

**Union of UEA Students Purpose:**

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"



**Minutes of the Student Officer Committee**

**19 September 2013**

**Summary**

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**Key Discussions**

- Restrictions on entry to the bars and non-ticketed events
- Attendance at Students' Assembly Against Austerity event
- Feedback from Officer Training
- HSBC Bursary for Clubs and Societies

**Key Actions**

- Requested details of how restrictions on entry to the bars and non-ticketed events will operate
- Decided that a revised Ethical Banking policy will be brought to Council and, in the meantime, there will be no promotion of the HSBC bursary scheme

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**Voting Members present:**

Tu An Ngo (International Officer), Ella Gilbert (Non Portfolio Officer), Joe Raynes (Non Portfolio Officer), Rachel Knott (Women's Officer), Bintu Foday (Community and Student Rights Officer), Joe Levell (Finance Officer), Eunice Opare-Addo (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Lauren Sloan (Ethical Issues Officer), Sebastian Bachelier (Non Portfolio Officer), Rosie Rawle (Communications Officer), Louise Withers Green (Academic Officer), Kimberley Hirst-Jones (Postgraduate Officer), Holly Staynor (LGBT+ Officer).

**Chair**

Trevor Killeen (Mature Students Officer).

**In attendance:**

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

**Apologies:**

Freddie Meade (Non-Portfolio Officer), Daniel Delargy (Students with Disabilities Officer), Emma Silk (Environment Officer), Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive).

SOC asked T Cunningham for a briefing on the recent change to UUEAS' working practice concerning admission to licensed premises.

T Cunningham advised that UUEAS would be restricting entry to non-ticketed events and to the bars; in future only members of what were deemed to be the University's 'family' would be admitted. He noted that the 'family' would include alumni and students from other HE institutions. He noted that this change had been made at the request of the University as the University had become increasingly concerned for the safety of students after a number of assaults on students by members of the public who had been using the bars. He believed that the people in question came primarily to consume cheap alcohol

and that they did not subscribe to the values of the student movement; he believed their presence deterred students from using the bars.

T Cunningham advised that the new procedure would not be used at public ticketed events but it would be employed at Tuesday and Saturday LCRs and in the bars at all times. He noted that, for the bars, it would be difficult to enforce the restriction at the point of entry and, therefore, it would be enforced at the point of service.

T Cunningham advised that UUEAS was one of the few unions in the country that allowed unrestricted access to its bars.

Officers asked several questions about how bar staff would ascertain students' identities and expressed concerns over the effect the restrictions might have on blameless members of the public such as dogwalkers. L Sloan wondered whether UUEAS might be accused of discrimination on the grounds of social class.

T Cunningham agreed that there would be some unfortunate consequences of the restriction but these were heavily outweighed by the overriding imperative of ensuring the safety of UUEAS' members.

R Rawle noted it was unfortunate that the FTOs had not been able to sound out the views of the PTOs but that the matter had had to be decided by Management Committee in response to the request from the University.

R Rawle requested that the relevant SMT members provide SOC with the guidelines on how the restrictions would be enforced in the bars and that any resultant loss of income would be monitored and consequent changes added to the Risk Register. She regretted that a report from the Chief Executive on the matter had not been made to SOC.

SOC agreed that the Communications Officer would issue a Press Release explaining the reasoning behind the restrictions and asked that a detailed explanation of how the changes would be implemented be given to Officers.

**Action**

**973 Minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2013**

The minutes were agreed.

**974 Action Log**

J Levell asked Officers to think about any changes they thought might improve the accessibility of the Action Log and to bring them to the Open Discussion. He believed bullet point targets would be effective.

**Action**

B Foday noted she would ask for the details of the disciplinary procedure for repeat offenders and bring them to SOC.

**Action**

R Rawle reported that the Safe Room concept in Union House would form part of the overall Safe Room campaign.

**975 Matters Arising**

Chair noted that the election of a Chair and a Deputy Chair had been postponed until the next week in order for Officers to have time to consider whether they would stand for these positions. SOC agreed that, in order for Officers to gain experience, the position of Chair and Deputy Chair would be reconsidered after every 6 weeks.

**Action**

**976 Students' Assembly Against Austerity**

E Gilbert noted that there was not much information available online about the event and that it would be helpful to have more information about the relationship between the Students' Assembly and the wider People's Assembly movement.

SOC agreed that the matter would be considered at the next meeting and that E Gilbert would ask for a written briefing from L McCafferty, one of the Student Assembly organisers.

**Action**

**977 Feedback from Officer Residential Training**

SOC asked that HR confirm how many Officers' contributed to the feedback.

SOC agreed to action: the request for Officers to meet the GSA Committee and for the Social Secretary election to be re-run.

SOC agreed that the main points from the review should be integrated into the future Action Log. SOC noted the importance of using the feedback to improve future planning of Residential Training.

**Action**

**978 Management Committee Minutes**

SOC received the minutes of the meetings for the period 7 May to 24 June. R Rawle noted that there had been meetings of Management Committee since the new FTO team took office and that these should be made available to SOC.

**Action**

**979 HSBC Funding of Sports and Societies**

R Rawle reported that HSBC were promoting a bursary scheme for HE Clubs and Societies which offered 10 bursaries worth £10,000 each. She believed other high street banks would be targeting the HE market with similar promotional schemes and that, given that UUEAS had an Ethical Banking policy and had a specific ban already in place for RBS' ESSA scheme, it would be sensible for SOC to establish a generic position to cover all these schemes.

R Rawle drew SOC's attention to HSBC's track record which included convictions for money laundering and the breaking of UN sanctions. Officers discussed a course of not actively promoting the HSBC scheme whilst making an examination of how this and other schemes would fit into the overall Ethical Banking policy.

Chair raised the question of how those Clubs that had been forbidden from benefiting from the ESSA scheme would react if UUEAS allowed other similar schemes to be accessed.

J Levell argued that SOC should bring a policy to Council that would explicitly ban the acceptance of funding from all banks that pursued unethical business practices.

SOC agreed that a revised Ethical Banking policy would be brought to Council and, in the meantime, there would be no promotion of the HSBC bursary scheme.

**Action**

**980 Activism Teams**

SOC briefly discussed R Rawle's written proposal that had been circulated just before the meeting.

SOC agreed to one of the points in the proposal to place a campaign team advert on the back of the PCP flyers.

Joe Levell thanked R Rawle for her detailed proposal but believed that, because of the depth and the range of the activities it contained, it would be appropriate for Officers to take more time to consider the proposal.

SOC agreed to discuss the proposal outside the meeting and bring their responses to the following meeting.

**Action**

**981 Any Other Business**

R Rawle raised the question of requesting a formal meeting with the University in which SOC's strategy for the year would be outlined; she asked that Officers' individual action plans be merged into a themed document to be presented to the University.

SOC agreed to the scheduling of a formal meeting with the University.

**Action**

Chair reported he had almost completed work on a new website that should improve UUEAS' online presence as an interim measure until progress had been made on commissioning a new website provider. He noted that Home Run and several other UUEAS services would still run as part of the old website in tandem with the new website for several weeks.

J Levell urged Officers to publicise the NUS Extra Card and e-Rabbit.

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

5 pm, Thursday 26 September in the Student Officer Centre and the Board Room.