

1. To create positive change in matters relating to the education of UEA students
by effectively representing their collective views.



Minutes of the Student Officer Committee

6 December 2012

Summary

Key Discussions

- NUS President's Response over planning of National Demo
- Students in Work Week proposal
- RBS boycott and ESSA Grants Scheme

Key Actions

- Welcomed Hussam Hussein to SOC as Ethnic Minorities Officer
- NUS President's written response on the planning for the National Demo to be brought to SOC
- Revised UUEAS Election dates approved
- Recommendations in Election Dates Report accepted
- Students in Work Week proposal agreed: joint working group with UNITE Young Members to be established to plan the event
- Apology over UUEAS' past promotion of the, RBS funded, ESSA Grant Scheme to be made to Council and assurance that, in future, the RBS boycott would be strictly adhered to, to also be made to Council

Union of UEA Students Mission 2009-13

1. To create positive change in matters relating to the education of UEA students by effectively representing their collective views.



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Voting Members present:

Jess Lewis (Non-Portfolio Officer), Eliot Fallows (Non Portfolio Officer), Sam Clark (Community and Student Rights Officer), Abbi Forsyth (Non Portfolio Officer), Rosie Rawle (Ethical Issues Officer), Josh Bowker (Academic Officer), Kim Jenkins (Students with Disabilities Officer), Tess Gilder-Smith (Women's Officer), John Taylor (Post Graduate Officer), N Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Astrid Heidemann Simonson (International Officer), Benjamin Brown (Environment Officer).

Non-Voting Member present:

D Bowden (Chief Executive).

Chair

Bintu Foday (Non-Portfolio Officer).

In attendance:

Tony Moore (Representation Support Worker), Alex Etches (UNITE Young Members).

Apologies

Matthew Myles (Communications Officer), Trevor Killeen (Mature Students Officer), Richard Laverick (LGBT Officer).

Please note: in abidance with Chair's ruling that SOC would be following, for all future meetings, the procedure, as passed by Union Council on 22 November, that, if matters were decided by a vote, all Officers should be entitled to vote; there will no longer be a distinction made in the minutes between Voting and Non-voting Officers.

792 Membership

SOC welcomed H Hussein on his election as Ethnic Minorities Officer.

793 Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November

S Clark asked that, where he had suggested in 782 changing the

election dates, "if possible" be added; with this change the minutes of the 29 November meeting were agreed.

794 Action Log

SOC noted the completed actions and actions still to be completed.

S Clark noted that Housing had been GOATed.

J Taylor reported from the informal group on the Safe Room that the possible use of the Bill Wilson room until 4 pm after which it was needed as a space for visiting entertainers will be investigated; J Levell would report back after discussions with ENTS.

J Bowker noted it had been difficult to get attendees together for the Attendance Monitoring Sub-Committee; but he would be meeting shortly with the head of Learning and Teaching Services to discuss this issue. He further noted that the 3 O'clock Deadline policy would also be discussed at this meeting.

S Clark noted the open letter to the NUS about the national demo was being drafted.

B Brown noted he would be bringing funding requests on Go Green Week and other projects to the next meeting.

S Clark noted he would be working with the LGBT+ Officer to liaise with University staff over LGBT History Month.

795 Matters Arising

There were none.

796 Student Officer Action Plan Update

In the absence of the Communications Officer, this item was postponed to the following week with J Bowker tasked to provide updates.

Concerning the minutes of the last meeting, where FTOs were asked to be more vigilant when approving Management Committee minutes, D Bowden advised he had revised the relevant section of the Management Committee minutes so that they could not be misconstrued.

797 Items for Tweeting and Items for Videoing

There were no suggestions.

What We Have Been Doing Diaries

J Lewis asked for a report on the content of Liam Burns, the NUS President's reply to the FTOs.

S Clark noted that L Burns had pointed to problems with the route for the National Demo and not going to Parliament and Hyde Park. L Burns had indicated it was easier under the previous Labour mayor to agree a route than under the current mayor, Mr Boris Johnson. S Clark noted he had asked why students had not been told about the government's restrictions and that L Burns had agreed that this omission was, possibly, a mistake and that, also, possibly, it was mistaken not to encourage students to stay longer, nearer to Parliament.

S Clark noted that L Burns would be getting back to him with a full

written statement and that this would be brought to SOC.

Action

B Brown asked that information on green energy tariffs be made available at future Housing Pop Ups and Housing Socials. S Clark agreed and asked to be sent the information.

Action

798 GOATing Topics

S Clark suggested "Brag Week" where Officers would highlight the achievements of the past term. J Bowker noted this would provide an opportunity to gain feedback from the members on what had been achieved and on how these might be improved.

SOC agreed that "Brag Week" would be the next week's GOATing topic.

Action

799 NUS National Conference Delegation and Ethnic Minorities Officer By Elections

E Fallows, as DRO, reported that H Hussein had been elected Ethnic Minorities Officer and that R Laverick, S Clark, VC Larsen and EC Tucker had been elected as UUEAS Delegates to the NUS National Conference. He noted the turnout was slightly higher than the overall target of 350 with 254 votes cast in the NUS Delegation election and 163 in the Ethnic Minorities Officer poll. He believed the election had run smoothly and noted that there had been no complaints received.

800 Elections Dates Report

SOC noted the contents of R Laverick's Report.

S Clark noted that the errors that occurred highlighted in the report were due to the fact that decisions were made outside of SOC meetings and were never formally minuted. He noted it was unclear as to why the wrong dates had been included in the Handbook.

S Clark noted the revised election dates proposed in the Report and its recommendations on future election planning procedure.

S Clark asked that "effect" in Recommendation 3 of the Report be corrected to "affect".

SOC approved the revised election dates proposed in the Report and its recommendations on future election planning procedure.

Action

J Bowker confirmed to J Taylor that M Myles, the DRO, had agreed to the revised dates and recommendations.

E Fallows noted there were no dates for Hustings included.

SOC agreed that this would be discussed with the DRO and the dates formally agreed at a future meeting.

Action

801 Trade Union Awareness Amongst Young People

A Etches introduced himself as a UNITE Young Member Representative and noted he would try and answer the questions raised at the

previous SOC meeting. He noted that UNITE Young Members were each elected and represented all 18 to 30 year olds in the UNITE trade union. He was himself a member of the National Committee and the Youth Committee and he was delegated to explore the possibility of holding a Students In Work Week in order to strengthen the ties between the labour movement and the student movement and the development of shared aims and values. He envisaged a week of non-political meetings with speakers from the leadership of different trade unions, music and comedy events. He asked that SOC give its support to the project and then, he suggested, a joint working group should be set up to plan the events. He hoped that the scheme would spread to involve other trade unions on campus.

J Taylor wondered about how political the event would be given UUEAS need to be not aligned with any political party.

A Etches argued that representation of young people in the workplace was not a political act and that given the nature of the legislation against industrial action over political issues there was no danger of the event being associated with a political party; he assured SOC the event would not be an advertisement for the Labour Party. The key goal of the event was to ensure that students were represented wherever they worked. He envisaged providing a stall in the Hive where students could access advice on rights and representation in the work place from trade union experts.

J Taylor noted there might be a concern that the comedy events might show a particular party political bias and he thought this might need to be addressed.

A Etches believed that any events would be organised according to UUEAS values and any decisions on the make-up of events would be the responsibility to the working group which would be accountable to SOC.

SOC approved the proposal for the Students in Work Week to be run jointly by UUEAS and UNITE Young Members. A joint planning group for the event would be established which would be open to all UUEAS members

Action

802 Campaign Sub-Committee Updates

T Gilder-Smith noted that a Stop Domestic Abuse Peer Support Group would be going to Council for approval.

R Rawle reported that the University Executive Team had turned down UUEAS' proposal for the University to join the Workers' Rights Consortium.

803 Budget and Spending Update

There were no comments made.

804 Review of Union Council Agenda for the meeting of 6 December

R Rawle asked for guidance as to her contribution to the SOC report on the matter of Clubs and Societies applying for money from ESSA which was funded by NatWest's parent company RBS.

S Clark believed that this should be a simple statement as to the fact

of the boycott which was UUEAS policy. He noted that if any Councillor had a problem with this issue they could bring a policy proposal to the next meeting of Union Council. He noted that, presently, any Club or Society that applied for ESSA funding would be in violation of UUEAS policy and could face sanctions.

A Forsyth asked that it be made clear to Council how much funding Clubs and Societies stood to lose from the boycott. She further noted that UUEAS had encouraged all Clubs and Societies to enter the ESSA competition for funding.

H Hussein suggested a possible course would be for Clubs and Societies to donate any ESSA funding to charity.

SOC agreed that an apology would be made to Council over the past involvement in the ESSA scheme and a statement made that, in future, the boycott of all RBS funding and services would be upheld.

Action

SOC noted that no sanctions would be taken against Clubs and Societies which had in the past received ESSA funding.

R Rawle believed that the above discussion underlined the importance of the planned Policy Review Day where Officers could get to grips with all the current policies and their implications.

805 Management Committee Minutes

There were no comments on the minutes of the Management Committee meeting of 19 November.

806 Any Other Business

D Bowden advised that the Trustee Board meeting had been moved forward to the Wednesday of the next week and it might be convenient for Officers if SOC were to meet beforehand.

A Forsyth noted this would be against UUEAS custom and practice which were to keep Wednesday afternoons free for members' sports and other activities.

807 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting

5 pm, 13 December in the Board Room.