

Union of UEA Students Purpose:

“To enrich the life of every UEA student”



Minutes of the Student Officer Committee

1 May 2014

Summary

Key Discussions

- Rent cap campaign
- Content of message to be sent to members about the UCU's probable withdrawal of the marking boycott

Key Actions

- Rent cap campaign to be discussed at open discussion session during residential training

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Voting Members present:

Theo Antoniou Phillips (Non Portfolio Officer), Tom Etheridge (Non Portfolio Officer), Max Levene (Students with Disabilities Officer), Louise Withers Green (Academic Officer), Bintu Foday (Community and Student Rights Officer), Oliver Steward (Postgraduate Officer), Josh Wilson (Ethical issues Officer), Dan Wrigglesworth (LGBT+ Officer), Dolly Ogunrinde (Women's Officer), Joe Levell (Finance Officer).

Officers Elect present:

Chris Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), Connor Rand (UG Education Officer), Liam McCafferty (PG Education Officer).

Chair

Rosie Rawle (Communications Officer),

Non-Voting Members present:

J Dickinson (Chief Executive)

In attendance:

Tony Moore (Representation Support Worker), Tu An Ngo (former International Officer)

Apologies:

Iain Goddard (Environment Officer), John Taylor (Mature Students Officer), Liz Cody (Non Portfolio Officer)

R Rawle took the Chair for the current meeting and welcomed the incoming Officers.

1197 Election of Chair

J Taylor and D Wrigglesworth stood for Chair; D Wrigglesworth was elected

using STV.
T Etheridge was elected nem con as Deputy Chair.

- 1198 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2014**
It was noted that D Wigglesworth's name had been omitted from the attendees; with this change, the minutes were agreed.
- 1199 Matters Arising**
There were none.
- 1200 Action Log**
SOC noted the completed actions.
B Foday noted as to the rent rise that this would represent a 7.75% increase.
SOC discussed whether UUEAS's goal should be a future cap on rent rises and whether there should be a policy taken to Union Council. SOC agreed that the matter of a rents campaign would be the subject of an open session at residential training.

Chair noted she would be sending exit questionnaires to the former PTOs.
- 1201 UCU Industrial Action: Marking Boycott**
R Rawle reported that the UCU had balloted their members over the employers' offer of a 2% pay rise and that the turn-out for the ballot had been 54% with 84%, of those voting, agreeing to accept the offer. She noted it was now almost certain the UCU Executive would accept the offer and abandon the industrial action.
SOC discussed the tone of the message to send out to members.
C Rand argued that the message should highlight the role that students' unions' support for the UCU had played in bringing about the settlement.
T Etheridge noted the importance of making it clear to members that the boycott would not be taking place.
J Wilson believed that it was important to include what had not been gained for academic staff in the settlement.
Chair noted that she would find out from the UCU what the position was as to measures to reduce the gender gap.
- 1202 Officer Trustees**
Chair noted at some stage in the exam period SOC would need to elect two Officer Trustees to serve on the Board and that the PTOs should consider whether they would like to stand for these positions. J Levell and T A Ngo noted that Officers could email them to find out more about what the work of Officer Trustees involved.
- 1203 Council Action Log**
Chair showed SOC the log and noted its use as a tool for the management of policy implementation.
- 1204 Events Advertising**
Chair noted that this item had been withdrawn

1205

Officer Go Round

B Foday: attendance at NUS Conference, visiting Wales for research on Time to Change, launch of Time to Change Pledge, working on response to rise in thefts at the Village, lobbying University to adopt sub-culture membership as discrimination category, EOC.

J Wilson: attendance at NUSSL conference. (He noted there should be more focus there on ethical and environmental issues).

M Levene: attendance at Time to Change Launch.

J Levell: attendance at NUS and NUSSL conferences, handover, Media Hub, SAM prices and nominations for NUS Awards.

D Ogunrinde: organising an anti-discrimination march to take place the following Saturday night on the Prince of Wales Road.

D Wrigglesworth: NUS Conference and NUS LGBT+ Conference.

O Steward: listening to PGR and PGT students about their needs, working on relationship between GSA and UUEAS, GSA funding and better equality and diversity training.

TA Ngo (in the absence of any International Officer): sorting out confusion caused by a student who had set up their own society without UUEAS permission.

L Withers Green: module evaluation, Academic Societies coordinator bid, new External Trustee interviews.

R Rawle: marking boycott, hustings for the local and the European elections on 1 May, promotion of the Democratic Procedures Committee for the elections.

C Rand: observer at NUS Conference.

1206

Any Other Business

L McCafferty reported that there would be an Anti-Casualisation Day of Action taking place on 7 March; he realised this was short notice but wondered whether SOC should take action on this. Chair noted that this would be advertised on the Facebook page.

T A Ngo (in the absence of any International Officer) reported that an INTO student had posted an item detailing an example of extreme conspicuous consumption on their Facebook page. She asked that anyone who saw this did not pass it on or give it publicity as it gave a very wrong impression of the economic status of the great majority of international students.

C Jarvis noted that the National People's Assembly would take place on 21 June and he wondered whether UUEAS should send a coach. Chair noted that UUEAS was affiliated to the local branch. C Jarvis noted he would bring a funding proposal to the next meeting.

O Steward noted that he and his constituents were extremely concerned about the funding that the GSA received from the Block Grant as this stood at around one pence per PG student. He noted that the GS would be looking at the whole issue of funding from the University and would be campaigning for a level of funding equivalent to 1% of the total Block Grant. He noted he would bring this matter back as a formal agenda item.

1207

Time, Date and Place

Chair noted that some Officers had difficulties attending at 5 pm. SOC agree to move the start time back.

5. 30 pm, Thursday, 8 May in a venue to be confirmed.