

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY



Minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2016

Present: Mr K. Harper (Chair), Mrs L. Dack, Mrs B. Nelson, and Mrs A. Williams

Apologies: Ms C Richards, Ms N. Gales,

With: Mrs R. Price (Secretary)

1. MINUTES

Confirmed
the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2015.

2. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Terms of Reference

Action
Report on approval to follow

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY 2015/2016

Reported
(1) that the membership of the Standing Committee of the Assembly was:

Ex-officio – VC & PVC's

Members elected by the Assembly:

Ms L. Dack (2017)
Mr R. Delahaye (2017)
Ms N. Gales (2017)
Mr K. Harper (2016) (LTS) (Chair)
Mrs B. Nelson (2018)
Ms C. Richards (2017)
Mrs A Williams (2017)
1 Vacancy

Secretary: Mrs Rebecca Price

(2) that the membership of Mr Kristopher Harper would end on 31 July 2016 and there was 1 vacancy also.

(3) that the membership of the Standing Committee of the Assembly provides for 8 members elected by the Assembly;

(4) that nominations were invited for the 2 vacancies arising for 2016-17;

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- (5) that the following nominations were received (and the candidates are declared elected without need for a vote):

Miss Tracy Moulton (RED) (ALC)
Mr Kristopher Harper (LTS) (S&C)

- (6) After the deadline for nominations had passed we were informed that Mr Richard Delahaye had left UEA so would therefore no longer be a member, leaving a vacancy.

- (7) for 2016/17 there will therefore be 7 members and 1 vacancy. The two proposed nominees will be declared a member of SCOTA without a ballot being required.

4. CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Reported

that the current Chair of the Standing Committee of the Assembly was Mr Kristopher Harper whose term of office will end on 31 July 2016.

Considered

recommendations for the Chair of SCOTA from the Membership of the Committee for 2016/2017 which can be voted upon during the meeting by a secret ballot or voting by a show of hands.

Action

Standing Committee elected Mr Kristopher Harper

5. ASSEMBLY AGENDA ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED

From Dr Susan Sayce (NBS)

Which area/s of the University would you like to pose your question to? The whole University.

Assembly calls upon the university management to take a more proactive stance in promoting a respect at work culture for all university colleagues to help colleagues manage a stressful environment positively so instances of harassment and bullying reduce.

RESOLVED

SCOTA agreed that the motion should be made at Assembly – with slightly revised wording

From Mrs Rebecca Phillips (PLN)

Which area/s of the University would you like to pose your question to? Estates and The Executive Team.

I wish to know why UEA Catering feels the need to alienate its staff members, by closing the hot food counter within Vista for the vacation periods? The Vista hot food counter was closed early during the 2015 Christmas vacation period, which I can appreciate for maybe the last working week. However to close the hot food counter in Vista for the entire Easter Vacation period seems very unfair to staff when on Vista's own website they describe Vista "Vista is an oasis of tranquillity for staff and post graduates alike. Serving superb barista coffee, delicious lunches and tasty afternoon snacks". I am

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concerned about potential health & safety issues for people who would have to carry a tray of hot food up two flights of stairs, which is usually the UEA Catering's answer to the issue. I am also concerned that UEA Catering will therefore carry this practice on and close the hot food counter for the entirety of the Summer vacation – are we to expect Vista's hot counter to close for 14 weeks? Just because the students are not here, this should not mean that the only place that "staff members" can go for a lunch, should close (when it is primarily for staff).

Also I feel that the pricing of the food especially in Vista needs to be looked at as the prices are creeping upwards. £5.25 for a meal, £1 for a scoop of baked beans from the hot counter. From the Patisserie £2.50 for a small roll with small amount of filling seems expensive when you can buy a meal deal including a drink & other item of food for not much more money at other UEA Outlets – would Vista consider bringing in a meal deal for its staff members on the Patisserie counter?

Lastly the one thing which would improve sales might just be if the University would consider bringing in outside companies i.e. Subway, Greggs which would then make competition much better.

RESOLVED

SCOTA agreed that the motion should be made at Assembly – with reduced wording

6. ANY OTHER ITEMS

None

7. QUESTIONS SENT IN

Question from Dr Nikolaos Korfiatis (NBS)

Which area/s of the University would you like to pose your question to? The Executive Team and Human Resources.

In the past year it has become evident that the Campus suffers from parking places and action has been taken hopefully to provide a relief. However as a member of staff I am puzzled by the fact that the University is not offering a car parking salary sacrifice scheme to its employees. Considering that the majority of other Universities have this scheme in place does the Executive committee find this fact fair to UEA employees? Given the relatively high level of parking costs, staff members feel that they are penalised for having the *luxury* to come to work by car. While the university is arguably promoting a green policy on that (and this is understandable), is this a fair way to charge university employees for simply coming to their workplace and not following the standard practice of deducting it from the salary before tax? As such I would like the assembly to put forward to the University's executive committee and Human Resources the request for information on whether there is a consideration for introducing a salary sacrifice scheme for employee car parking.

RESOLVED

SCOTA agreed that the motion should be made at Assembly – with reduced wording

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Question from Miss Lauren Butler (RED)

Which area/s of the University would you like to pose your question to? Estates and Facilities, The Executive Team and The whole University.

As the Smoke Free entryway, or "reasonable distance," laws require, there is to be no smoking occurring within a certain distance (usually 15-25 feet) of doorways, and all UEA external doorways state that smoking is not permitted within 5 meters of an opening to a building. However, smokers constantly congregate by the doors, particularly in bad weather. The cafes also have smokers in the explicitly non-smoking section, which is unpleasant for other users. Would the University consider either implementing this ban more actively or ban smoking on campus all together, bar certain areas for residential students?

RESOLVED

SCOTA agreed that this would be more appropriate as a motion and agreed that the motion should be made at Assembly – with slightly revised wording

Question from Ms Michele Pavey (LTS)

Which area/s of the University would you like to pose your question to? The Executive Team, Human Resources and The Vice-Chancellor.

Are you posing this on behalf of a formal/informal group at UEA? UEA lgbt+ Staff Group.

On behalf of the UEA lgbt+ Staff Group: What are the University's plans for re-establishing a peer based University Harassment Advice Network, independent from HR but which feeds into the University?

RESOLVED

SCOTA agreed that the question and a response from HR should be added to the Assembly agenda.