

# STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY



## Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2015

Present: Mr K. Harper (Chair), Mr R. Delahaye, Mrs A. Williams

Apologies: Ms L. Dack, Ms. C Richards

With: Mrs R. Price (Secretary)

### 1. MINUTES

Confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2014.

### 2. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

None made

### 3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY 2014/2015

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)  
Ms C. Richards (2017)  
Mrs A Williams (2017)

2 Vacancies

Secretary: Mrs Rebecca Price

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

(3) that nominations were invited for the 2 vacancies arising for 2015-16;

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

Mrs Brigitte Nelson (ALC)  
Dr Liliya Serazetdinova (ALC)

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- (5) for 2015/16 there would therefore be 8 members and 0 vacancies. The two proposed nominees will be declared members of SCOTA without a ballot being required.

### 4. ASSEMBLY AGENDA ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED

#### **From Amanda Williams (NBS)**

Across different parts of the university there are different practices when internal roles become vacant. In some parts of the university roles are advertised internally and expressions of interest encouraged from suitable members of staff, while in other parts of the university the practice is to place selected people in roles without opening them up to application. Assembly calls on the university management to encourage transparency in how roles are filled and to promote the internal advertisement of roles.

RESOLVED

- (1) SCOTA agreed that the motion should be made at Assembly.

#### **From Amanda Williams (NBS)**

Assembly calls on the university management to provide union officers from the three campus unions, UCU, Unison and Unite, with facilities time.

RESOLVED

- (1) SCOTA agreed that the motion should be made at Assembly.

#### **From Dr Susan Sayce (NBS)**

In Assembly in June 2014 the Vice-chancellor outlined how it is the university's aim to provide a supportive and encouraging work environment to enable people to flourish and that he would encourage all interactions with colleagues to take place in a civilised manner, listening to each other and recognising that most people are working as hard as they can. However the numbers of staff who are approaching UCU for assistance with issues of bullying and harassment have increased.

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

- (1) SCOTA agreed that the motion should be made at Assembly – with slightly revised wording

#### **From Professor David Mead (LAW)**

Assembly notes that this year's meeting is being held at least a week earlier than at any time in the past decade. Previous assemblies have always been 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in June. Holding Assembly in half-term is likely to reduce significantly the likely attendance. Assembly calls on the University to establish a fixed day for Assembly for 2015/16 and onwards, the first Wednesday in June.

RESOLVED

- (1) SCOTA agreed that the motion should be made at Assembly.

- (2) That future dates of Assembly will be looked at for the 2017/2018 edition (as the 2015/2016 Assembly date does not fall within half term).

**From Professor David Mead (LAW)**

Assembly notes with concern recent attacks on academic freedom, whether that be in context of the rise of terrorist extremism or at an institutional level to host conferences, and calls on the Executive Team to confirm the university's continuing commitment to the contractual right to academic freedom such that all academic staff at UEA should be free to research, publish, speak on, teach and engage with outside bodies about any topic or question without fear of disadvantage or recrimination.

RESOLVED

- (1) SCOTA agreed that the motion should be made at Assembly – with slightly revised wording

5. ANY OTHER ITEMS

**PROMOTION OF THE ASSEMBLY MEETING**

To consider

how to encourage understanding and participation of Assembly in 2016. Can members please bring their ideas to the meeting to work on a strategy for 2016.

Considered

- (1) SCOTA agreed that further promotion should be undertaken and resolved to discuss further and implement by early in the new academic year.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Considered

- (1) SCOTA considered draft wording for terms of reference and agreed to discuss further and implement ahead of next academic year.

**PROPOSED FORM TO GATHER MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS**

Considered

- (1) SCOTA considered draft wording for a form and agreed to discuss further and implement ahead of next academic year.

6. QUESTIONS SENT IN

**Question from Sue King (LTS)**

The Living Wage campaign group spearheaded by Unison UEA with the support of Unite, UCU and the Union of UEA students has gathered over 800 signatures from staff and students in support of the Living wage being introduced at the University. With this in mind, would the university reconsider its refusal to implement the Living Wage for the lowest paid staff?

RESOLVED

- (1) SCOTA agreed that the motion should be made at Assembly – with slightly revised wording