

Union of UEA Students Purpose:

“To enrich the life of every UEA student”



Minutes of the Student Officer Committee

13 March 2014

Summary

Key Discussions

- UCU Marking Boycott
- Equal Opportunities Committee
- Democratic Procedures Committee elections

Key Actions

- Establish a Focus Group to work on communications and campaign planning to co-ordinate UUEAS' response to the UCU Marking Boycott
- Democratic Procedures Committee elections to be run alongside Part Time Officer By-Elections

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Voting Members present:

Ella Gilbert (Non Portfolio Officer), Rosie Rawle (Communications Officer), Sebastian Bachelier (Non Portfolio Officer), H Staynor (LGBT+ Officer), Joe Levell (Finance Officer), Emma Silk (Environment Officer), Eunice Opare-Addo (Black & Ethnic Minorities Officer), Joe Raynes (Non Portfolio Officer).

Chair

L Withers Green (Academic Officer).

In attendance:

Tony Moore (Representation Support Worker).

Apologies:

Kimberley Hirst-Jones (Postgraduate Officer), Freddie Meade (Non Portfolio Officer), Bintu Foday (Community and Student Rights Officer).

1164 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2014

The minutes were agreed.

1165 Matters Arising

There were none.

1166 Action Log

SOC received the Log without comment.

1167 Officers on Livewire Union Show

To appear next week: R Rawle and L Withers Green.

1168 UCU Industrial Action: Marking Boycott

J Raynes noted that there had been no settlement to the dispute and he believed that some preparatory action should be taken.

SOC agreed to establish a Focus Group to work on communications and campaign planning to co-ordinate UUEAS' response.

Members of the group will be: E Gilbert, F Meade, R Rawle and H Staynor, E Gilbert will organise.

1169 Equal Opportunities Committee

H Staynor reported from the first meeting of the Committee. She noted that B Foday would be bringing a policy draft to the next meeting which would propose a structure and timeline for the promotion and monitoring of equality and diversity across UUEAS staffing and services with a target delivery date for the delivery of the first Equal Opportunities Review of 1 July 2015.

SOC discussed briefly the resolves of the Women in Leadership policy passed at the last meeting of Council.

1170 Council Action Log

R Rawle apologised that the latest update of the Log was not, as yet, available.

1171 Officer Go Round

R Rawle: planning the panels and invitations for the Union Awards. There has been an online Elections Hustings this year, along with stronger publicity for the elections.

E Gilbert: Stop The Sell Off - UCU policy. Elections

J Levell: Media Hub, Voting publicity. Manchester Strategy and Scrutiny. Macclesfield NUS Communications and Engagement Group

E Silk: attended to University Boards – The Sustainability Board and Environmental Management Systems Board, increasing pressure for the University to go Fossil Free. She organized an elections hustings for Ethical Issues and Environment candidates. The University witnessed its first Communications Blockade from the Fossil Free Campaign, where phones, social media and switchboards were permanently jammed for three hours. She has also been preparing for next year's Reduce Reuse Recycle.

J Raynes: elections, writing policy

S Bachelier: Elections publicity

E Opare-Addo: success in introducing plaintain chips in The Shop, as part of her initiative to encourage international food on campus.

H Staynor: women in leadership and equal ops

L Withers Green: Vote Mobile. Presentation for Annual Fund - Flip Lectures, Education for Sustainability.

1172 Any Other Business

R Rawle noted that, on the elections for the new Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC), SOC had agreed that these should involve the generality of students and not just Union Councillors.

SOC noted that there would be two By-Elections coming up for unfilled Part Time Officer posts and that the DPC elections could usefully be held simultaneously with the By-Elections. SOC noted that there had been successful By-Elections held in May.

SOC agreed to recommend that the DPC elections will be run alongside the PTO By-Elections sometime in May.

J Raynes reiterated his concerns over the need for immediate action over the UCU marking boycott and argued that it would be unfair to leave this to the incoming PTOs.

R Rawle noted she would post information on the Blog to alert students to the issues immediately.

1173

Time, Date and Place

5 pm, Thursday, 27 March in a venue to be confirmed.

SOC noted that after the Easter break, the FTOs elect would be invited to SOC meetings during the Exam Period.