

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

18 April 2013

Summary

Key Discussions

- Future of the Street
- University's failure to increase the Block Grant

Key Actions

- Residential Training confirmed for 1 and 2 June, availability of residential accommodation to be investigated
- £745 funding agreed to send incoming and outgoing Ethnic Minorities Officers and the incoming Community and Student Rights Officer to attend the NUS Black Students Conference

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by effectively representing their collective views.



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Voting Members present:

Emma Silk (Environment Officer), Lauren Sloan (Ethical Issues Officer), Ella Gilbert (Non Portfolio Officer), Joe Raynes (Non Portfolio Officer), Joe Levell (Finance Officer), Rachel Knott (Women's Officer), Freddie Meade (Non-Portfolio Officer), Tu An (International Officer), Sam Clark (Community and Student Rights Officer), Josh Bowker (Academic Officer),

Chair

Trevor Killeen (Mature Students Officer).

In attendance:

Tony Moore (Representation Support Worker), T Cunningham (Membership Services Manager).

Apologies:

Matthew Myles (Communications Officer), Daniel Delargy (Students with Disabilities Officer), Sebastian Bachelier (Non Portfolio Officer Elect), Holly Staynor (LGBT+ Officer), Kimberley Hirst-Jones (Postgraduate Officer).

915 Resignation of Interim Chief Executive from the Committee

J Levell, as Chair of the Trustees, reported that Luke Gilbert would not be able to complete his term as Interim Chief Executive and had resigned his position as Non-Voting Member of SOC. J Levell noted that Mr Gilbert had been offered a new post and had been asked to work full time whilst completing his notice period with his current employers and had, therefore, been unable to devote the two days a week necessary to work as Interim UUEAS Chief Executive.

916 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

Trevor Killeen (Mature Students' Officer) was elected, unanimously, as Chair of SOC, until September.

Tu An (International Officer) was elected, unanimously, as Deputy Chair of SOC, until September.

917 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2013

The minutes were agreed.

918 Action Log

Chair noted the completed actions.

J Levell noted he had spoken with D Delargy and they would be working on Safe Room provision

S Clark noted he has spoken with the Head of HR concerning the Equal Opportunities Committee Report and she would be liaising with the incoming Officers concerning the production of the Report for next year.

L Sloan noted she would liaise with her predecessor on arranging a meeting with the Investment Society.

S Clark noted he would update Officers on the Strategic Plan after the meeting.

J Levell reported he had hoped to arrange the ordering of Officers' hoodies at the next SOC meeting. However, he noted that he would be absent for this meeting and he would arrange this outside of meetings.

J Bowker noted he would arrange a meeting between the new Officers and the PVC Academic.

J Levell noted he had not heard from the University on the 'Town Planning'. He noted, however, that he had met with a staff member from Estates who had informed him that the University had not as yet any tenants for the Papershop, the Post Office or the NatWest buildings; which he thought to be a matter for concern. J Levell noted that he had been informed that NUS had £150,000 of funding available for community projects. He noted that a UUEAS member was to be a member of the NUS adjudication panel and he believed UUEAS should look at designing a project to submit for funding. Some Officers suggested the project might be for a bike shop and others for a community food cooperative.

T Cunningham advised that there was a strong possibility of Santander taking over the banking premises and, of Employability moving into the Street, as well. He believed that, if UUEAS produced an imaginative proposal with NUS funding, the University might be receptive to it.

J Bowker noted that he had would liaise with the Postgraduate Officer concerning the Report on PGs who teach.

J Levell asked that the Log be changed for the two observers at NUS Conference, in that it was himself and L Withers-Green who had attended, not R Rawle.

J Levell noted that the FTOs should be thinking about the content of the Impact Report. He noted that the Trustees had asked that the Report be circulated to decision makers in the local community as well as in the University.

J Raynes asked as to what was in the Report and what its purpose was.

Chair noted it detailed UUEAS' achievements over the current year and its purpose was to serve as a tool for lobbying within the University

and the wider community.

T Cunningham advised it was also to show the members what their Union was doing as well as informing new students about the range of UUEAS' activities.

J Bowker believed he had a list of community decision makers and he would take responsibility for circulating the report to them and to the University. He noted he would circulate copies of the existing report to the new PTOs.

919 Matters Arising

There were none.

920 Options for Residential Training

T Cunningham advised that most Officers had noted that 1 and 2 June would be their preferred dates. He noted, however, that he would be unavailable to attend but that he had contacted Dan Francis from NUS who would be available for both these days. He noted that the Head of HR would be available for both days and the Finance Manager, for the Sunday afternoon.

T Cunningham advised that he would check available hotels with a view to organising a two day residential for the whole of SOC on these dates. He noted that, with the dates of the new FTOs being moved forward, the FTOs' training would be incorporated into the weekend.

He asked that J Bowker organise the weekend's entertainments.

J Bowker confirmed that he was 'well good' at entertainments.

921 Left in the Pot

J Levell noted this item concerned the Budget updates. He noted that there would be about £500 coming out of the Training and Conferences Budget that had not been included in the update: the costs of the NUSSL conference, expenses for NUS National Conference and the costs of the LGBT Conference.

He noted that there were fairly large amounts in both the Campaigns and Training Budgets and, as the next SOC would be the last of the financial year, it would be an opportune time for Officers to make funding requests.

T Cunningham advised that each of the Equal Opportunities Officers had control over autonomous campaigns budgets of £250 and should submit them to UUEAS staff for signing off; they did not have to make separate funding requests to SOC for items within their £250 budgets; unless they specifically wanted their campaign activities included in the SOC minutes.

922 NUS International Students Conference

Chair noted that the funding had been agreed at an earlier meeting and that this agenda item was simply to note the details of the funding request.

923 NUS Black Students Conference

J Levell noted the request was from the incoming and outgoing Ethnic Minorities Officers who believed it would be beneficial if the incoming

Community and Student Rights Officer attended this conference. They also proposed sending the incoming and outgoing Ethnic Minorities Officers. He noted the overall cost would be £745.

F Meade wondered why NUS conferences cost so much money.

T Cunningham advised that the smaller conferences cost the same as the larger to organise but there were less attendees to spread the cost per member. He noted that, in general terms, because of UEA's geographical location the cost of travel to conferences and the necessity of overnight accommodation meant that it cost more for UUEAS to send members to conferences than other unions. He, further, noted that, in comparison to other voluntary sector conferences, NUS conferences were relatively cheap.

SOC approved the funding request.

924 Review of Union Council Agenda

J Levell noted the importance for the future of organisation of the main agenda items: the Budget, the Strategic Plan and the new Constitution.

S Clark briefly outlined the Strategic Plan. He thought there might be some issues as to the concept of 'fun' being retained. He noted that collectivism, sustainability and empowerment had been re-instated as he believed the arguments for their inclusion had been strong. He also believed that the arguments were robust for retaining 'fun'.

Chair thought that by including all these elements the plan's balance had been maintained.

J Levell noted that there had been some problems over the Budget at Council earlier in the term. He believed that the document he had prepared would overcome these. He noted the origin of the problems last time had been over UUEAS' operational costs and he believed the debate should not be about operations but the overall strategic direction of UUEAS. He noted that the proposal included a list of what was wanted and how it was to be achieved.

Chair asked why Council was not being shown all the figures for the Budget.

J Levell believed these to be unnecessary as most of the figures involved operational costs and tended to obscure the headline figures that Council needed to know and which he had provided.

E Gilbert noted that, in the 'what we want to do', section there were no actual costings.

J Levell noted he would be able to provide these to Council, if asked.

F Meade wondered what SOC's reaction should be to the University's rejection of the Block Grant proposals.

J Levell noted that there had not been, as yet, formal confirmation of the rejection. He noted it was important to look to Council for guidance on strategy and then to guidance from the wider membership, once the rejection was confirmed.

Chair noted, on the core Constitution, that, if this were to be passed, Council would have power to make alterations to the Bye-Laws, jointly with the Trustees. He believed this to be an important positive development for UUEAS democracy.

Chair further noted that he believed there to be some minor errors in

the text of the Constitution that would need to be changed.

925 Any Other Business

There were none

926 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting

5 pm, Thursday 25 April in the Board Room.