Spring term
26 November 15	Transport working group to be formed with special focus on parking permits	<b>Group to meet and bring policy proposals to Council</b>	Liam/Jo Swo	Spring term
26 November 15	SOC Policy Implementation Review to be held	<b>To be held and report made to Council</b>	Chris	Spring term
26 November 15	Liaison with staff to improve Clubs and Societies area of the website	<b>Ongoing</b>	Chris	Spring term
26 November 15	Management Committee to discuss prioritisation of non-commercial and commercial publicity in Union House	<b>Ongoing</b>	Liam	Spring term
26 November 15	Chair to feedback SOC's comments on the running of Council Open discussions to Chair of Council	<b>Actioned</b>	Chris	21 January 16
26 November 15	Chair to discuss Save Our Union campaign with other FTOs	<b>Actioned</b>	Chris	14 January 16
28 January 16	PTOs term of office to be formalised and fixed at 1 July	<b>Actioned</b>	Chris	February 16
28 January 16	Agreed to join a commercial partnership with green energy companies as a charity affiliate	<b>Agreement to be reached</b>	Sam	March 16
28 January 16	Snooker Club space	<b>Lobby Sportspark for space or better deal at Riley's</b>	Yinbo	March 16

**Project/Campaign Title: Never OK, new posters**

**Amount of money requested: £177.60**

**Budget requested from: General Campaign**

**Details of project (500 words max)**

Never OK is an infamous anti-sexual harassment campaign that has been running for nearly 2 years. These new posters provide a fresh new look to the campaign, especially as they've involved student input.

**Funding break down:**

**A3 posters for kitchens (522 kitchens and one for Accommodation Lobby)**

**30p each = £165.60**

**A3 posters for Union House 30p each = £12**

**How will this benefit our members? (300 words max)**

NUS Hidden Marks shows that 1 in 7 women experience serious sexual violence whilst at University. Our own survey has similar statistics, and this campaign is aimed at spreading awareness of what sexual harassment is, and why it should be called out.

**Number of members directly benefited: 500**

**Number of members benefited by extension: 15,000**

**How will you ensure this benefits hard to reach/liberation/underrepresented groups? (300 words max)**

The posters will be displayed in every student's kitchen, and for students that live off of campus it will show in all our venues and bars.

**Jo Swo**

**Project/Campaign Title: Israeli Apartheid Week 2016**

**Amount of money requested: £250**

**Budget requested from: General Campaigns**

**Hussam Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer)**

**Details of project (500 words max)**

The title of the project is "Israeli Apartheid Week" (IAW), which is an international series of events that seeks to raise awareness about Israel's apartheid policies towards the Palestinians. This took place at UEA also in the past years, and is UEASU policy. The IAW events will take place in the last week of February-first week of March, 2016. We aim at raising awareness on human rights and international law in the case of the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel, and on the injustices towards the indigenous people, the Palestinians, who are living under Israel's daily occupation in East Jerusalem, the Occupied West Bank, and in the Gaza Strip. We aim at doing so though:

- Projection of 3 movies and documentaries
- Panels and lectures featuring human rights activists, academics, and journalists in three different events
- Flyers and factsheets will be distributed during the week to all interested members

We wanted to do a series of events aiming at understanding Palestinian life under occupation, as well as trying to understand why the occupation and the continued colonisation of Palestinian land is happening. Therefore we want to put on a series of events from speakers to films so that people can get a sense of what is happening and what they can do to help stop it.

**Breakdown of costs:**

- 200 pounds for travel costs of speakers (3 speakers travelling from Cambridge, Exeter, and London – tbc exact costs and locations)
- 50 pounds for refreshments for the 5 events (about 10 pounds for each events for plastic cups, non-alcoholic drinks, and crisps)

**How will this benefit our members? (300 words max)**

Firstly, this project aim at bringing to attention of our members the situation in occupied Palestine, so that they can experience for themselves unreported and unheard sides of it. With such little discourse over the realities of life for everyday women, men, and children living there and with so much confusion about the conflict, we feel that by putting on these events we would be helping to informing anyone who is willing to learn about it. Therefore, the primary objective would be to raise awareness and enhance our members' knowledge about important issues of international relations, human rights, and human dignity.

Second, it will provide an opportunity to our members to deepen their knowledge about specific issues related to: water, land, and natural resources under occupation; refugees in international law; history of the Middle East; and minority religions of the Middle East.

Third, it would provide an opportunity to our members to get acquaintance with Middle Eastern culture through the movies we will show.

Finally, it would provide an arena for engaging in campaigning and activism for those who want to take forward this specific issue of occupation in Palestine and make a difference.

**Number of members directly benefited: 150**

**Number of members benefited by extension: 500**

**How will you ensure this benefits hard to reach/liberation/underrepresented groups? (300 words max)**

First of all, as a population living under a daily occupation with no political or civil rights and often distorted or no media coverage, by putting on these events we are ensuring that the Palestinian people's plight is being listened to.

Second, the committee members of our society are mainly from marginalised groups: there is a majority of people of ethnic minorities, postgraduates, and LGBT people. In this way, they will ensure that their friends, and people of similar background will be actively involved in the events.

Third, we aim at promoting part of the events with other societies in order to ensure the participation of underrepresented groups: International Students Society for people of Ethnic Minorities/Black background; postgraduatesSU students, cinema society, amnesty society, ISOC (Islamic) society, J-SOC, etc. In order to include and advertise the event widely including to marginalised groups, the members of the society will have a stand in the hive before the IAW to raise awareness about the mentioned topics and to advertise the events.

We will also ensure that the rooms that we will book will be easily accessible to our students, in order to guarantee the opportunity to disable and people with access needs to be able to participate. Also,



among the speakers that we choose there are: LGBT+ people, and Ethnic Minorities people. This is in consideration of diversity reasons.

## **Policy passed by Union Council 11 February 2016**

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### **1848 Policies sent to NUS National Conference**

**Council voted to send three motions within the 1400 word limit**

#### **Motion: NUS Conference Welfare Zone**

##### **5 Prioritise Student Mental Health. Now! (322 words)**

**Proposer:** Jack Robinson (Non-Portfolio Officer)

**Seconder:** Daniel Wrigglesworth (UEA Labour Students)

#### **NUS Believes**

1. NUS surveyed 1,093 students in further and higher education in November and December 2015
2. Eight out of 10 students (78%) say they experienced mental health issues in the last year.
3. A third (33%) also said they had had suicidal thoughts.
4. Among those who did not identify as heterosexual, the figure was higher at 55%.
5. More than half (54%) of respondents who reported having experienced mental health problems said they did not seek support.
6. A third said they would not know where to get mental health support from at their college or university if they needed it, while 40% reported being nervous about the support they would receive from their institution.

#### **NUS Further Believes**

1. That over the past year NUS has barely mentioned the single biggest Welfare issue facing UK students today.
2. That whilst most Colleges and Universities have well-meaning, overstretched services, almost none have coherent, comprehensive strategies in relation to mental health and wellbeing. This is unacceptable.
3. That too many focus on cure instead of prevention
4. That mental health and wellbeing services in every FEI and HEI should be adequately resourced and the operation and capacity of services should be regularly assessed in relation to demand and effectiveness.

5. That robust arrangements should be put in place for any student with mental health difficulties who are required to undertake a period of time studying off campus, including those studying or working abroad.

### **NUS Resolves**

1. To prioritise mental health in the Welfare Zone in the year ahead.
  2. To lobby BIS, AoC and UUK to form a national student mental health task force, with student representation
  3. To campaign for a specific student wellbeing duty to be placed on Colleges and Universities as a condition of funding.
  4. To ensure that Universities and Colleges consult and collaborate with SUs and student groups when formulating and implementing student mental health-related policies
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### **Motion: NUS Conference HE Zone**

#### **Stop doing over our Nursing Students (327 words)**

**Proposer:** Ruth Stone (UEA Edith Cavell society)

**Second:** Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

### **NUS Believes**

1. There are huge problems with academic failure and lack of support for nursing students, across all institutions
2. NSS scores consistently track lower for Nursing and Midwifery courses against the average
3. Many nurses and midwives are on placement for half the year and as a result they are very unlikely to be involved with their Unions, societies and sports clubs.
4. Nursing placements are often some distance from the institution therefore increasing isolation and reducing the amount of contact time for face to face support with their institution to a minimum
5. Students on nursing courses are often mature, with dependants and many institutions fail support those with these and other additional needs.
6. Nursing failure and drop-out rates are at epidemic levels

7. Whilst on placement there is the added pressure to meet the demands submitting and preparing for assessments leads to academic failure, misconduct and stress
8. Nursing students can be course terminated through the means of 'fitness to practice'.

### **NUS Further Believes**

1. Nursing bursaries have been scrapped with barely a whimper from NUS' education zone
2. Year after year NUS passes motions on Nursing and Midwifery that never seem to go anywhere
3. The last NUS Charter for Nursing and Midwifery students was published 21 years ago
4. The NMC's standards for Nursing and Midwifery education (like the QAA for these courses) fail to mention student support, student representation or social activity
5. These students need NUS and our campaigning work now more than ever

### **NUS Resolves**

1. That any review of NUS' governance should address nursing and midwifery students as a specific area
2. To look at integration of nursing across many Unions and their campuses to increase nursing representation
3. To work with trade unions to protect placements and future jobs for current nursing students
4. To hold a national summit on representation of Nursing and Midwifery students in conjunction with Unison, the RCN and the RCM
5. To lobby the NMC and other bodies to improve the standard of student representation, student social facilities and student wellbeing delivered by HEIs
6. To carry out research into the student experience of students on Nursing and Midwifery courses
7. To create a national charter for Student Nursing and Midwifery education

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### **Solidarity with Migrants and Refugees (451 words)**

Chris Jarvis (Campaigns & Democracy Officer)

Hussam Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer)

### **Conference Believes**

1. The rhetoric around immigration in the UK is toxic, with politicians from all parties lining up to attack migrants.
2. The current Government's position is that the UK should accept 20,000 refugees over a period of five years, which is a failure of its moral duty for the country to act as a place of safety for people fleeing conflict, oppression, the effects of climate change and other factors which may force people to seek asylum.
3. Ongoing conflict in Syria will heighten the refugee crisis, with more people taking more dangerous action in order to attempt to find safety.
4. The continuing climate crisis will increase the number of refugees and environmental migrants.
5. Across Europe, anti-immigrant policies are being introduced, including the seizure of valuables from migrants in Denmark.
6. NUS has a long and proud history of standing in solidarity with the oppressed.

#### **Conference Further Believes**

1. As the referendum on EU membership looms, the rhetoric used by the national media and political figures will become more and more hostile.
2. The United Kingdom can and should accept many more refugees than the current UK government is doing.
3. Western military intervention in Syria will only exacerbate the refugee crisis.
4. Climate change is already disproportionately affecting people in the Global South, as its worst effects will naturally affect these countries hardest, but also because these countries are least well equipped to adapt to a changing climate as a result of a long history of Western imperialism and capitalist exploitation.
5. Migration brings benefits both to the migrants themselves and to the country they are migrating to.
6. Arbitrary national borders that prevent certain people entering a certain country are morally problematic and perpetuate racism and conflict between people, and that freedom of movement should become the norm, not just across Europe but across the Globe.

#### **Conference Resolves**

1. To express full solidarity with refugees and migrants.
2. To lobby the UK Government to accept more refugees for as long as the current crisis continues.
3. To condemn the aggressive anti-migrant policies of European governments.

4. To re-affirm our position against British military intervention in Syria.
  5. To ensure that in NUS campaigns on climate change, the explicit link is made between it and the effect this has on people in the Global South.
  6. To support migrant solidarity actions wherever possible by:
    - a. Aiding Student Unions to run collections and organise solidarity runs to the Calais jungle.
    - b. Working directly with migrant solidarity groups that seek to improve conditions in detention centres, combat fascist organisations, resist deportations and other actions in solidarity with migrants.
    - c. Supporting national demonstrations in solidarity with migrants and refugees.
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## **1849 Policy Lapse**

1398 Council voted to keep the decision not to offer for sale the Sun or Star in Union retail outlets

1579 Council voted to lapse the policy on PG Representation with a commitment that a new policy would be brought to a future Council

1724 Council voted to keep the policy on Council accessibility

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## **1854 Amendment to the byelaws: Reforming Union Democracy**

Proposer: Theo Antoniou-Phillips (LGBT+ Officer)

Seconder: Ruth Stone (UEA Edith Cavell Society)

Amendment from C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer)

### **Union Notes**

1. Union Policy is defined in the constitution as “statements which describe that which is in the best interests of students”.
2. The Union’s principal Policy formation body is Union Council which is also the principal method of holding SU Officers to account.
3. The Democratic Procedures Committee is “responsible for development of and promotion of the Union’s democratic procedures, with particular reference to ... Union Council”
4. The Student Officer Committee is “responsible for representation and campaigning work... and the implementation and interpretation of Union Policy”
5. The DPC has not met this year.

### **Union Believes**

1. We should be proud that UEASU is one of the few unions left with a vibrant, functioning representative council of students.
2. Our pride should not leave us blind to the problems with our current structure and set up.
3. Many participants are worried about access - yet there has been little progress on making council more accessible since Union Council mandated important work on this last October (Motion 1769B).
4. Comments and scores in last year’s SU Annual Student Survey suggest that few students know who the SU officers are, few know about Union Council, few feel that the union is democratic and few feel consulted when important decisions are made.
5. A survey of Union Councillors showed very few Councillors felt Union Council was representative and very few felt that students knew about Union Council or the decisions it made.
6. Students on Health Sciences courses and placement courses are particularly underrepresented in our current democratic structures and these are often students who need our support most.



7. Speaking at council is highly gendered- participation of women and non-binary students speaking in motions debates has been routinely around half that of those defining as men last term.
8. National research from NUS suggests that most students do not want elected representatives to make decisions or act on their behalf without consulting them first.
9. In addition the research suggests that the majority of students do not feel comfortable running in an election to make decisions themselves. This is especially true for those defining as women.
10. Improvements this year such as the introduction of less formal sessions, training and better communication have been helpful but do not sufficiently address the issues.
11. Our form of policy making is inherently oppositional and only tends to involve councillors at the last minute when a policy has already been developed. This approach prevents most of us from feeding in ideas and thoughts at the development stage.
12. Union officers are rarely held to account in a meaningful way. This is similarly the case for trustees of the Student Union.
13. A healthy democracy has a plurality of feed-in points, offering different mechanisms through which different students can feed in, recognising the diverse needs of our student body and the means that are available to them.
14. Democratic models are not a one-size-fits all. Different systems and structures will be more effective for different organisations at different times, and therefore keeping our democracy under review is vital to ensuring it serves its purpose and delivers for our members.
15. Looking at Union Council in isolation from the rest of our democratic structures and processes will not be as effective as keeping our entire democracy under holistic, continuous review.
16. Significant problems exist not only within Union Council itself, but also with the way in which its agendas, decisions and debates are communicated to the student body more broadly.
17. Democratic reform should not be viewed as a one-off, revolutionary overhaul, but instead as an ongoing, evolutionary process, where new models can be trailed without discarding the old and existing democratic processes can be complimented by new additions.
18. The current model for DPC currently does not work – electing students to stand for two year terms, which leads to them holding office after they have graduated is problematic and does not lead to an effective committee.

## **Union Resolves**

1. To mandate the Campaigns & Democracy Officer to bring to the next meeting of Union Council a revised constitutional framework for electing the Democratic Procedures Committee.
2. To hold elections to the Democratic Procedures Committee as soon as is feasible possible.
3. To amend byelaw 2.37 to read:

“Bye-Law 2 must be reviewed by the first Union Council alongside a broader review of democratic processes once a term on consideration of recommendations made by the Campaigns and Democracy Officer in collaboration with the Student Officer Committee and the Democratic Procedures Committee.”

4. To ensure that in the process of reviewing Byelaw 2 and wider democratic processes takes into account an assessment of the following:

- Accessibility of the meeting
- Different mechanisms through which to improve the communication of democratic structures and processes
- Ways to improve the communication between councillors and their constituents
- Investigating ways to involve more students in the development of policy rather than just the debate of it
- Investigating ways to ensure that council’s membership is more representative of the wider student body
- Investigating ways to improve the accountability of officers and trustees

5. To ensure that a plurality of information and data are used to inform this process including:

- National Student Survey results
- Student Union Annual Student Survey results
- Annual Union Council survey results
- Open discussions at Union Council
- Focus groups
- Discussions at liberation caucuses and equal opportunities assemblies

6. To ensure that as part of the ongoing process of reviewing democracy, the full diversity of our student body is included, so as to ensure fair representation. In doing so, efforts shall be made to consult the following groups of students:

- Postgraduate students
- International students
- Mature students

- LGBT students
- Women students
- Ethnic Minority students
- Disabled students
- Students from all faculties and all schools
- Care leavers
- Students with caring responsibilities
- Students on both the East and West campus
- INTO students

## **1856 Why is my curriculum white?**

Proposer: Asia Patel (BME Caucus)

Seconder: Julian Canlas (BME Caucus)

### **Union Notes**

1. That a lot of schools (especially in the Humanities and Social Sciences) teach from a colonialist perspective
2. That most of the reading lists set by schools has a white eurocentric focus, even when discussing non-European countries
3. That relevant literature written by non-BME people that is relevant to course topics exists
4. That the UCL Student's Union set up a 'Why is my curriculum white?' campaign in 2014

### **Union Believes**

1. That having reading lists which rarely feature content created by non-BME people provides a very biased and partial version of history and of opinions that are unrepresentative of the whole picture
2. That having content on reading lists for topics based around a different countries' history written by people not from that country is not a fully inclusive portrayal as content created by people who are
3. That all students should be represented, even in academia

### **Union Resolves**

1. To mandate the Campaigns and Democracy Officer and the Ethnic Minorities Officer to conduct a campaign based on the UCL Student's Union campaign 'Why is my curriculum white?' to encourage more diverse reading lists from a post colonialist background
2. To lobby the university to change their reading lists to include more content created by non-white people

## **1857 Amendment to the Byelaws - Part Time Officer Terms of Office**

Proposer: Chris Jarvis (Campaigns & Democracy Officer)

Seconder: Theo Antoniou-Phillips (LGBT+ Officer)

### **Union Notes:**

1. The term of office of Part Time Officers is not defined in the byelaws.
2. The term of office of Full Time Officers is defined in the byelaws.
3. Decisions have been made in the past to determine the term of office of Part Time Officers on an ad hoc basis, based on convention, rather than on formal rules.

### **Union Believes:**

1. Students standing for election should have clarity on the terms of office of the role they are to be elected to.

### **Union Resolves:**

1. To add new byelaw 4.22 and renumber accordingly: "Part-Time Officers shall begin their term in office on July 1<sup>st</sup> and end it on June 30<sup>th</sup> the following year. A handover period will be organised with the previous office holder in the period between their election and their taking of office."

## **1858 We are not unicorns**

Proposer: Tasneem Nawaz (Students with Disabilities Caucus's Invisible Disabilities Rep)

Seconder: Kate Snape (Students with Disabilities Caucus's Physical Disabilities and Mobility Issues Rep)

### **Union notes**

1. Invisible disabilities cover a wide spectrum including such things as, ADHD, HIV, Asperger Syndrome, Autism, Behavioural disorders, Cancer, Chronic Fatigue, Diabetes, Dyspraxia, Dyslexia, Epilepsy, IBS, Learning Disabilities, Mental Health Issues, Sensory Disabilities and many more
2. 18% UK population is disabled (Census, 2011)
3. 1 in 4 people will have a mental health issue in the UK every year (Mind, 2013)
4. Around 1.5m people in the UK have a learning disability, this means they can have difficulty: understanding new or complex information, learning new skills, coping independently (NHS, 2015)
5. It is thought that up to 350,000 people have severe learning disabilities. This figure is increasing (NHS, 2015)
6. Disabilities do not discriminate through age, class, religion, sexuality, gender and race
7. Many students with invisible disabilities are not aware that they are classed as disabled and are entitled to help
8. Invisible disabilities do not receive the same amount of discussion and recognition as visible disabilities
9. They often do not receive as much accessibility adaptations as visible disabilities
10. People with invisible disabilities also face obstacles – such as being accused of misusing accessible toilets, disabled parking spaces and other facilities, as well as challenging misconceptions about their conditions
11. There is serious stigma around invisible disabilities

### **Union believes**

1. Union believes in equality for all
2. Union believes everyone should be included and adaptations should be made for people to be included

3. Union believes everyone should be able to access all the same resources
4. Union believes in tackling stigmas, prejudice and discrimination
5. Union believes in raising awareness of important issues that are not commonly understood or discussed

### **Union resolves**

1. Union resolves to support and organise events surrounding students with invisible disabilities
2. Union resolves to campaign to raise awareness of invisible disabilities
3. Union resolves to lobby the university to ensure better help is given to people with invisible disabilities in relation to receiving the support they are entitled to (for example the use of DOS in providing a disability adviser, tutoring for learning disabilities, DSA and mentors)
4. Union resolves to mandate the Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer to ensure we provide sufficient support for students with invisible disabilities within our advice service

## **1859 It's Time to Talk about Costs on Campus**

Proposer: Philippa Costello (Non-Portfolio Officer)

Seconder: Finn Northrop (1<sup>st</sup> Year LDC)

### **Union Notes:**

- 1) That student feedback, such as that found in the Union's Annual Student Survey (ASS), consistently reports dissatisfaction with the costs of retail outlets on campus.
- 2) Likewise, last years' 'The Real Costs of Study' report highlighted concerns that many hidden course costs were unaffordable and presenting a significant financial hurdle for many students.
- 3) That many educational costs, such as those offered by the university's central services, have become increasingly expensive against a stagnant student maintenance package.
- 4) Some students, such as those in HSC, incur substantial further costs for example through placement.
- 5) Essential costs from external providers, such as transport, are also increasingly expensive, with students expressing dissatisfaction with the quality and price of the service currently offered.
- 6) Many students cannot afford to eat on campus, and those that do opt for cheaper, less nutritious options.

### **Union Believes:**

- 1) That previous work to highlight hidden course costs has been largely successful, meaning the priority should now be tackling how 'unhidden' costs are presenting a barrier to study and having a negative impact on both student attainment and wellbeing.
- 2) That students should not be expected to pay for items that are essential to their core study.
- 3) That the current rate of fees for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught programmes are more than sufficient to cover all costs incurred through duration of study and should be inclusive of those costs.
- 4) That the university could do more to influence external providers, such as First Bus, to ensure that the service they provide is affordable and of an acceptable quality.
- 5) As per its charitable objectives, the union should strive to provide an affordable offer for students in its retail outlets.
- 6) Although progress has been made to offer cheaper options in both union and university catering outlets, these are options are by and large significantly less nutritious.
- 7) That a balanced, healthy, diet is crucial to the attainment of students.



- 8) That the combined effect of these costs on campus: upfront course costs, transport costs, and other essential costs such as food and drink, are representing a significant squeeze on student finances.
- 9) That the accumulative impact of the increasing costs are leading to many students feeling forced to work an increasingly number of hours, which has a proven effect on attainment.
- 10) That this will hit students from poorer backgrounds the hardest.

**Union Resolves:**

- 1) To research the impact of these accumulated costs through producing a 'Costs on Campus' report – providing a comprehensive review of the kinds of costs encountered by students, the effect on their overall finances, and the potential impacts on attainment. This should include a set of recommendations on how the university can make these costs more affordable, and include a commitment to move towards all course costs being inclusive of fees.
- 2) To produce a key set of objectives on how pricing in our retail outlets can be adapted to meet the needs of our students.
- 3) To explore offering healthier, affordable options in union-operated retail outlets to complement the current hot food offer.
- 4) To lobby for the creation of a Student Forum whereby students can provide feedback on the university's catering outlets.
- 5) To lobby First Bus to implement a 'Student Fare' – similar to the Young Persons Fare currently offered for those under-20.

## **1860 Amendment to the Bye-Laws: NUS LGBT+ Conference Delegates**

Proposed by: E Folan (Students with Disabilities Caucus)

Seconded by: T Antoniou-Phillips (LGBT+ Officer)

### **Union notes:**

- 1) That at the LGBT+ Caucus on 20<sup>th</sup> January, members voted to have all NUS LGBT+ Conference delegates directly elected by the voters;
- 2) That the Caucus rejected the idea of having the LGBT+ Officer(s) be automatic delegates to the conference, and that the Trans and Non-Binary Caucus rejected the idea of the newly elected LGBT+ Officer (Trans and Non-Binary place) going automatically;
- 3) That the Bye-Laws currently state that the two LGBT+ Officers are automatic delegates.

### **Union believes:**

- 1) The LGBT+ Officers' job descriptions should reflect the wishes of the LGBT+ Caucus;
- 2) Council should formalise this decision and clear up the constitutional inconsistency.

### **Union resolves:**

- 1) To delete byelaws 4.14.5 and 4.15.5;
- 2) To add new bye-law 13.6:

#### **NUS LGBT+ Conference Delegation**

13.6 The entire UEA delegation to NUS LGBT+ Conference will always be directly elected in a manner determined by the LGBT+ Caucus. The LGBT+ Officer (Open Place) and LGBT+ Officer (Transgender and Non-Binary Place) will not have any automatic right to a delegate place.

13.6.1 All NUS LGBT+ Conference delegates are required to vote in line with policy passed by the LGBT+ Caucus, unless that policy mandate contradicts a manifesto pledge that a delegate has explicitly made.

## SOC Proposed Cycle of Business

Each Meeting (format agreed earlier):

- **Chair Update**
- **Departmental Presentations and Strategic Exercises**
- **Issue Presentations**
- **Items for discussion**
- **Policy Implementation**
- **Projects, Campaigns and Policy Reports**
- **Management Committee Report**
- **Funding Requests**

<b>Semester Two</b>	
Week 1 Jan 14	Departmental Presentation: Retail Finance: Estimates Steering Discussion
Week 3 Jan 28	Departmental Presentation: Opportunities (Clubs and Societies)
Week 6 Feb 18	Departmental Presentation: Housing
Week 9 Mar 10	Departmental Presentation: ENTS/Waterfront Finance: Estimates 15-16 Proposal
Week 10 April 14	Departmental Presentation: Venues
Week 12 April 28	Departmental Presentation: Opportunities (Volunteering & Enterprise)
Exam week 2 May 19	Departmental Presentation: Review (Find and Fix) Finance Update