

2316 Censure of Postgraduate Education Officer

Proposer: Lewis Martin (Mature Students Assembly, council rep)

Seconder: James McLean (Postgraduate Committee)

Council Notes

1. The **Postgraduate Education Officer** brought a motion of no confidence against the Postgraduate committee at the 16th of October assembly meeting¹.
2. The motion failed to pass in the room, but as a result of the post graduate committee asked the chair of DPC to attend both the Postgraduate Committee and the Postgraduate Assembly
3. During these meetings the **Postgraduate Education Officer** explained their reasons for the motion but also brought to light intentional procedural failings in how they brought forward the motion to the assembly, and their advice to the chair of the assembly².
4. That these procedural failings highlighted are significant enough to warrant a breaking of Bye-Law 12³.
5. The honesty project states that: 'The SU should be recognised as a key partner in the facilitating of a PGR community and supported accordingly, in particular in developing the new Graduate Centre into being a 'central hub' for the PGR student community.'⁴
6. That the **Postgraduate Education Officer** stated in his motion to the assembly stated 'the composition of this committee is likely to the negatively affect the majority of all Postgrads at UEA'⁵.
7. That the **Postgraduate Education Officer** called for ask investigation into the allegations surrounding at Union Council on the 18th of October 2018.

Union Believes

1. That the statements made by the **Postgraduate Education Officer** in his motion directly contradict the recommendation outlined in union notes point 5.
2. That this opinion stated by **Postgraduate Education Officer** goes against the generally perceived notion that they represent both postgraduate taught and research students, not just the former group.
3. That the PGR community already has a **less than perfect** relationship with the student union and that this **has previously driven a wedge** the PGSU, the wider SU and the PGR community.
4. That the intentional decision to not follow procedures is far from best practice and undermines the integrity of both PGSU and the Student Union.
5. That all of these issues warrants a censure of the **Postgraduate Education Officer**.

¹ [https://www.uea.su/pageassets/postgraduate/about/pgvoice/pgresources/Minutes-Assembly-16.10.18\(1\).pdf](https://www.uea.su/pageassets/postgraduate/about/pgvoice/pgresources/Minutes-Assembly-16.10.18(1).pdf)

² (will be amended once minutes are publicly available)

³ <https://www.uea.su/pageassets/union/governance/constitution/A2-Bye-Laws-May-18-ss-.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.uea.su/pageassets/postgraduate/thehonestyproject/Honesty-Project-Report.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0hLv6yhKtp1602eghGL8J5fXRqMPZUAFgw2deeHekJQ6un5gFOJWorjuU>

⁵ [https://www.uea.su/pageassets/postgraduate/about/pgvoice/pgresources/Minutes-Assembly-16.10.18\(1\).pdf](https://www.uea.su/pageassets/postgraduate/about/pgvoice/pgresources/Minutes-Assembly-16.10.18(1).pdf)

Union Resolves

1. Under Bye Law 1, 1.10.9 to censure the **Postgraduate Education Officer** for their actions outlined above.