

Union of UEA Students Purpose:

“To enrich the life of every UEA student”



Minutes of the Student Officer Committee

20 February 2014

Summary

Key Discussions

- UUEAS finances
- UCU marking boycott
- Places available at NUS Conferences

Key Actions

- Asked that police entry into Union House at evening events be formally recorded in future Events Reports

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Voting Members present:

Ella Gilbert (Non Portfolio Officer), Rosie Rawle (Communications Officer), Kimberley Hirst-Jones (Postgraduate Officer), Tu An Ngo (International Officer), Sebastian Bachelier (Non Portfolio Officer), Lauren Sloan (Ethical Issues Officer), H Staynor (LGBT+ Officer), Freddie Meade (Non Portfolio Officer), Bintu Foday (Community and Student Rights Officer), Joe Levell (Finance Officer), Emma Silk (Environment Officer), Rachel Knott (Women's Officer), Eunice Opare-Addo (Black & Ethnic Minorities Officer)

D Delargy (Students with Disabilities Officer) joined the meeting part the way through.

Non-voting Member

Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive).

Chair

L Withers Green (Academic Officer).

In attendance:

Tony Moore (Representation Support Worker)

Apologies:

Joe Raynes (Non Portfolio Officer).

1140 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2014

The minutes were agreed.

1141 Matters Arising

There were none.

1142 Action Log

R Rawle reported, on the *ambiguity of questions in Referendums*, that a meeting of the CRG had been arranged for the following week.

SOC agreed to note progress on the implementation of policies recently passed by Council and update the **Council Action Log**.

R Rawle noted she was investigating possible alternatives to the NUS for the **Returning Officer** post.

On University Rents, B Foday noted that the University had not publically stated that it had reached a decision on the rent level and that she would investigate when the decision would be made.

SOC noted that the **Block Grant open meeting** had taken place.

SOC noted that an Officer had attended the **ATOS** demo and the demo had been publicised.

SOC noted the increase in the number of police officers patrolling on campus and in Union House.

*SOC asked that it be minuted that this had not been reported in recent Events Reports and staff made aware of the **Police in Union House policy**.*

R Rawle reported that had been yet another rejection by the University over the **Fossil Free** campaign.

J Levell reported that the changes which would enable students to sit on the boards of the **Subsidiary Companies** were still being designed.

K Hirst-Jones noted the Library had held a focus group with PG students and that questionnaires would be placed in the Grad Bar. She noted she would be asking the Library about use of PG space by **integrated masters'** students.

SOC agreed that Officers would update the Council Action Log in between meetings and that only the items highlighted in red would be discussed at SOC.

Emergency Item

J Dickinson, Chief Executive gave a presentation on UUEAS' finances and service provision. He summarised the situation: profit of the commercial side was below the benchmark for students' unions, spend on membership services and campaigns was low and spend on administration and premises was high.

L Sloan noted on the £60,000 rise in the pension funding contribution whether this might be an area where the University might help.

J Dickinson advised this would be the subject for future conversations with the University.

L Sloan asked as to the state of the Reserves Policy.

J Dickinson advised there had been a delay which had been caused by the need to merge the Reserves Policy with an Investment Policy which would establish where the reserves were held. He noted the present problems with the new ownership and governance structure of the Co-op Bank. He further noted he would be advising the Trustee Board to decide to make the policy agreed by Council immediately operational.

1143

Officers on Livewire Union Show

J Levell noted that Officers had failed to appear on the show the previous week and he asked Officers if they committed to appearing to ensure they did so.

To appear next week: J Levell and R Knott.

1144 Block Grant Committee

SOC noted this item would be considered at the next meeting.

1145 UCU Industrial Action: Marking Boycott

SOC noted, due to J Raynes' absence, this would be formally considered at the next meeting.

J Dickinson advised that students would soon be asking questions about this matter. He noted that the last boycott had been in 2006 and that students' unions and the NUS had lost control of events when they failed to put the effort in to lobby and inform their members. He advised that support for a marking boycott was far harder to gain than for generalised industrial action and that, if SOC decided it should be supported, they would have to be prepared to mount a sustained and detailed campaign of briefing and lobbying. He advised that it was highly unlikely that the employers would agree to a deal with the UCU; so SOC should be prepared for this eventuality.

SOC agreed that this matter would be reported to Council at its next meeting

1146 Council Action Log

Chair noted that this item had been covered earlier in the meeting.

1147 Officer Go Round

E Gilbert : ATOS demo, Block Grant meeting, Norfolk People's Assembly
Unions Day

E Silk: Fossil Free, Activism and Campaigns workshop and screening of the film, Just Do It!

R Knott: International Women's Day, Manchester 'Reclaim the Night',
London 'Lad Culture' Summit

F Meade: Block Grant, Marketisation of HE Teach-in in Cambridge and ULU
demonstration against their university's attempt to seize control of the
students' union

K Hirst-Jones: PG library space, promoting another PG live music band in
the Grad Bar

S Bachelier: introduction of gluten free products in the Hive

L Sloan: National Week of Action of the Fair Pay on Campus Campaign

E Opare-Addo: introduction of 'Scotch Bonnets' in the Shop

H Staynor: Continuing LGBT+ History Month, including talk by Peter Tatchell
and a meeting on international LGBT+ issues with DEV SOC

D Delargy: organising attendance at NUS conference and organising a
focus group before the conference.

1148 Any Other Business

H Staynor wondered as to quotas for NUS conferences. R Knott noted that certain places were reserved for certain categories of students. J Levell noted the cost for observers was quite high but last year for the LGBT+ Conference this had been met by funds from the Campaigns Budget. H Staynor noted she would like to attend the Women's Conference. R Knott noted that there was a lot of interest from Feminist Society members and

she would write a list of attendees and places available.
Chair noted that unions were restricted to only two observers at the Women's Conference; she believed this was unfortunate: the event should be unrestricted and aim to be the 'Glastonbury' of feminism.
E Silk asked Officers to attend the Just Do It! Event and to talk about their campaigns

1149

Time, Date and Place

5 pm, Thursday, 27 February in 1.31, Union House.