

**Union of UEA Students Purpose:**

"To enrich the life of every UEA student"



**Minutes of the Student Officer Committee**

**28 November 2013**

**Summary**

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**Key Discussions**

- Advertising for LCR events
- Consultation process on the Full Time Officer structure

**Key Actions**

- Election of DRO for General Elections postponed
- Guidance to be given to staff on UUEAS values so as to inform decision making on appropriate advertising

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### **Voting Members present:**

Bintu Foday (Community and Student Rights Officer), Ella Gilbert (Non Portfolio Officer), Eunice Opore-Addo (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Lauren Sloan (Ethical Issues Officer), Emma Silk (Environment Officer), Sebastian Bachelier (Non Portfolio Officer), Daniel Delargy (Students with Disabilities Officer), Freddie Meade (Non-Portfolio Officer), Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive).

### **Chair**

Trevor Killeen (Mature Students Officer).

### **In attendance:**

Tony Moore (Representation Support Worker)

### **Apologies:**

Tu An Ngo (International Officer), Rachel Knott (Women's Officer) Kimberley Hirst-Jones (Postgraduate Officer), Joe Raynes (Non Portfolio Officer), Louise Withers Green (Academic Officer), Rosie Rawle (Communications Officer), Joe Levell (Finance Officer), Holly Staynor (LGBT+ Officer).

### **1061 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2013**

L Sloan noted that there had been a discussion on the decision making matrix in the informal section of the meeting and that this should be added to the formal minutes. With this change, the minutes were agreed.

### **1062 Action Log**

**Decision Making Matrix:** L Sloan noted this had been, mistakenly, dropped from the Log. SOC noted that this would be restored to the Log as an un-actioned item. The timeline for completion was set as the first meeting in January. SOC agreed that a meeting between SOC and the Trustees would take place before the Board meeting on

12 December and that, as he understood, the Chair of Council would be writing to Trustees to invite them to the first meeting of Council of next semester to discuss the matrix and, also, the matter of how to ensure free and fair debate at Council.

**What if Consultation:** SOC noted that the Chief Executive had circulated a report; Officers would contact T Moore, if they had not, as yet received this.

**Briefing on funding and financial reporting:** SOC noted the Chief Executive would circulate these and if Officers had any queries on them they would bring them to the next meeting.

**Action**

**1063 Matters Arising  
Bike Skills Share**

E Gilbert reported that the cost of attendance at this event had increased by £5. SOC agreed the extra funding.

**1065 Elections**

Chair noted that B Foday and J Levell had put themselves forward as candidates for DRO and that, J Levell due to his absence had sent a video recording of his speech in favour of his candidacy. Due to a technological problem, SOC were unable to hear J Levell's speech and decided to postpone the election and the consideration of letters to prospective candidates until the next meeting.

**Action**

**1065 LCR Club Night Advertising**

L Sloan reported that the 'Anything But Clothes' advertising had been focused on nudity and she believed this to be inappropriate. She noted SOC had given prior approval to the themes for the term but had not vetted individual advertisements and she wondered how to prevent inappropriate advertisements being used in the future. She noted there were no firm guidelines in place.

SOC asked that it be minuted that this particular advertisement was inappropriate and the Chief Executive would give staff guidance as to UUEAS' values to ensure against a re-occurrence.

**Action**

**1066 Guest Speakers at Union Council**

This item was deferred.

**1067 Individual Officer Campaigns Budgets**

This item was deferred.

**1068 Full Time Officer Structure**

Chair noted his concerns about the consultation process; he believed that issuing a notice on the Monday that the consultation would take place the following day was unacceptable. Chair noted that J Levell had informed him that the consultation would continue for another two weeks. B Foday noted her concerns as to the rushed nature of the timescale. L Sloan noted SOC was following the mandate of Council

but action should have taken place immediately after Council and that a clear plan should have been put in place. She believed there should have been prior consultation on the questions in the survey that had been run; she believed the survey questions to have been inappropriate and biased.

J Dickinson advised, as to practical action, that J Levell had framed policy proposals to come to Council the following week and that J Levell would have to consult widely with Officers and members before Council to inform the debate over the proposals.

Chair noted that the policy only asked for recommendations to be brought to Council and that, in theory, the consultation could continue until the last SOC meeting of the semester.

Chair noted that SOC could consider the forthcoming decisions of Council and the on-going results of the wider consultation and make its decision over the referendum questions at the last meeting of the semester. He noted the importance of having a clear plan in place for the next two weeks of consultation.

L Sloan argued that the recommendations that were being put to Council were extremely limited and had been informed by what she believed to be the biased nature of the survey and without input from Officers. She believed the consultation, so far, had not been valid as it was leading the debate and pushing for a particular outcome.

Chair noted that there was a consensus at the present meeting that the consultation had not been appropriate and had not been done well. Chair noted that important principle views on the future of UUEAS had been put to Council by the Finance Officer without consultation with SOC. Chair believed the only option for individual Officers would be to vote against the recommendations or to bring amendments to Council.

L Sloan thought the available alternatives were to hold the referendum based on a flawed consultation or to postpone the referendum.

E Gilbert noted that she would have to leave the meeting due to course work commitments.

L Sloan asked individual Officers to update any relevant sections in the Union Council Action Log.

Chair noted the meeting had become inquorate and he closed the meeting.