
Southampton University Men's Hockey Club
7th May 2015

Record of decision
made under Rule 9, section 11

Introduction

Rule 9 requires that "minutes shall be kept of the hearings of the Committee, which shall include a numerical record of any vote held, but shall not include the content of any private deliberation between members of the Committee, and that "the outcome of every hearing shall be reported to the next meeting of Union Council". This document is that report.

Complaint

The complaint was made by Union President David Mendoza-Wolfson on behalf of the Students' Union:

1. On the evening of 12th March 2015, the Social Secretary of the Southampton University Men's Hockey Club sent an email from a club account to the mailing list of the Club, which contained a number of offensive and derogatory comments.
2. This incident comprises a breach of good order by:
 - a. conduct detrimental to the reasonable enjoyment of Union facilities by other members of the Union and to the reputation of the Union, contrary to section 4.2(b) of [Rule 9 of the University of Southampton Student's Union](#).
 - b. a breach of a Regulation of the University from time to time in force, namely behaviour which constitutes misconduct under the [Student Discipline Regulations of the University of Southampton](#) by:
 - i. misuse or unauthorised use of University premises or items of property, namely breach of the various University and [iSolutions Regulations](#) for use of IT equipment, software and resources ([example G](#))
 - ii. breach of the terms of the University [policy on Equal Opportunities](#) (example I),
 - iii. indecent, intimidating, defamatory, derogatory and offensive behaviour and/or language (example K),
 - iv. bullying and/or harassment of a member of the University Community (example L);contrary to section 4.2(c) of Rule 9 of the Students' Union.
 - c. breach of the [equality/diversity policy](#) contrary to section 4.2(d) of Rule 9 of the Students' Union.

Hearing

The complaint was presented by David Mendoza-Wolfson, and the text of the email was provided in support.

On behalf of the Club, a member of the 2015/16 Committee presented their response. The Club admitted the charge. Having considered the representations of David Mendoza-Wolfson and the representatives of the Club, the Committee found the respondent guilty.

Penalties

The Committee resolved to:

1. require the members of the Club to undergo equality and diversity training run by the Union at the start of academic year 2015/16 and academic year 2016/17,
2. require the Club to send a full and public apology to student media for publication,
3. reiterate that sending emails of this kind is completely unacceptable,
4. require the Club to use the Union website's Groups Hub mass email functions to send all mass emails in future,
5. require the Club to publicly and actively endorse the #SotonSpeaksUp campaign,
6. suspend the Club from running any alcohol-based socials in Union facilities until the end of the Autumn Term in academic year 2015/16, and
7. fine the Club £500¹, and require the Club to submit receipts for any items bought using SUSU funds during academic year 2015/16.

The vote

All five members of the Committee voted to find the respondent guilty of the charge, and all five members of the Committee voted in favour of the penalties. The Chair did not vote.

Committee report

The Committee requested that SUSU:

- encourage all student groups to send mass emails via the Groups Hub rather than individual accounts,
- to remind student groups that candidates in SUSU elections may not use mass messaging in the course of their campaign, and
- ensure that the requested socials guidance is published for the start of academic year 2015/16.

Ben Morton

Chair of Disciplinary Committee

¹ All fines are donated to RAG.