**Minutes** 

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Meeting** | **Union Council** |
| **Date** | 6th of February; 5pm |
| **Location** | Lecture Theatre 3 |
| **Status** | For approval |

**Chair:** Hamza Syed

**Deputy Chair:** Chanel Munroe (acting as Chair)

**Voting members present:** Forest Agreda, Louisa Arends, Talitha Bader, Lizzie Bartlett, Cody Butler, Sam Calenti, Kc Campbell, Bianca Chiciudean, Nicholas Constantinou, Thomas Cornish, Gaia Cousin, Ioan Cox, Sophie Cox, Kiran Crooks, Oliver Cropley, Paris Fryer-Petridis, Kimon Fryer-Petridis, Ella Goodman, Max Gowers, Hermione Guymer, Ellie Hannigan, Matthew Hannigan, Samuel Hoare, Aaron Hurrell, Maddy Jones, Alicia Khuttan, Abhiram Kuchibhotla, Christopher Lee, Rowan Nash-Coquio, Chidimma Olivia Oguachuba, Niamh O'Neill, Devin Owen, Lane Parker, Maariyah Patel, Sam Pyle, Ryan Rodgerson, Sapphire Roques, Thomas Russell, Ali Sabba, Matthew Shields, Emma Smith, Ben Stannard, Bithena Tom, Anisah Tufal, Thomas Waddington, Oscar Welchman, Dylan Williamson, Kyle Yeoh, Amber Yucebas, Amelia Zabicka

**In attendance:** Liz Bigalke (Governance and Democracy Coordinator), Elsa Mounayer (Voice and Representation Coordinator), Jumara Stone (Chief Executive Officer)

[**Quoracy Check 1**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=iUl8OmnxAExmvobz6dzhMxRD6qsJcDOP&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkDfaAAx6ASNBsoJ8n7bUDgtUN01BT0hUQjBZRElEVEFJRjcwTFZUQ1g3NC4u)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section A - Housekeeping** | |
| **UC 045** | **Statements from the Chair**  Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked Councillors to fill in the quoracy check. |
| **The Chair reordered the agenda** | |
| **UC 053** | **Quit the Yapping**  Sam introduced the motion and invited questions.  Ben opposed the change, arguing it reduces transparency and accountability, especially since officer updates have been delayed. Olivia supported it, emphasizing that councillors should read reports in advance to prioritize motion discussions. Sapphire defended verbal reports for part-time officers, citing their external work, while Chanel argued full-time officers should be held to a higher standard due to their pay.  The Chair clarified that full-time officers historically gave verbal reports but noted no bylaw mandates this. Erin questioned the precedent, and Forest raised concerns about report accessibility. Staff confirmed they were addressing access issues.  Olivia stressed the importance of reading reports, while Sam clarified that the motion removes verbal summaries, ensuring reports remain accessible online. Rebekah suggested a compromise: officers present key points with slides before taking questions.  A procedural motion was introduced to remove clause 2.  [**Voting stats**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=Qwcu0SOEn1W4qYs18YZkT84v28ZbIoSZ&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkDfaAAx6ASNBsoJ8n7bUDgtUNjlNQlVUS1E2WjZYVUgzVU81TU8xMU9HWS4u)  Council moved to a vote on the Motion including the procedural motion.  [**Voting stats**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=xDSMuJQ8dN8IHtYL8QFOiOGq7NT9H7r5&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkDfaAAx6ASNBsoJ8n7bUDgtUN0c2QjkyRzg1RDJZUTFQMzMyNFVaR0dSSi4u)  The Chair clarifies that speaking time is limited to five minutes—2.5 for summaries and 2.5 for questions.  A staff member explains that the motion failed because removing a key clause led to the same outcome as rejecting it. They confirm that officers must still publish reports online and give verbal updates.  Erin questions whether verbal reports are mandatory, noting the bylaws don’t explicitly require them. The Chair interprets the bylaws to mean both are now expected but is open to future motions. Erin argues officers could challenge this ruling, as the bylaws only mandate reports as an agenda item, not a specific format.  The Chair stands by their interpretation but invites a formal motion if members want to amend the bylaws. Erin reiterates that verbal reports were not explicitly mandated. The Chair closes the discussion. |
| **The Chair reordered the agenda** | |
| **UC 046** | **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting**  The minutes of the previous meeting on the 5th of December were approved.  [**Voting stats**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=PBuvn5wrOzbxOPY51zHvHYeM6hnwGr68&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkDfaAAx6ASNBsoJ8n7bUDgtUODYySUU5WEI4Rlc3TVQyNjQ4OVZHWjVSMy4u)  The minutes of the previous meeting on the 7th of November did not reach quoracy.  [**Voting stats**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=RWVlKmFAYQKWGUmcouTDJT5i4DoX5v6N&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkDfaAAx6ASNBsoJ8n7bUDgtUQUVKUEZRSTQ4SEMyNEJHQ0JOMkJNSDM2SS4u) |
| **UC 047** | **Matters arising**  No matters were brought up. |
| **UC 048** | **Approval of Society and Peer Groups**  All Student groups were approved.  [**Voting stats**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=9jc1uCshW8l75wNq6Hwps1U7ZVZeyC1Z&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkDfaAAx6ASNBsoJ8n7bUDgtUMEY0T1FDMTlIV0M4WVZXU0NaQlcwMUJURS4u) |
| **Section B - Reports** | |
| Chris formally calls for a vote of no confidence in the Chair, citing concerns raised by multiple members.  Hamza defends his role, emphasizing his commitment to accountability and precedent but acknowledges the Council's right to decide. Ella argues the Chair enforced verbal reports without prior democratic discussion, showing partiality. Sapphire attributes the issue to unclear bylaws and proposes rewriting them instead of removing Hamza. Ali criticizes the inefficiency of the meeting and calls for more professional chairing.  Rebekah highlights issues with online participation and suggests a smoother approach. Chris reiterates that the problem is Hamza’s leadership, not the reporting format.  The Council moves to a vote.  [**Voting stats**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=zLUTEyvJR68D0NjrWpZwF8xWcmqHnT79&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkDfaAAx6ASNBsoJ8n7bUDgtURDhPVE5YMVM0Qjk5UkJJREJaS0RaQktHOS4u) | |
| **UC 049** | **Student Officer Committee Report**  The report was taken as read and no questions were asked. |
| **UC 050** | **Trustee Board Report**  The report was taken as read and no questions were asked. |
| **UC 051** | **Officer Reports**  The Full-time Officers gave their updates.  Olivia explained the Board of Trustees and changes to Derby Day scoring—every sport now counts as one point, with eight spotlight matches worth two points. The event is set for April 30, with a schedule coming soon.  Rebekah discussed Derby Day staffing, clarifying that only competitors are excused from work and team sheets depend on sport requirements. She also confirmed that lecture recordings apply to both undergraduates and postgraduates but require lecturers to release them after a brief GDPR delay. |
| A quoracy check was requested.  [**Quoracy Check 2**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=Aaaj2awVlyyPC2xP3owGkNS6jv3V2Giy&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkDfaAAx6ASNBsoJ8n7bUDgtUM01QWEI0RUVIU1Y4RzY2UjhYVFlXWEE2OS4u)  The meeting was still quorate. | |
|  | **International (Non-EU) Officer**  Ali has been working on mental health initiatives, planning a fair with charities like MIND and Papyrus. He’s also involved in motions on mental health and an international club night with an Indian DJ.  He’s exploring a plan to keep the quiet room silent until 4 PM, then use it as a social space. Feedback is ongoing.  He encourages students to check his Instagram for mental health resources and thanks everyone.  **Non-Portfolio Officer**  Sapphire has been addressing UEA finances and rising bus fares, seeking meetings with officials.  She’s also working to bring local leaders to campus for Q&A sessions, having met with MP Clive Lewis and planning more meetings.  Students can email her with issues they want raised.  Ali shares a travel tip: asking for an "internal City High 5" gets two adults a full-day pass for just £7.50—an affordable way to get around! |
| **Section C – Open Discussion** | |
| **UC 052** | **Open Discussion Topics**  A general reminder about the upcoming SU elections and that nominations are open now until the 19th of February. |
| **Section D – Policy Making** | |
| **UC 054** | **Rename the Ethical and Environmental Sub-Committee to the SU Sustainability Working Group.**  Oscar introduced the motion and opened the floor to any questions.  No questions were asked, and no one made a speech against, the council therefore moved to a vote.  [**Voting stats**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=xDSMuJQ8dN8IHtYL8QFOiOGq7NT9H7r5&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkDfaAAx6ASNBsoJ8n7bUDgtUNzdWRFlQRU5PU1RPUjdISTZaRjg4RlpGRS4u) |
| **UC 055** | **Amendment to General Group Meeting Byelaw 9.35.3.1**  Olivia introduced the motion and opened the floor to any questions.  No questions were asked, and no one made a speech against, the council therefore moved to a vote.  [**Voting stats**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=xDSMuJQ8dN8IHtYL8QFOiOGq7NT9H7r5&id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkDfaAAx6ASNBsoJ8n7bUDgtUM0xYSUFMSzJYUDgzNFdCQk02SU9XNFBKQy4u) |
| **Section E – Any Other Business** | |
| **UC 056** | **Climate Week at UEA**  Oscar announced UEA’s first-ever Climate Week (March 17-21, 2025), featuring a climate careers fair, well-being fair, sustainable market, talks, and workshops.  Organizations like SOSUK, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, and Norwich City Council will participate. It’s entirely student-run, and those interested can contact Jazz Brook, Oscar, or the Student Sustainability Network to get involved! |
| **UC 057** | **Any Other Business**  Ali announced the launch of UEA's first international cultural group, aimed at connecting cultural and international student groups. Meetings will be monthly to discuss Go Global planning.  He also shared plans for an All-Student Forum to improve Go Global and gather input on cultural initiatives. Cultural or religious groups interested in getting involved can reach out to Ali via Teams. |
| **UC 058** | **Next Meeting**  The next meeting is held on the 6th of March 2025.  The deadline for agenda items to this meeting is 5pm on the 21st of February 2025.  Any agenda items must be sent to [union.council@uea.ac.uk](mailto:union.council@uea.ac.uk). |