

Union of UEA Students Purpose:

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"



Minutes of the Student Officer Committee

10 October 2013

Summary

Key Discussions

- Safe Room Campaign
- People and Planet Training
- Where the money for the People and Planet Training would come from

Key Actions

- Adopted a new travel expenses form
- Agreed £1,200 funding for People and Planet training with the money to come from an increase in the Campaigns Budget

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Voting Members present:

Tu An Ngo (International Officer), Ella Gilbert (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), Freddie Meade (Non-Portfolio Officer), Daniel Delargy (Students with Disabilities Officer), Emma Silk (Environment Officer), Holly Staynor (LGBT+ Officer).

Non-Voting Member present:

Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive).

Chair

Joe Raynes (Non Portfolio Officer).

In attendance:

Tony Moore (Representation Support Worker)

Apologies:

Trevor Killeen (Mature Students Officer), Louise Withers Green (Academic Officer), Kimberley Hirst-Jones (Postgraduate Officer).

Note: Officers rehearsed a scripted debate for the mock Council meeting on 17 October.

995 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2013

The minutes were agreed.

996 Action Log

Safe Room: B Foday reported she and R Knott had discussed this issue and had decided that there needed to be a clear distinction made between the Safe Room, which was the focus of the campaign, and the possibility of having a chillax room which was an unrelated issue

which had caused some confusion.

B Foday noted that there might be two alternative approaches: to ask for a dedicated Nightline Room or to ask for increased publicity to enhance students' awareness of the existing facilities. She noted she would be taking the matter directly to Dr Grant, Dean of Students. She noted there was a desire amongst students for a chillax room but that this would form the basis for a totally different campaign.

D Delargy noted his shock and disappointment that students had to pay to use the existing Safe Room facilities.

Faith Committee: B Foday reported that the Committee would have its first meeting the following day and she was applying for NUS funding aimed at strengthening inter-faith relationships on campus. She noted she would report developments to the next SOC meeting.

Officers on Tour: J Levell reported that, due to rail cancellations, the visit to UEA London had had to be postponed. E Gilbert asked that slots be arranged for other days than Tuesdays.

SOC agreed that slots would be added on other days and that the UEA London visit would be re-arranged.

Action

Format of Meetings: Chair thanked Officers for their feedback and reported that the consensus had been to maintain the open space milieu but with more structure.

NUS Connect: Chair reminded Officers to register.

997 Matters Arising

SOC noted that only Joe Raynes had signed up for one of the NUS Zone Conferences.

SOC noted that R Rawle, T A Ngo and R Knott had signed up to attend the Women in Leadership event.

J Levell noted that the event was oversubscribed due to the number of UUEAS staff members wishing to attend and that attendance would be decided by ballot. R Rawle noted, in view of this, she would withdraw her application to attend.

998 Travel Expenses Form

L Sloan outlined her proposed form which would include comparisons in prices and journey times for rail, Mega bus and National Express. She noted that, by using the form, Officers would show that they had taken into account different travel options when making a funding request.

SOC agreed to adopt the travel expenses form.

Action

999 Campaigns and Training

R Rawle drew attention to her written proposal. She noted that she might be further requesting a small amount of funding for lunch refreshments.

She noted she had had talks with the Finance Officer and she would now propose that £1,200 for activist training should not come from the Training Budget but from a correspondent increase in the Campaigns Budget.

R Rawle believed there would be an attendance of between 30 and 60 members at the training.
S Bachelier asked where the money for the increase in the Campaigns Budget would come from.
J Levell noted this would come out of commercial income.
L Sloan asked how much money UUEAS had in reserves.
J Levell noted he did not have this information to hand.
J Dickinson advised that the money would come from savings in other areas and would not be taken from the reserves.
R Rawle noted that SOC would be notified as to where the money would come from once a decision had been made.
J Dickinson advised that he envisaged the decision would be uncontroversial and would not have political implications.
SOC agreed unanimously to the funding proposal to engage People and Planet as training facilitators at a cost of £1,200 with the money to come from an increase in the Campaigns Budget.

Action

1000 Union Council Action Log

R Rawle asked Officers to review the Log and discuss any actions with their mentors.
She suggested that the Log should be reviewed by SOC every month.

Action

She thought Officers might, also, post their own Logs on Facebook.

1001 Any Other Business

B Foday noted she would be working on World Food Day, the following Wednesday, with DOS and the various international Societies and that the event would take place in the Hive.

L Sloan asked what would happen to the existing Wednesday stalls such as VegBox's and the Food Coop's. B Foday noted this would be no problem as the WFD event could find extra space in the LCR.

R Rawle reported that the UCU, the academic staff union, were currently balloting over industrial action and she reminded Officers that UUEAS had policy to support the UCU.

R Rawle asked all Officers who had not done so to register for campaign training. She also asked that Officers have their campaign goals ready for the next SOC so that they could be collated into the overall strategy.

R Rawle asked that Officers contact her with the names of any campaigns that they thought would be running, some information on the campaign and a date when to meet.

F Meade noted he had been doing some research into abuses of human rights in Uzbekistan and he would be bringing this matter to Union Council.

B Foday reported that she would be giving up her place on the Parking Appeals Panel and that this place would be taken by a student representative; the post would be included in the Elections to University Committees section of the Union Council agenda.

Officers gave short round ups of their weekly activities

1002 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting

Officers noted that this would take place before Union Council; so the meeting would be, simply, the Formal Agenda Items and would be at 5 pm, Thursday 17 October in the Board Room.