

minutes

Meeting	Student Officer Committee
Date	31 Jan 2019
Time	5pm - 7pm
Location	Bookable Room 1
Author	Xenia Levantis, Campaigns & Democracy Coordinator

Present	Ryan Jordan <i>Ethnic Minorities Officer</i> Martin Marko <i>Postgraduate Education Officer</i> Zoe Freeman <i>Non-Portfolio Officer</i> Sophie Atherton <i>Campaigns & Democracy Officer</i> Harry Bowen <i>Non-Portfolio Officer</i> Hannah Murgatroyd <i>Students with Disabilities Officer</i> Emma Moxon <i>Students with Disabilities Officer (Invisible Disabilities Place)</i> Jenna Chapman <i>Undergraduate Education Officer</i> Georgina Burchell <i>Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer</i> Mohaned Alhasan <i>International Officer (non-EU Place)</i> Oli Gray <i>Activities & Opportunities Officer</i> Borja Martin Simon <i>International Officer (EU Place)</i>
Apologies	Sanna Mantyniemi <i>Mature Students Officer</i> Jim Read <i>LGBT+ Officer (Trans & Non-Binary Place)</i> Liam Deary <i>LGBT+ Officer (Open Place) Chair</i> Thai Braddick <i>Non-Portfolio Officer</i>
Staff Support	Xenia Levantis <i>Democracy & Campaigns Coordinator</i>

SOC01 Budget Estimates Union Council

- 1.1** The Deputy Chair opened the meeting and passed over to Oli Gray Chair of the Finance Committee a sub-committee of the trustee board. Oli Gray invited Tim Cave Director of Finance to talk through the paper that is an appendix to the agenda.
- 1.2** The Assistant Director of Finance explained that the paper aims to explain the values the SU is working with. The fixed and discretionary costs may move between the two categories. The officer moved on to talk about the potential changes for the method of Union Council approving the estimates.
- The Activities & Opportunities Officer suggested that some context should not be presented to Union Council as cold numbers are difficult to interpret. This may be in the form of comparing to the previous year's income and expenditure.
- It was explained that the estimates would go to one of the later Union Councils of the academic year then presented to the Trustee Board. The Officer highlighted that Bye-Law 10: The Budget mentions Management Committee and Union Council, however does not mention Finance Committee.
- 1.3** Reporting on the finances has not been taking place at Union Council as dictated in the Bye-Law to happen twice per term. This schedule would not fit with the schedule of Finance Committee meeting as this only happens once a quarter. The committee suggested that the elected Union Council representative could report to Union Council when the Committee has met.
- 1.4** Formative discussion for commercial areas – this could be changed to DOBs. The committee discussed the relationship between the DOBs and Union Council.
- AP 1** Consider how 10.5 of the budget Bye-Law could be updated.
Campaigns & Democracy Officer
- 1.5** The Officer talked through and how Union Council can challenge the estimates. It was suggested that the sign off could be removed from Union Council and move to finance committee with increased representation from Union Council.
- 1.6** The Committee moved on to consider 10.7 and the option of budget amendments being referred to SOC, the committee discussed this in detail and how students could hold officers to account.
- 1.7** It was agreed that 10.8 of the Bye-Law needed to be amended and 10.9 needed to include the word *significant* to clarify the meaning.
- AP 2** Proposed amendments to be made to Bye-Law 10 and be circulate to the group with the intention to send the recommendations to Union Council for approval.
Activities and Opportunities Officer

SOC02 Deputy Chair's report

- 2.1** The Deputy Chair gave a verbal update to the Committee and thanked everyone for attending.

SOC03 Minutes

3.1 The Deputy Chair asked the committee to comment on the minutes from the previous meeting.

AP 3 An amendment to be made to the minutes, under the officer updates: Sanna Mantyniemi *Mature Students Officer* to be listed as having *no update yet*.

3.2 The Committee approved the minutes subject to the above amendment.

SOC04 Matters Arising

4.1 Committee members were invited to consider the matters arising from the SOC meeting on Tue 15 Jan 19 and provide verbal updates of any progress.

4.2 The following updates were given on the Action Log:

Actions from previous meeting

AP 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 10 Are complete.

AP 3 and 6 are ongoing.

AP 7 and 9 the Part Time Officer blog schedule needs to be sent again with editing access granted.

SOC04a NUS White Paper

4.1 LGBT + Officers think option 3 is the only option. International officers are concerned that there wouldn't be representation for international students.

4.2 Concern over combined liberation campaigns and risk of some liberation campaigns not receiving enough

4.3 Staff support offered to summarise the blue paper, following the 'political' response from the Campaigns & Democracy Officer.

It's hugely important that the response comes from officers, however it's unreasonable to expect officers to give a full response given their short experience of being involved in the SU sector.

SOC was asked to consider if the paper reflects the opinions of the committee, as well as the wider student body.

We may also consult union council on our response but must be mindful of a timely turnaround as the response is due 8th February.

It's vital to remember NUS can lobby government regularly on our behalf and is therefore able to influence policy on a national level.

Explained national conference and autonomous campaigns which are separate from National Conference which represents the various liberation groups. These are ratified by national conference so become national policy.

Invited to comment on three things:

- 1) **Elected full time officers.** Haven't touched on option 1 as we don't see it as a viable option. Option 2, a streamlined membership, offers an increased staff support, which NUS identified is needed. However, the paper does not give enough reassurance that enough resource goes towards voluntary roles and campaigns – this needs to be highlighted in our response to NUS. Option 3, we believe, has the best balance. We see the option of two-year terms as a positive idea, but there needs to be robust accountability options.

- 2) **Membership options.** The cost of our affiliation is significant, and for context could pay for an extra member of staff at uea(su). Though we're not reliant on much of NUS's charity support, many neighbouring smaller SU's are, so we want to be able to support them in this way (particularly as charity law prevents us from doing so by other means).
- 3) **Balance of delivery.** We have reservations about how this might work. Particularly with the potential dilution of liberation campaigns, there are concerns that many students feel they're 'not for them'.

The Deputy Chair questioned why, when NUS are in substantial debt, they're reducing their affiliation fee. Staff support clarified that because NUS will be delivering fewer overall services in return for the affiliation fee, they feel it would be unfair to charge the same amount. The Undergraduate Education Officer added that this may also be a move to discourage disaffiliation.

The *International Students Officer (Non-EU Place)* suggested there should be an international students' officer. Staff support clarified that if this is a suggestion to change the paper, it can be worked into our overall response, referring to the NUS officers for higher education and further education. Borja added that if NUS is cutting all 'non-essential' roles, our response should either be by option 1 or option 2.

The Deputy Chair and Campaigns & Democracy Officer forwarded points from the LGBT+ Officers and a Non-Portfolio Officer (TB) which were submitted in advance of the meeting as the Officers were unable to attend in person.

The Campaigns and Democracy officer concluded that it's a balance between the support for full time officers or financing more liberation officers.

6:30pm Rob Klim joined the meeting

- 4.4** Following the discussion, the Deputy Chair asked the Committee to vote on the questioned posed in the NUS White paper. The votes were as follows:

Question One

Option 2 – 3 people

Option 3 – 8 people

Abstain – 2 people

Question Two

Option 1 – unanimous

Question Three

Option 1 – 10 people

Option 2 – 3 people

Abstain – 1 person

SOC05 Officer updates

- 5.1** The Deputy Chair asked all Officers to verbally update the Committee on their work to date and their plans for the term ahead.

- 5.2** Oli Gray Activities & Opportunities Officer – Attended Union Council; Recruitment in the Opportunities Team, Derby day planning – new logo, working with the media collective.

BM-S – attended the NUS international conference in Manchester, voted against the officer censure.

GB – recruitment for the advice and housing, learning and teaching committee, UEA student support recruitment (disability wellbeing adviser), Sexperience campaign planning, working with fellow officers from different campaigns, planning reclaim the night, invite for involvement RJ and ZF would like to join.

JC – working with SSS and WP to hire a member of staff to deliver MHFA training for all academic staff, asking for £100,000 for the project. Attended decolonising the curriculum, UEA want to change process if there is an error in an exam – working with UEA on developing this, ed committee.

EM – working on the ASD employment gap with Disabled students' officer.

HM – attend access all areas, SSS refit, more information about the lifts in the library, 6 weeks all the lifts will be refitted to be fire evacuation safe.

MA – has been on leave due to exams – will be starting Monday. No update.

HB - no update.

SA – Been involved in the director recruitment, environmental board, been in contact with NUS, going to southern SUs to talk about housing, etc

RK – collection for University of Sanctuary, setting up a Students Take Action for Refugees society, go green week content working with extinction rebellion, working with society to make UEA fairtrade, grill the SU.

ZF – working on budget workshop with CC.

MM – attended the Sections conference.

RJ – decolonizing the curriculum written a question for Clive Lewis

SOC06 Union Council Policy Adoptions

6.1 The Committee agreed that further information was required from the proposer before action could be taken on this policy.

AP 4 Speak to proposer of *SWP Off Our Campus* Policy regarding the statement.
Campaigns & Democracy Officer

6.2 The Committee agreed that the Policy Lapse Policy was straightforward and the Resolves are straightforward.

AP 5 The policy lapse policy will be added to the bye-laws.
Staff Support

SOC07 Open Discussion topic feedback

7.1 The Deputy Chair gave a summary of the feedback from Union Council. The Committee was asked to consider the feedback from the Smoking on Campus Open Discussion help at Union Council on Thu 24 Jan 19.

7.2 Some arguments were given for the health effects associated to secondhand smoking. Some context was given about the proposed UEA policy about smoking. The committee agreed that the UC policy could make it look like the SU is banning smoking

SOC08 Open Discussion topic for Union Council on 7 Feb 19

8.1 Members were asked to propose topics for the Open Discussion to be held at Union Council on Thu 7 Feb 19. No Open Discussion topic for next Union Council.

SOC09 Postgraduate representation on SOC

9.1 Following discussion at Postgraduate Committee, the Student Officer Committee was asked to consider Postgraduate Representation on the Committee.

9.2 The committee discussed the potential of having a nominee instead of the Chair.

SOC10 BAME Experience Survey

10.1 Thai Braddick Non-Portfolio Officer updated the Committee on the BAME Experience Survey.

10.2 Deferred

SOC11 Election of Officers to EDICT

11.1 The Committee was asked to elect Five Part-Time Officers to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Of the part time officers, four places will be guaranteed to part-time officers who self-define within the following liberation groups: one guaranteed Woman+ Place, one guaranteed Disabled Place, one guaranteed LGBTQ+ Place, and one guaranteed BAME place. The fifth place will be an Open Place, open to any Part-Time Officer of any identification

11.2 Deferred

SOC12 International Subcommittee Budget

12.1 The Committee was asked to consider a proposal for International Sub-committee funding. (The Student Officer Committee budget is provided for the Committee's reference.)

12.2 The committee discussed a proposal for international sub-committee funding.

12.3 The committee agreed to assign the International Sub-committee £500 and reduce the SU officer projects by £500.

SOC13 EDGE Conference

13.1 An update from Oli Gray Activities and Opportunities Officer about the EDGE Conference taking place on Sat 2 Feb 19.

13.2 Removed

SOC14 Priority Campaigns

The lead Officers for each Priority campaign will provide a verbal update and their plans for the term ahead.

14.1 Deferred until next time

SOC15 Funding Requests

The committee is asked to approve the following funding requests from members.

15.1 Brew Monday -Georgina Burchell *Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer*

Unanimously approved

15.2 Go Green Week Mugs *Campaigns & Democracy Officer*

Money to fund a mug bank.

Unanimously approved

15.3 Colour Run Oli Gray *Activities & Opportunities Officer*

Money to buy paint – positive feedback through the survey

Unanimously approved

SOC16 Any other business

To be agreed with the Chair before the meeting.

SOC17 Time, Date & Place of next meeting

5pm – 7pm, Tuesday 12 February, Bookable Room 1