

Subject:	Union Council
Date:	Thursday 14 th December 2023
Author:	Beth Plant
Purpose:	Record of decision making
Status:	For approval
Paper:	UC 021

UC 021– Union Council Minutes

Chair: Chanel Munroe

Deputy Chair: Ali Sabba

Apologies:

In attendance: Claire Boothby-Barnbrook (UEASU staff), Lucy Harris-Sandstrom (UEASU staff, present online) and Beth Plant (UEASU staff)

Voting members present: Thomas Carivalho, Kaya Lawes, Zachary Waites, Emma Smith, Elana Fraser, Zoe Galgavolgyi, Mei Clarke, Harvey Rose, Laura Ansell, Emily Chiu, Fenugreek Llewelyn, Maddy Jones, Mohammed Shirwa, Ben Jordan, Mikey Umney, Elise Page, Billy Alexander, Ieuan Aston-Davies, Luke Johnson, Roanna Fernandes, Molly Good, Henry Harrison, Mudatheer Mandan, Isla Harris, Jake White, Mitchell Layzell, Freyja Lauwerys, Sam Pyle, Adithya Britto, Callum Heath, Harry Mills, Juliette Rebold-Stead, Josh Bell, Bee Sowrey, Christopher Lee, Madie Inman, Eve Harmer, Harry Smith, Patryk Szalanski, Bayley Soper, Ameer Al-Magidi, Paris Fryer-Petridis, Nathan Wyatt, Brieanne Johnson, Kimon Fryer-Petridis, Naomi Sabel, Mark Etkind, Taylor Sounes, Sammy Au, Helen Harrison, Charlotte Miller, Olivia Mukiibi, Elise Carpenter, Alice Bethell, Hadia Arshad, Engji Salihu, Ben Stannard, Rishi Kotru, Serene Shibli Sexton, Hamse Maxamed, Cj O'Brien, Daniel Grundy, Molly Rayson, Olympiu Simion

Voting records: [Quoracy Check 1 \(office.com\)](#)

SECTION 1: Housekeeping

001: To receive statements from the Chair

Chair introduces themselves and restates the etiquette for council.

Chair informs council that there will be shorter more regular breaks.

Chair informs council that both they and Vice Chair are both involved in motions and so will step down for the duration of council.

Chair restates that council should not speak over Chair and asks that council keep private matters away from council.

SSS introduces the Menti meter QR code and requests that council fill it out.

002: To approve minutes of the last meeting

Chair invites council to approve minutes from previous meeting.

<https://ueanorwich.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/ueasuunioncouncil/ERVj4efdVShBIV4o mgz5NNYBY-IZoKrmmpA8Ewca7YV6DQ?e=Kfkka6>

Minutes are approved.

[Approval of the minutes from the last Union Council \(office.com\)](#)

003: To consider matters arising

SSS states that all motions passed at UC were taken to SOC and actioned.

Chair states that it is HS and AS's birthday.

SECTION 2: Reports

004: Trustee board report- Taylor Sounes

TS introduces herself.

TS states that there was a board meeting that included a discussion in finances, particularly Venues.

TS notes that there is more action needed at the Waterfront so that it can make more money.

TS notes that some committees aren't established so that is being looked into.

005: SOC report

SSS notes that LB is not in attendance.

SSS notes that Trans awareness day had contacts delegated.

NUS delegates are prepared and aware of how to propose policies.

SSS notes that many policies required national campaigning not immediate action.

Question: Patryk asks if the SU will release a report.

Answer: SSS responds that minutes of SOC will be published, and proposers of motions will be contacted.

006: Full-time Officers reports

Luke Johnson

LJ introduces himself and explains that there are no written reports for this council.

LJ states that he took the motion to city council and it passed unanimously.

LJ states that the County council are now looking into finances for the project.

LJ explains that he went to a BUCS meeting in Nottingham.

LJ notes that he is thinking about what to do with Sports and society execs.

LJ notes that he wants to do some work on student conflict, and he would like a document that supports coaches with subjects like pronouns and trans inclusion.

LJ invites thoughts on committee hub.

LJ notes that he is working on campus kitchen and student worker reform.

LJ invites questions from council. None are taken.

Serene Shibli Sexton

SSS introduces herself.

SSS notes that she has been working on policy lapse.

SSS has been supporting DPC.

SSS has been involved with student experience group and notes that they would like feedback on the increased extensions.

SSS has been to an NUS conference to better learn how students can effectively campaign.

SSS notes that elections are coming up and offers support to potential candidates.

SSS invites questions from council. None are taken.

Elise Page

EP introduces themselves and explains that PG committee are throwing a Christmas party in the scholar's lounge.

EP notes that they went to the science faculty LTS and advocated for supervisors to receive mental health first aid training.

EP states that PGRs are facing issues with rooms, and they are offering support to them.

EP notes that intimidation is unacceptable and does not align with UEAs value. EP acknowledges that it is a difficult political time and violence is not acceptable.

Taylor Sounes

TS states that she attended education committee, and a new chair was elected. Timetabling and ECs were discussed, and some schools are resistant to that.

TS notes that rep and convenor elections are running and most of the roles have candidates.

TS is continuing work on the rep review and is in discussions with people in the sector.

TS is planning to start a fortnightly rep newsletter.

TS states that TEAs are happening with funding from the University and notes that the nomination form will open on the 15th of January.

Chair invites questions from council. None are taken.

Nathan Wyatt

NW notes that he and LJ attended parliament to speak on student workers' rights.

NW did a presentation in front of the executive team.

NW attended city council where the motion to support the night bus service was approved unanimously.

SECTION 3: Open Discussion

There are no discussion topics for council.

Break

[Quoracy Check 2 \(office.com\)](#)

SECTION 4: Policy Making

007 Policy Lapse

SSS explains policy lapse and their recommendations.

SSS explains policies that need to be renewed and explains that if council do not agree with the recommendations, then they need to make them aware so that they can pull those motions out.

Policy Renewal

Fund the Menstruation Station, Fight Period Poverty on Our Campus

SSS explains that during cost of living crisis, 'Fund the Menstruation Station, Fight Period Poverty on Our Campus' motion should be renewed.

High Time for Harm Reduction

SSS explains that 'High Time for Harm Reduction' is still relevant as the university do not have a harm reduction approach to drugs and alcohol and the SU are waiting for guidance to be published.

True accessibility is already here, we shouldn't have to ask: Alternative text

SSS explains that 'True accessibility is already there, we shouldn't have to ask: Alternative text' motion is still relevant as many students do not know how to access it and lecturers should be trained.

SSS explains why policy renewal is important.

SSS invites thoughts from council on policies to be renewed.

Chair invites votes from council.

Policy renewal recommendations are approved.
[Policy Lapse: Policies to be renewed \(office.com\)](#)

Policy Precedent

SSS explains policy precedent.

Decolonise UEA

SSS explains that 'Decolonise UEA' should move to policy precedent as it reflects the core values to UEASU

Question: Member asks what policy precedent is.

Answer: SSS answers that policy precedent are policies that will not automatically lapse in two years.

Chair invites votes from council.

Recommendations approved.
[Policy Lapse: Policy Precedent \(office.com\)](#)

Policy to Debate

SSS explains what is meant by policies to debate.

We're Bugging You: Equality and Diversity Training for all Students Union Council Reps

SSS explains 'We're Bugging You: Equality and Diversity training for all Students Union Council Reps' motion and questions relevancy. SSS states that this motion may be hard to implement.

SSS invites thoughts from council.

Question: PS asks what SSS means by hard to implement

Answer: SSS notes that it can be hard to get students to attend training.

SSS invites votes from council.

Policy is renewed.

Allow Associate Tutors to Supervise Dissertations at Undergraduate Level

SSS introduces the motion to allow associate tutors to be supervisors at UG level.

Question: PS asks what an associate tutor is.

Answer: SSS gives a definition.

Question: Madie asks if associate tutors are compensated for this work.

Answer: SSS responds that they are.

Speeches

For

Member explains that she and another associate tutor support the motion

Policy is renewed.

[Policies for debate: Associate Tutors to Supervise Dissertations \(office.com\)](#)

Better defining antisemitism, amending policy

SSS introduces the policy on better defining anti-Semitism.

SSS invites questions and speeches.

Question: Member asks if policy will have any effect either way.

Answer: SSS explains that there will no longer be a policy on the definition.

Question: MU asks for a clarification on IHRA vs JDA

Answer: CK explains that the IHRA states that criticism of Israel is anti-Semitic whereas the JDA does not and that this the contention. CK defines IHRA and JDA.

Chair invites speeches.

Speeches

For

CK explains that BP has argued that that the code of conduct is basically the IHRA. CK explains that the IHRA claims that the existence of the state of Palestine is antisemitic.

Chair invites rebuttals speeches. None are taken.

Chair invites speeches for policy lapse. None are taken.

Chair invites votes.

Policy renewed.

[Policies for debate: Better Defining Antisemitism \(office.com\)](#)

The real cost of being a student

SSS introduces the real cost of being a student motion.

SSS explains that this policy may still be relevant due to the cost of living crisis.

SSS invites questions.

Question: PS asks what the original motions says about fees.

Answer: SSS responds that the policy has resolves on resit fees and that there is a summary in the agenda as there are a lot of fees mentioned. SSS explains that the university needs to justify the fees.

NW states that if this motion is voted against, then he will bring a more up to date policy to next council.

Question: Erin Whitby asks if they can know more about the policy that would be brought in next council.

Answer: SSS responds that resit fees would probably be mentioned.

SSS invites speeches. None are taken.

SSS invites votes.

Question: PS asks if there will be a break and how long that break will be.

Answer: Chair responds that there will be a break and that Chair will determine the length at the time.

Policy lapsed.

[Policies for debate: The real cost of being a student \(office.com\)](#)

Policy Lapse

SSS explains what policy lapse means and goes through the policies to lapse. SSS explains that policies to lapse do not need a vote as they lapse automatically.

SSS explains that quiet space and nap nook should lapse as motion has been achieved and that there is policy on disability advocacy.

SSS explains that the emergency walk out policy should lapse as it was specific to the time.

SSS explains that the change to PG Officer motion should lapse as the motion has been completed.

SSS explains the motion on what happened to our motions motion should lapse as it has been completed.

SSS explains that the motion to increase the external trustees by 1 as there is a governance review happening and policy may be irrelevant. SSS notes that this has been acknowledged at trustee level.

TS notes that the articles of association still state that there are 6 external trustees.

SSS explains that she is recommending it to lapse due to relevance.

SSS explains that the society approvals motion should lapse as it has been recognised at trustee level.

SSS explains that the lifesavers motion is difficult to implement and that it would be costly.

SSS explains that the amendment to the budget definitions in the bye laws should be rejected due to relevance.

SSS explains that the amendments to bye law 12 should be rejected due to relevance.

SSS explains that the smoke free UEA motion should be rejected as it is no longer a student priority.

Question: MU asks if the lapse of the policy would mean that a smoke free campus is no longer endorsed.

Answer: SSS notes that the policy does not endorse a smoke free campus it endorses smoke free zones.

SSS explains that the transparency of process policy should be lapsed due to relevance.

Chair asks for objections to policy lapse. None are taken.

Policy automatically lapses.

Break

009 Separate the public from the powerful: bye-law 12 amendment.

Chair steps down as Chair as they are the seconder of the motion.

CH explains that he is invested in protecting people from government actions.

CH explains that the SU should enshrine the motion into the code of conduct and explains that islamophobia and antisemitism have increased.

CH explains that the code of conduct should be updated to make clear that students are not responsible for the actions of governments.

CH notes that this should ensure this makes the SU a safe space for students who may not agree with their governments.

Chair invites questions.

Question: CK states that Hamas is condemned in the motion, but Israel is not and asks why there is not a mention to these crimes.

Answer: CM explains that it is written into the motion but not in the updated copy and that those edits are there. CH explains that the Israel Palestine conflict is simply being used as an example.

Chair invites speeches against.

Speeches

Against

CK opposes the motions because it undermines the right of consent of students. CK states that there are many reasons that students may not want to engage

with people of a certain nationality due to their history or their own trauma. CK believes that people shouldn't be forced into communication.

Chair invites questions

Question: CM explains that people should not be grouped based on their ethnicity for actions they have not personally committed.

Answer: CK responds that not everybody feels and experiences trauma in the same way. CK explains that should they withdraw consent for conversation they will be punished according to Resolve 2.

Chair explains that the motion can be voted on in parts.

Question: PS asks if CK can sum up their speech.

Answer: CK notes that refusing to communicate with someone is everybody's right and that is why they oppose the motion and that resolve 2 undermines people's right to say no.

Question: ME asks if saying that they don't want to speak to someone because they are a different ethnicity be considered racist as he considers this xenophobic.

Answer: CK explains that you cannot force a racist person to have a conversation and the SU cannot punish you for that and that it undermines individual consent.

Question: EH asks if CK agrees that the motion does protect people already.

Answer: CK responds that telling people how they should interact with their own trauma is wrong.

Question: EH clarifies that trauma should be protected but that the motion states that people shouldn't refuse conversation based purely on national identity alone.

Answer: CK responds that the motion is unclear and what we ascribe as national identity should be clarified.

Question: OW asks why CK did not attempt to amend the motion.

Answer: CK responds that they are not a councillor so did not receive the agenda ahead of time.

Question: BA asks if CK would have pulled this up if there was no mention of Israel Palestine. CK states that the issue is around consent.

Chair invites speeches. None are taken.

Chair invites votes on the procedural motion to vote on the motion in parts.

Procedural motion is passed.

Summation speech

CH thanks council for their comments. CH states that the purpose of the motion is to prevent discrimination against nationality.

CH states that if you refuse to speak to someone based purely on their nationality, not on trauma, then that can be classed as xenophobic.

Chair invites votes on Resolve 2 alone.

Resolve 2 does not pass.

Chair invites votes on motion without Resolve 2

Motion passed.

010 Until Palestine is free- none of us are!

Chair notes that there is an amendment to the motion that needs to be voted on.

Amendment

BA states that Union Notes 9 and Union Believes 2 make no sense as they are antisemitic. BA argues that the motion is not bringing people together and it does not provide more liberty.

BA argues that this does nothing to better relations between students.

Question: PS asks how BA feels the amendment represents the people he represents.

Answer: BA notes that he feels he represents Jewish people though he is elected by American Football

Question: PS asks how that can work.

Chair clarifies that BA is a spokesperson.

Question: PS states that BA cannot represent a community that he has not been elected by.

Chair notes that the voting member of JSoc is not here and BA is a spokesperson.

Question: CK states that BA notes the right of racialised people to define racism. CK notes that the JDA definition directly impacts Palestinian people and asks how the motion represents them.

Answer: BA states that the majority of Jewish people do not feel safe under the JDA definition and it's unfair that other people should have input on which definition they use.

Question: CK states that the question was not answered as BA did not address the question of how Palestinian students will be effected. CK asks how BA can claim to be representative when people who disagree have been bullied out.

Answer: BA responds that JSoc is a tight knit community and asks for evidence of bullying.

Question: CK asks if BA can respond as to how this will affect Palestinian students.

Answer: BA notes that the only change is anti-Jewish racism to antisemitism. BA notes that the motion itself mentions IHRA definition but does not expand.

Question: CK notes that his question was not answered.

Answer: BA notes that JSoc need to stand for what they feel is best. BA asks that JSoc are listened to and this motion is about anti-semitism.

CK responds that the definition that is supported criminalises the Palestinian position and can punish people taht state the removal of Palestinians from Israel is racist. CK notes that the definition denies the lived experience of Palestinians.

BA notes that the alternative is that antisemitism is allowed to happen and that the Jewish side are going to get hate crimed. BA asks that if something incorrect is said he would rather be corrected.

Chair calls for questions. None are taken.

Speeches

Against

SSS states that she opposes the amendment as amendments should develop policy not to change the meaning.

SSS notes that people are being attacked on both sides and that everyone feels they need to protect their family and that everyone feels unsafe.

SSS states that this amendment will not make Jews feel safer on campus as no one feels safe on campus.

SSS states that the motion aims to create safe spaces.

SSS states that we must be able to hold our political leaders accountable and that the motion wishes to remove Palestine from the Palestine motion.

Chair calls for questions. None taken.

Chair invites votes on the amendment.

SSS apologises for potentially misgendering the proposer or speaker.

Amendment is rejected.

Motion

AS explains that he comes from the Middle East but he was kicked out. AS explains that he went to a protest where he witnessed extreme violence and that many of his family members were arrested and imprisoned.

AS explains that his father's car was destroyed, and that life was difficult.

AS explains that he cannot be expected to not speak on Palestine as there are atrocities being committed there by the forces.

AS explains that now he has the chance to speak on Palestine he will.

AS explains that he grieves every day and that what is happening in Palestine is a genocide.

AS explains that Palestinians are being killed and gives statistics on people suffering in Palestine.

AS states that he intends to change people's attitudes and that he can enact change from Norwich.

Chair invites questions. None are taken.

Chair invites speeches against.

Speeches

Against

Ben states that he is troubled by the way UC is running as it is not the place of council to have a political view not to provide support or denunciation of any political act.

Ben states that students should not waste their time debating general vague support rather than concrete actions.

Chair invites questions.

Question: AS asks that if Ben believes that this isn't our place then what is? And how should it be discussed?

Answer: Ben agrees that it is our place to speak on these things, just not while performing union council activities, and that motions should provide more concrete actions rather than vague support.

AS states that the resolves states ways students are helped by the motion.

Ben states that something like that should be a standalone motion not wrapped up in general support and it is not the place of union council.

Chair invites questions on the motion.

Chair invites rebuttal speeches.

Rebuttal

AS states that the motion dictates that the SU is being represented in Union Council and aiming to achieve the SU's objectives and that it is the SUs place to speak for Palestinians and support the students of the SU and Union Council. AS states that Union Council is a free space.

Summation speech

AS asks for a free Palestine and that people vote for his motion.

Chair invites votes.

Motion is passed.

SECTION 5: Approval of society and peer groups

None submitted.

SECTION 6: AOB

No other business proposed.

SECTION 7: Details of the next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the 22nd of February at 5pm