

# UCS Union Council

Minutes from the meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 13:00 in W115

## Persons Present

### Councillors

Nathan Kempster	(ECS and Youth Studies)
Sarah Randall	(Health and Wellbeing)
George White	(Photography)
Katherine Mills	(Social Work)
Alexander Osborne	(Fine Art)
Amy Finnigan	(Dance/Community)
Zoe Porter Watson	(History)
Jemma Chatten	(English)
Cara Moran	(English)
Patricia Jones-Thompson	(ECS)
Georgina Arthur	(Interior Architecture and Design)
Katie Wright	(Criminology)
Sharon Oshingbade	(Health and Wellbeing)
Shirllen Damen	(Psychology and Sociology)
Jemma Yarnton	(Radiotherapy)
Abi Harper	(Sport and Exercise Science)
Jon Bruce	(Psychology, Level 4)
Shamaya Robinson	(Psychology and Sociology)
Robert Jacobs	(Bioscience)
Jennifer Wise	(Animal Science)
Shannon Cowan	(History, Level 6)
Annemarie Sewell	(Graphic Design, Level 5)
Siobhan Clapson	(Early Childhood Studies, Level 4),
David Sullivan	(Games, Level 6)
Matthew Boreham	(Sport and Exercise Science, Level 5)
Rares Chirita Filip	(CGD Level 4)
Amy Coughlan	(Events Management Level 4)

### Executive Officers

Sam Bennett	(VP Rights and Activities),
Jonathan Wright	(President)

### In Attendance

Steve Phillips	(Director of Learning Resources),
Ellen Buck	(Head of Library)
Lee Pugh	(UCS Union General Manager, as Secretary to Council)
Matt King	(Democracy and Representation Co-ordinator, as Chair to Council)

### **Apologies for Absence**

Nicola Berncastel	(Business Management Level 4)
Cassie Bendall	(Business Management Level 6)
Pride Mukungurutse	(Diagnostic Radiography Level 4)
Louise Wilcocks	(Diagnostic Radiography Level 5)
Shelley Symonds	(Early Learning Level 6)
Malcolm Beer	(Event Management Level 5)
Carly Whiting	(Interior Design Level 6)
Robert Roue	(Network and Communication Technologies)
Kirsty Gaffigan	(Nutrition and Human Health Level 4)
Cleo Kamere	(Nutrition and Human Health Level 5)
Sam Lawson	(Sport and Exercise Science Level 6)

### **1) Nominations and Elections of Chair of Council, Deputy Chair of Council, and Elections Group (MK)**

Four candidates came forward as candidates for the role of Chair of Council. They were:

Amy Coughlan  
Abi Harper  
Shamaya Robinson  
Zoe Porter Watson

Three candidates came forward as candidates to join the Elections Group

Rares Chirita Filip  
Jennifer Wise  
Jemma Chatten

Candidates spoke for approximately 30 seconds each explaining why Council should vote for them. Council cast their votes in an anonymous ballot.

### **2) Survey Results (JW)**

The three greatest concerns raised by the course rep survey as completed by the Course Reps online in advance of Council, in no particular order, were:

- 1) Lecturer teaching styles
- 2) Electronic Learning Provisions
- 3) Environmental Factors that effect Learning

Council then divided into three groups to discuss these issues.

### **3) Council discussion and vote on motions put forward (MK, SB, JW)**

- a) **Group A - Lecturer Teaching Styles**, facilitated by Matt King, Democracy & Representation Co-ordinator.

### **Motion on dealing with Teaching Styles (AH)**

#### **What**

- 1) Lecturers rely too much on Powerpoint, which can lead to reduced attendance
- 2) Some lecturers were animated and diverse in their teaching methods
- 3) Students noted a lack of direction from lecturers and felt there was a lack of support on technical terminologies
- 4) Students experienced that there was no clear direction as to how the lecture topic fitted into the course as there were no learning objectives set at the start of the lecture
- 5) Students felt that lecturers required that students print off too much paper themselves
- 6) Students therefore felt that the above 5 points led to them becoming disengaged from the learning that they were meant to be receiving

#### **How**

- 1) Workshops should be put on by lecturers to allow students to sort out any issues that they are having, and that these could take place when lectures finished earlier than scheduled.
- 2) Essay questions should be issued at the start of term and have deadlines staggered through the term.
- 3) Lecturers should diversify how they teach what they teach, with learning objectives explained at the start of lectures, linking it into the course content
- 4) Lecturers should reduce the printing demands put upon students, and provide draft essay feedback via email

#### **Action**

Course reps are mandated to raise these concerns at course committee meetings, and directly with module leaders if appropriate

#### **Result**

Motion passed

**b) Group B – IT Facilities**, facilitated by Sam Bennett, Vice President.

### **Webmail (SB)**

#### **What**

- 1) Students have experienced emails going missing when using Webmail
- 2) Students are unable to delete emails en masse
- 3) Outlook not working on any Games Design or Graphic Design Computers, due to not being on the UCS Network.

#### **Action**

Union to pressure IT and infrastructure to review webmail resources and fix

#### **Result**

Motion Passed

### **Library Resources (SB)**

#### **What**

- 1) Athens login doesn't work for all online resources – not enough assistance
- 2) Organisation of library and learning resources online

3) Book renewal process not straight forward

**Action**

Work with library and consult with learning development on the development of new Intranet and developing new e-resources.

**Result**

Motion Passed

**Computer Availability (SB)**

**What**

- 1) Due to the removal of the LRC, access to the Adobe software has been limited and lacks signage
- 2) Graphics computer lab is not open after 21:30-22:00
- 3) James Hehir computers no longer useable by undergraduates

**How**

Undergraduate students need computers or add extra ones they can use

**Action**

Work with the IT Services of UCS to make Adobe more accessible

**Result**

Motion Passed

c) **Group C – Estates & Facilities**, facilitated by Jonathan Wright, President

**Heating/Air Con (JW)**

**What**

Rooms across the Ipswich campus are often too hot or too cold, with some lacking ventilation and others lacking insulation

**Why**

Campus North lacks insulation and some rooms in Art Block & Waterfront Building need air conditioning

**Action**

UCS Union will ask UCS Exec to have a meeting in Campus North instead of the Waterfront Boardroom. President will also meet with Director of Infrastructure to discuss long and short term options.

**Result**

Motion Passed

**Chairs (JW)**

**What**

Chairs across the Ipswich Campus are uncomfortable, including the new chairs in the Waterfront Auditorium.

Students prefer the flexible seating to staged benches, but find the staged seating beneficial when looking at the screen for long periods of time.

There are enough left handed chairs but not always easy to locate.

**Why**

The chairs do not allow for much manoeuvre and some people aren't able to use the desk due to their height.

The desk space is not big enough.

The back of the chair is too slanted and does not offer full support.

**Action**

President to meet with UCS to talk about a policy for when UCS purchases new chairs to study in, including better opportunities for student feedback.

**Result**

Motion Passed

**Printers (JW)**

**What**

Printers are slow, break and are always busy.

Printing is expensive.

**Why**

During busy periods, students always use the printer which causes queues.

**Action**

President will raise the issue with the suggestion that a Quick Print printer be set up to the IT Department who will report back to Union Council next month.

**Result**

Motion Passed

4) **Minutes from the Previous Meeting (MK)**

The notes from the previous meeting were approved as a true and accurate record.

5) **Reports from Executive Officers (JW, SB)**

A report was given by President Jonathan Wright and VP Sam Bennett at the meeting.

6) **Amendments to Bye-Law 1 (For: JW, Against: No-one)**

The changes were to restructure UCS Union's Executive Committee to make it more representative of UCS Students by replacing the previous Student Officer roles with School Officers and Campus Officers.

***Amendment passed***

7) **Amendments to Bye-Law 2 (For: JW, Against: No-one)**

The changes were to formally give Council its existing procedural structure to be written into the constitution to ensure consistency at Union Council.

***Amendment passed***

8) **Amendments to Bye-Law 3**

The changes were to introduce new Election rules that make the campaigning process clearer and fairer by having a student led Elections Group and a deposit scheme for candidates.

***Amendment passed***

9) **Discussion and questions with the Director of Learning Resources and Head of the Library (UCS Ipswich) (SP, EB)**

Union Council noted that Library staff are very helpful this year and that the introduction of the e-mail notifications that books are overdue is a great service although books have to be renewed one at a time. EB will ask and review. Students have adapted to the new Library system well and find it faster to use.

Council noted a number of issues with the Library and the designated study areas around the campus. Course Reps said that there was not enough Silent Study areas and not enough quiet space now that the LRC has been removed. Council noted that with the new arrangements, students now preferred going to the Library for studying.

The Learning Spaces were explained by EB and SP. In the Waterfront, the 1<sup>st</sup> floor is designated as Group Study whilst the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Floor should be Quiet Study Areas. Council gave feedback that this was not clear enough for students and more/better signage was suggested. Council considered how this could be enforced. JC suggested a Text service similar to that in use by Abbey Security at Athena Hall. Students would be able to text UCS Security if they had any noise complaints in the Quiet Study Areas. Council agreed this would be a good idea. SP will take forward with UCS Estates. SP also ensured Council that the Waterfront Building is open 24/7 all year around and will check that UCS Security are aware. SP is currently looking into extending the opening hours. SP will brief JW who will raise it in next month's Council.

SP talked about the new Library process of ordering books. Where a rule had previously been in place that the Library would only have a maximum of 5 copies per book, this has been lifted and a weighting policy is now applied depending on student numbers/requirements. The Library is also looking to purchase more e-books as these make the books more accessible and also looking into only purchasing the required chapters of books in order to reduce costs.

Council raised the issue of the Library having laptops for student use. Some Course Reps were not aware that the Laptops were available. Those that did said that some times the laptops were not charged. EB explained that new Laptop Cabinets with power supplies built in are on order for the library.

JenW from Otley raised issues to do with the Otley Library. These included not having an HE designated area. SP will raise this with the Otley Library directly.

10) **Results of Elections to the positions of Chair, Deputy Chair and Elections Group**

The result for Chair and Deputy Chair was as follows:

Quota required to elected Chair: 15

<b>Name</b>	<b>Round 1</b>	<b>Round 2</b>	<b>Result</b>
Amy Coughlan	14	15	<b>Chair</b>
Abi Harper	4	4	
Shamaya Robinson	2	Eliminated	
Zoe Porter Watson	9	10	<b>Deputy Chair</b>
Spoilt	2		

The result for Elections Group was as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Round 1</b>	<b>Result</b>
Jemma Chatton	17	<b>Elected</b>
Rares Chirita Filip	7	<b>Elected</b>
Jennifer Wise	7	<b>Elected</b>
Ron	0	Eliminated
Spoilt	0	

11) **Any other Business**

There was none

12) **Date of next meeting**

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 at 13:00 in W310