

**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.



**Minutes of the Student Officer Committee**

**14 March 2013**

**Summary**

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**Key Discussions**

- Whether to send observers to NUS Conference
- Question of ultra vires in relation to lobbying for the GSA

**Key Actions**

- Two observers should be sent to NUS Conference, to be chosen by the FTO elect from amongst the four of them
- Thanks to all volunteers who cleared the snow so that Derby Day could go ahead to be minuted
- Special contribution of Women's Lacrosse, Athletics and Hockey to be minuted.

## 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.



## Minutes of the Student Officer Committee

**14 March 2013**

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### **Voting Members present:**

Eliot Fallows (Non Portfolio Officer), Joe Levell (Finance Officer), John Taylor (Post Graduate Officer), Rosie Rawle (Ethical Issues Officer), Benjamin Brown (Environment Officer), Jess Lewis (Non-Portfolio Officer), Hussam Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Astrid Heidemann Simonson (International Officer), Sam Clark (Community and Student Rights Officer), Abbi Forsyth (Non Portfolio Officer) for last part of meeting, Richard Laverick (LGBT Officer), Kim Jenkins (Students with Disabilities Officer), Josh Bowker (Academic Officer), Bintu Foday (Non-Portfolio Officer).

### **Chair**

Matthew Myles (Communications Officer),

### **In attendance:**

Tony Moore (Representation Support Worker), Luke Gilbert (Interim Chief Executive).

### **Apologies:**

Derek Bowden (Chief Executive), Trevor Killeen (Mature Students Officer), Tess Gilder-Smith (Women's Officer).

Chair introduced Luke Gilbert, the Interim Chief Executive.

### **897 Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March**

J Taylor noted that the reference to PG students who taught and the Minimum Wage should have read 'a third' rather than 'a majority'. With the above change, the minutes were agreed.

### **898 Action Log**

Chair noted the completed actions.

J Levell noted that the Safe Room actions would be completed for the following week.

Chair asked Officers to submit their text for inclusion in the PTO Handover Booklet.

J Taylor asked for the PTOs' training timetable to be circulated.

Chair noted the only solid dates, as yet, were 13 and 14 April. He noted that there would be separate training sessions for the Ethnic

Minorities Officer whose election would be held after the main training session.

Chair noted that S Clark would be working with the Equals Opportunities Officers to produce the Equal Opportunities Committee Report for the Trustees.

R Rawle reported that there had been a regional meeting of People and Planet activists which had addressed the coordination of the ESSA boycott. She noted that the meeting had decided, over timing, that other groups would be looking to implement a boycott for the next academic year.

Chair noted to B Brown that the FTOs would arrange a meeting with the Investment Society to discuss the ESSA boycott, for a date, after academic deadlines had passed.

Chair noted there were no updates on the Strategic Plan.

J Bowker reported he was working on the draft Student Charter. He noted the University had produced some work for the new Charter but that they deemed his approach to be more appropriate. He thought he would have finished the draft in two weeks' time and noted Officers were welcome to send him any ideas they might have.

J Levell reported he would be responsible for ordering Officers' hoodies.

Chair noted the PTOs meeting with the PVC Academic needed to be arranged.

J Levell noted there were no updates to be made on the 'Town Planning' but that he had met with the Registrar who had spoken about a refurbishment of the exterior of Union House.

S Clark believed that this would be of little benefit to UUEAS members.

Chair noted that the discussion with General Election candidates would take place the following Monday.

J Lewis noted she would consult the 'how to guide' for tweeting and then tweet the Bedroom Tax event.

J Taylor reported, on PGs who teach, that he would be meeting with the PG director to discuss the report. J Bowker noted he would attend.

J Levell reported that he had applied for some funding for the Activities Hub from the NUS Enterprise Fund some of which would be for the Hub but which would also be to fund the purchase of market carts for merchandising.

#### **899 Matters Arising**

There were none.

#### **900 NUS Conference Observer**

J. Levell asked for £300 plus transport costs to attend as an observer; the funding to come from the Conferences and Training Budget. He noted his previous idea of obtaining a free balcony pass had proved to be unviable. He noted he wanted to attend in order to provide continuity and gain knowledge of conference procedures; in order to train and support UUEA delegate's to next year's conference.

S Clark noted the reason why there had been support for J Levell's original request had been that he had been running for election to Block and, now this was not the case, the opportunity to attend

should, technically, be offered to all students. He believed, if the object of J Levell's request were to provide future continuity, it would be more sensible for the Communications Officer elect to attend.

R Laverick asked whether, in the terms of the Constitutional Review, the Communications Officer would still be an ex officio delegate to Conference.

Chair noted this would be part of the Officers' Jobs Descriptions which would be part of the By Laws to be decided by Council.

R Laverick believed at least one Officer should attend.

Chair noted that there were still adequate funds left in the Training Budget.

E Fallows noted, on training, that he had been charged with training candidates for the Conference Delegation and there had been very little material available and, he thought, having an experienced Officer to deliver this would have been beneficial.

R Laverick proposed that one of the FTOs elect should attend with the FTOs elect to decide which of them should attend.

Chair believed that, given the funds available, up to three Officers should attend.

J Taylor noted that, with new training coming up, to send three observers might be a significant expenditure.

Chair believed there was around £8,000 available. In answer to A Simonson, he noted that any funds left over from the present year's budget would disappear into the general UUEAS budget if unspent.

A Simonson believed that SOC should not send two observers simply because there was money left in the budget, given the overall UUEAS deficit. She believed that the use value of attendance should be the key criteria.

SOC agreed to R Laverick's revised proposal that two observers should be sent to be chosen by the FTO elect from amongst the four of them.

L Gilbert advised as to the importance of training and support for future delegates to Conference.

J Levell noted he would compile a detailed costing for the two observers' attendance and bring it to SOC.

#### **Action**

#### **901 Impact Report**

Chair noted he would post this on the SOC Facebook page for Officers to input into and that the draft report would be brought to a future meeting.

#### **Action**

#### **902 Review of Union Council Agenda for 14 March**

Chair noted that Management Committee, now, scrutinised items on behalf of the Trustees as to their financial and legal implications.

He noted that, on the graduates access to studying medicine motion, there was a mention of the 'Union' providing finances and this should be changed to the 'University'.

Chair further noted, on the PGs and social provision motion, they had considered the issue of ultra vires as this committed UUEAS to lobby to for money to be given to the GSA, a separate organisation. He noted that, after advice from External Trustees, that this was probably not

ultra vires as GSA members were also UUEAS members.

L Gilbert advised that this had come up in his own Union and that it had been concluded to be ultra vires. However, he believed the matter to be subjective and that it might be argued endlessly from both sides.

J Taylor noted that, currently, the GSA was the route that all funding for PG social provision went through and that the reality was either they asked for money from UUEAS or the University. He noted that it did not matter to the GSA where the money came from.

Chair noted that, if the motion were passed, the Trustees would have to scrutinise it further.

### **903 Any Other Business**

B Foday noted it was Islamic Awareness Week and, as part of this, the Islamic Society was laying a feast on to celebrate the breaking of the day's fast at sunset and that SOC were invited.

J Taylor noted that there would be a public consultation the following Monday on the University's plans to build a new accommodation block. He noted that under the current proposal very large haulage vehicles would be driving through campus. He noted that these might pass by Congregation Hall and affect students taking exams. He asked that a member of SOC attend as a UUEAS representative.

Chair noted that one of the FTOs would attend.

J Levell reported that UEA had won Derby Day, emphatically. He asked that the Sports Clubs' incredible work in clearing the snow to allow the competition to take place be minuted. He specifically noted the work of Women's Lacrosse, Athletics, and Hockey. He thanked all of the members who had helped on the day.

B Foday noted she had witnessed bad behaviour by Essex students at Derby Day and that some Essex students had avoided paying for drinks in the bar.

J Levell asked that she report what she had seen to him; as all Essex spectators and player had signed a code of conduct and so the matter could be taken further. He noted this applied to the incident in the bar and that, also, any staff member involved should report to their line manager. He further noted that, generally, students' behaviour, on the day, had been very good.

J Levell noted he would be organising a party to mark the end of the present SOC for Friday, 19 April.

### **904 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting**

5 pm, Thursday 21 March in a venue to be arranged. The PTOs elect would be invited to the meeting.