

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 25 th April, 5pm
Author:	Beth Plant and Magda de Soissons
Purpose:	Record of decision making
Status:	For approval

Union Council Minutes

Apologies: Olivia Mukiibi, Max Wrigley

In Attendance:

SECTION A: Standing Items

001 Statement from the Chair

Chair opens the meeting and invites council to complete a quoracy check.

Quoracy is not reached with only 30 voting members present.

SSS requests that voting members attend the next union council.

Chair requests that council members come to the next union council as finances will be discussed.

Chair states that an open discussion surrounding the protests outside the sportspark and what can be done to help students feel safer will still be held.

002 Approval of the Minutes from the Last Meeting

[Union Council March 2024.docx](#)

003 Matters Arising

SECTION B: Reports

004 Officer Updates

005 Trustee Board Report

006 Student Officer Committee Report

007 Full-time Officer reports

Activities and Opportunities Officer - Luke Johnson

Campaigns and Democracy Officer - Serene Shibli Sexton

Postgraduate Officer - Elise Page

· National Union of Students National Conference 2024 in Blackpool

Five of us (myself, Nathan, Serene, Sam Pyle and Ali Sabba) attended the 2024 NUS National Conference in Blackpool, April 17th-18th.

I was part of a group who proposed a policy you can read here

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1146koSAh8CEu6gZ7EviJq1yk5Vt6No-W> This has passed!

There were some incidents of antisemitism at conference as well as incidents of Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism. Bad faith actors in such important discussions hurt us all.

- Reforming the Postgraduate Fund

Currently, any postgraduate can apply for some money through the postgraduate committee's fund. However, it's a bit difficult to find on the website, some of the guidance is unclear, the things you can request money for is quite limited, and it can take a long time to get sorted. So we're conducting a review of it to make it:

- More visible
- More accessible
- Broader purpose
- Quicker
- Watertight (from a legal/financial perspective)

~ We've made a few changes already:

- I now sign off each payment myself, firstly this means I always know when that part of the process is completed, secondly it just means the payments are 100% above board since they've been authorized by a director

- Norfolk Police Race Action Plan and becoming a Stop Hate in Norfolk reporting partner

Serene and I met with Rita Dattani from Norfolk Police to discuss ways to support groups of students who are more likely to distrust the police and/or experience hate crimes.

Some opportunities include:

Opportunity to become a third-party reporting center for hate crime (Stop Hate in Norfolk - SHiN), including free training on how to support students reporting a hate crime without having to go directly to the police themselves

Listening circle for students. This can be looking at one area (Students of colour,/Transgender identity etc) or general showing an understanding of intersectional identities. Norfolk police would take our guidance on this

Opportunities for students to have their say - e.g. discussing the idea of a young persons scrutiny panel.

Open to any other ideas on how we can work together to support the students
– all led by us

I've spoken to Student Officer Committee to get their views and they're broadly positive, along the lines of, we should take this work in good faith until we're given evidence to the contrary.

But if you have thoughts, particularly if you are a victim of racism, colourism, and/or transphobia.

- I've emailed Malala Yousafzai's co-ordinator but no reply, I'm sure she's just busy being Malala

- The UEA Green Film Festival starts tonight! You can get your free tickets here <https://www.ueagreenfilmfestival.co.uk/2024-programme>

Taylor Sounes- Undergraduate Education Officer

Nathan Wyatt – Welfare, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

SECTION C: Open Discussion

008 Open Discussion Topics

Making Union Council's voice heard by the Vice Chancellor

Chair notes that the VC has not attended any union council meetings.

NW notes that nothing will come of the discussion.

Meeting concludes.

Trans Rights

EW introduces the topic and states that the CAS review has been weaponised.

EW states that a lot of trans people are scared, especially surrounding the May 4th protest.

EW asks for ideas around the subject and what can be done to improve the situation, and make trans people feel safer, especially in the wake of what happened at the library.

Question: MU asks what is going on with the library.

Answer: Chair replies that the Millenium library removed the trans safe space but that this has now been restored.

EW notes that people disagreed with some of the artwork and that a protest was organised. EW notes that the trans safe space poster was taken down after this.

EW notes that at a counter protest recently, people were being photographed and recorded without their permission

EW notes that the SU has stated that the campus should be a safe space and this protest breaches that.

SSS notes that campus security, the pride network and the police are all aware.

SSS notes that pride network do not want to organise a counter protest due to the reasons noted by EW.

SSS also notes that this is on a Gala day, spreading hate to parents with young children and the public at large.

SSS recommends that counter information be displayed and trans pride bunting could be put up.

EW agrees but notes that the sportspark is hesitant to allow things to be put up. EW recommends that masks be worn.

NW notes that the university have put together a code of conduct for people attending the protest on the 4th of May. NW notes that there will not be official SU presence on the day.

NW notes that the SU will issue a statement and that he is waiting for approval on the wording.

NW states that the situation is not good and that he wishes they could be removed from campus.

ES asks if this is a transphobic protest or if there are other reasons.

NW responds that it is due to someone with a penis being present in the womens bathroom and that this has been picked up by the media.

EP notes that the students against tyranny group appear to hate everyone and that they are facists. EP notes that the code of conduct is useful and should be observed.

Member asks what time the protest is.

Chair responds that it is Saturday 4th of May at 12.30pm.

MR states that classes are run in the sportspark at this time.

NW notes that there are alternative exits that he can ensure are signposted.

Lee asks if signage can be put on the road and that GeekSoc are running events on that day.

HS responds that SOC did not want to add fuel to the fire by letting people know where the protest is. HS notes that it was discussed that signage could be put up to state that we recommend using the other entrance to campus.

EW notes that this sort of event may be happening a bit more and asks for ideas on how we can make campus feel safe.

Maddy states that it's important that all trans students know when and where this protest is to keep themselves safe.

MU states that there are increased resources for the curriculum in MED to educate people on trans healthcare.

EW responds that misinformation is spread by these groups, and encourages people to challenge this misinformation if they feel safe to do so.

EW notes that this should make the trans community feel supported.

Question: Chair asks if there is any way the quiet space can be open for welfare on that day.

Answer: NW responds that there is a plan for this to be the case.

Question: Member asks if there is any guidance for how people should respond to the protestors.

Answer: NW responds that it is in the code of conduct document.

Chair reiterates that the guidelines for keeping yourself safe are in the chat.

EW notes that masks should be worn to protect your identity.

SSS recommends that you should go in even numbers, not engaging in arguments and not taking anything that could identify you. SSS recommends not engaging in interviews.

EW notes that if you don't feel comfortable you shouldn't go.

NW notes that the next spectrum is the 23rd of May.

NW notes that the 2024 Norwich Housing Debate is happening tonight and encourages people to go as local councilors will be there and they represent us.

SSS notes that a student presence is helpful at these events to remind councillors of what matters to students.

NW notes that the Debenhams is possibly going to be turned into student accomodation but that these will then be turned into private accommodation.

EP notes that the green film festival on tonight and encourages people to attend.

Making Union Council's voice heard by the Vice Chancellor

Chair notes that the VC has not attended any union council meetings.

NW notes that nothing will come of the discussion.

Meeting concludes.

SECTION D: Policy Making

Society Name	Applic ation	Objective or Aim
BAMEdic	BAMEdic Application.docx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a safe space for BAME medical students' voices to be heard • Address any challenges faced by BAME medical students • Provide a supportive and cohesive BAME network in medical school • The group shall abide by Union policy.
BCAN Student Society	BCAN Application.docx	<p>To bring staff and students together to make a positive change to the university and wider community. The BCAN Student Society will be a student-led branch from the BCAN network at UEA, which aims to campaign for environmental issues within the university by engaging more with the student body. One of our main and immediate focuses is the fossil-free careers campaign: advocating for the ban of top fossil fuel financiers, as well as the oil, gas and mining industries from future UEA career events and platforms. However, BCAN student society will also work on improving the sustainability of many sectors of the university as a whole such as strategy, governance and delivery, curriculum, campus, funding and finance, international travel and catering. BCAN students will involve active campaigning, passing SU motions, brainstorming workshops, networking with other universities and organisations and collaborating with the wider BCAN network from a student perspective.</p>
British Red Cross	British Red Cross Application.docx	<p>Enhance community engagement, raise awareness, and foster a culture of humanitarianism within our university. By collaborating with the British Red Cross, I aspire to organize impactful events, workshops, and</p>

		campaigns that empower students to contribute to local and global humanitarian efforts, creating a more compassionate and socially responsible campus community.
CIS Countries Association	CIS Countries Association Application.docx	The objects/aims of the University of East Anglia CIS countries student society are to foster a sense of community among students from CIS countries, promote cultural exchange, provide support and resources to members, and organise events and activities that celebrate and showcase the diverse cultures and traditions of the CIS region.
Infectious Diseases	Infectious Diseases Application.docx	Explore and raise awareness of Infectious Diseases as a medical specialty. 2. Provide revision and education resources/sessions for students around topics of infection.
Norwich cardiothoracic surgical	Norwich Cardiothoracic Surgical Society Application.docx	Stimulating an interest in a career in cardiothoracic surgery (CTS); Working in tandem with local educators to provide a high quality of cardiothoracic teaching for undergraduate students; Providing career support for students interested in cardiothoracic surgery as a speciality
Palaeontology and evolutionary biology society	Paleontology and Evolutionary Biology Society Application.pdf	To promote interdisciplinary engagement with palaeontology, evolution and other related areas - including paleoart/scientific illustration. Our aim will be to equip all members with a broader range of skills, as well as providing a space for us to share our passion for palaeontology/ geology, alien and evolutionary biology and beyond.
Paper Medics	Paper Medics Application.docx	Help medical students with medical research questions and writing protocols/reviews, make medical research content easier to learn, coordinate with research staff to try and

		organise events and streamline research participation
Plant-Based Universities UEA	Plant-based Universities Applications.docx	Plant-Based Universities is a student-led campaign, calling for universities to transition 100% of their menus to become fully plant-based. This is to limit the university's contribution to the climate and ecological emergency and shift public opinion in favour of a plant-based food system.
Women In Finance	Women In Finance Social Applications.docx	To instil confidence in fellow female students and provide them with support, guidance, and both a professional and social network. We want to establish a non-competitive, supportive, and collaborative community for our members to find out about the opportunities in finance, and to develop the skills to succeed.

Recommended for Rejection

Society Name	Application	Objective or Aim	Reasoning
His Children	His Children Application pt 2.docx	To allow Christians to come together in fellowship and to help us all to grow in our faith. We want to be a safe community for believers and non-believers to find support in.	Due to the overlap with Christian Union

THE MEETING CONCLUDES

SECTION G: Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd at 5pm.