

**Union of UEA Students Purpose:**

“To enrich the life of every UEA student”



**Minutes of the Student Officer Committee**

**8 May 2014**

**Summary**

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**Key Discussions**

- Zero Hours Contracts for student staff
- Emergency Union Council meetings
- Received reports on charges to Societies for using former Music School premises

**Key Actions**

- Student staff to be consulted on Zero Hours Contracts and results to be taken to Management Committee for consideration
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### **Voting Members present:**

Liz Cody (Non Portfolio Officer), Tom Southerden (Non Portfolio Officer), Rosie Rawle (Communications Officer), Iain Goddard (Environment Officer), Theo Antoniou Phillips (Non Portfolio Officer), Max Levene (Students with Disabilities Officer), Louise Withers Green (Academic Officer), Oliver Steward (Postgraduate Officer), Josh Wilson (Ethical issues Officer), Joe Levell (Finance Officer).

### **Officers Elect present:**

Chris Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), Connor Rand (UG Education Officer)

### **Chair**

Tom Etheridge (Non Portfolio Officer)

### **Non-Voting Members present:**

None

### **In attendance:**

Tony Moore (Representation Support Worker), T Cunningham (Deputy Chief Executive).

### **Apologies:**

J Dickinson (Chief Executive), John Taylor (Mature Students Officer), Liam McCafferty (PG Education Officer elect), Dan Wrigglesworth (LGBT+ Officer), Bintu Foday (Community and Student Rights Officer), Dolly Ogunrinde (Women's Officer).

## **1208 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2014**

SOC noted a typographical error; with this change, the minutes were agreed.

**1209 Matters Arising**

R Rawle noted that the marking boycott had been called off and she had issued a statement as agreed.

**1210 Action Log**

SOC noted the completed actions.

R Rawle noted, as to the University rent rise, that Concrete would be running this as a front page story. She thought that this might mean that students would ask questions of the Officers and she would post relevant information online.

C Jarvis noted that the local People's Assembly would be providing transport to the national event; he would be finding out the costs and bringing a funding request to the next meeting.

R Rawle noted she would be soon sending exit questionnaires to the former PTOs.

R Rawle noted that UUEAS' participation in the Day of Action had thrown up some contradictions as the Day's publicity material had been against Zero Hours Contracts and UUEAS employed student staff on these contracts. She noted she had had an online comment that UUEAS should put its own house in order before it took part in this sort of action; she believed this to be a valid point which could be looked at by Management Committee.

J Wilson noted that, additionally, UUEAS did not pay the Living Wage but that this was currently being looked at.

T Cunningham advised that there were discussions on the Budget to be had but it was hoped that UUEAS would be able to implement the Living Wage in September. As to Zero Hour Contracts, he advised that these were very popular with student staff and he wondered whether Officers might look at their application to non-student staff, only.

C Rand thought that to take away this flexibility from student staff would cause a backlash.

SOC agreed that student staff should be consulted on this issue and that the results would be taken to Management Committee for consideration.

R Rawle noted that, on the gender gap with regard to academic staff which was part of the UCU's demands, there had been no movement and this action point would, therefore, be closed.

**1211 Management Committee**

SOC noted receipt of the minutes of the meeting held on May 6.

J Levell, in the absence of B Foday, Chair of Management Committee, gave SOC an overview of the work of the Committee.

C Jarvis noted that the minutes noted that Deloitte's would be conducting an audit of UUEAS and he noted that Council had passed policy on tax avoidance which had specifically referenced this firm.

T Cunningham advised that Deloitte's were being brought in by the University to audit UUEAS' data compliance as part of the move toward data sharing and that the commissioning of this particular firm was a matter beyond UUEAS' control.

R Rawle noted that it might seem strange to new Officers that they

received minutes from a Committee that they did not attend but that reading the minutes would give them an insight into the commercial services and enable Officers to hold UUEAS management to account.

## **1212 Officer Go Round**

R Rawle: candidate training workshops, By Election preparation, PTO exit questionnaire.

J Wilson: concentrating on academic work.

O Steward: meeting with UUEAS to discuss help on the running of sports activities for the GSA. He noted that the GSA was looking at concentrating its efforts more on the social and welfare aspects of its activities. He noted that alongside the activities of the PG Education Officer, the GSA would be looking to focus on the promotion of equality and diversity. He noted he and other committee members were writing a new GSA constitution which would create two new committee positions: an equal opportunities officer and an activities and social inclusion officer. He reported that, sadly, there had been no candidates for the Secretary or other committee positions and by-elections would have to be held for these in the autumn.

T Southerden: concentrating on academic work.

M Levene: concentrating on academic work.

I Goddard: met with Student Support Services Manager over plans for Reduce, Re-use, Recycle for June and he noted the need for volunteers to work on the event and this would be advertised on social media.

L Cody: concentrating on academic work.

L Withers Green: the 'What if your course was better?' consultation to which there had been over 600 responses and preparing for her presentation for the Learning and Teaching Day.

C Rand: Learning and Teaching Day presentation.

J Levell: working on new committee agreements and constitutions for Sports Clubs, meetings on the Media Hub, discussions on SAM, lobbying Simon Wright MP over letting agents' charges.

T Antoniou Phillips: meeting with University over the future usage of the former Music School's premises. He noted that the University had, when they closed the School, given assurances that the premises would be available for students to make live music. He noted he had been asked by the Live Music Society to ensure that this would still be the case. He noted the University had confirmed to him that the premises would be available to students and the Orchestra. He noted the Society's further concern over the cost of using the premises and the hourly rate charged by the University and that he had proposed to the University that the Society should be able to use the premises free of charge. He noted that the University were considering the matter.

Chair: Livewire committee meeting on Welcome Week plans.

## **1213 Any Other Business**

J Levell asked Officers to respond to his call for volunteers for a focus group on UUEAS' visual identity for brands and marketing.

R Rawle reported there would, probably, be an emergency meeting of Union Council called for the following week. She noted that this had been

necessitated as there had been a call by the Trustees for a meeting to consider the Union incorporating and a petition from 16 members of Council had been received to consider a resolution on far-reaching reform to UUEAS democratic processes that there had not been time to consider at the last meeting of Council. She noted that the petition needed 4 more signatures and Officers were welcome to add their names to it.

L Withers Green asked as to the membership of Council for the emergency meeting.

T Moore advised that, after discussions, it had been decided to use the precedence of past practice and to use the membership roll for the last Council meeting but with the addition of the new Part Time Officers who had taken office at Easter.

SOC agreed that, as debate of any item was restricted to one hour, two separate meetings should take place and, if the required 20 signatures were collected, these meetings would take place consecutively on the evening of Thursday, 15 May.

Chair noted that there would be an 'Officers on Livewire' show the following week. O Steward and L Withers Green to appear.

**1214**

**Time, Date and Place**

SOC agreed that, as Council would be taking place on Thursday, to not meet the following week.

5. 30 pm, Thursday, 22 May, with a training session to follow, in a venue to be confirmed.