



University of Leicester Students' Union Policy Folder



If you have any queries regarding any of the policies or wish to get involved with the ongoing implementation of the policies email su-voice@le.ac.uk

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Condemn the racist and provocative call for kills and ban Al-Muharjiroun

Renewal Date: in 2019/20

Union Council – 19.06.01

This Union Believes:

1. That extremist views of any kind intimidate and threaten students on campus and prohibit the building of an active Student Union.
2. That extremist views are an unwelcome and unwanted aspect of student life.
3. That extremism often incites physical and verbal abuse.
4. That the Student Union should be doing everything in their power to ensure that students can study and socialise in a safe and welcoming environment, free from incitement, hatred and fear.

This Union Further Believes:

1. That recent events have shown us that extremism is still a threat in all its forms.
2. That Al-Muhajiroun employ tactics of intimidation through distributing inflammatory and hate filled literature in student unions stopping students being involved in building an active Student Union, one example being the posters recently put up around Birmingham stating that **“The final hour will not come until the Muslims have killed the Jews”**.
3. Their literature has also consistently called for the destruction of Sikhs, Hindus, moderate Muslims, women and homosexuals and thus intimidates these students making them feel scared on campus.
4. Both Muslim students and Jewish students feel intimidated by Al-Muhajiroun’s tactics and actions over the situation in the Middle East.
5. Students from all walks of life are offended and hurt by their pinions on the holocaust.

This Union Resolves:

1. To condemn the racist and provocative calls for killings of Jews, Muslims, Homosexuals, Sikhs and any other person.
2. To encourage Students’ Unions to hold forums where Jewish and Muslim students can partake in open and constructive dialogue, without the fear of being abused by extremists.
3. To mandate the Union to continuously review the state of extremist groups and to bring to the attention of the Union council the existence of any new groups which are deemed to be extremist and the cause of hatred.
4. To ban Al Muhajiroun from our Students union and not allow them a platform to express their views of hate.

Voter Registration

Renewal Date – 2022/23

The Union notes

- 18-24 is the least electorally represented age bracket

The Union believes

- This is a major reason all three main parties have failed to prioritise student interests
- Any campaigning body like the Union has a duty to promote participation in democracy
- The more University of Leicester students registered to vote the better

The Union resolves

- To make every effort to encourage students to vote by emails and readily available voter registration forms at SU events
- To ensure voter registration forms are available at the point, and that this is advertised.
- To mandate the relevant sabbatical officer to campaign for the inclusion of a voter registration form in every University provided accommodation room.
- To email all societies about the campaign, asking for their support in signing up their members
- To mandate SULets to include voter registration forms with all their properties
- To mandate the relevant sabbatical officer to explore the idea of linking course registration with voter registration.

Proposed by:

- Brad Marshall: Officer without portfolio – Arts, humanities and law.

Seconded by:

- Sean Kelly-Walsh: Officer without portfolio – Social Sciences
- Michael Rubin: Officer without portfolio – Social Sciences
- Emily Wright: Officer without portfolio – Arts, humanities and law
- Charles du Couëdic de Kerérant: Officer without portfolio - Arts, humanities and law
- Dan Odutola: Officer without portfolio – Social Sciences

Students not Suspects Non Compliance with Prevent Counter Terrorism and Security Bill

Renewal Date: 2022/23

Students not Suspects: Non compliance with Prevent (Counter Terrorism & Security Bill)

MONA MURAD

<p>Approved By Zone, <i>including comments and details of any vote</i></p>	<p>Union, Community & Education Zones</p>
<p>Approved by Scrutiny Committee, <i>including comments</i></p>	<p>12 November 2015</p>
<p>Overview (100 words)</p>	<p>We believe the Government's Prevent agenda as part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Bill is fundamentally flawed in its approach as it perceives students as suspects. Its operant concepts of 'extremism', 'radicalism' and 'British values' are ill-defined and open to abuse for political ends. The government's warning signs' of "radicalisation" problematise and renders suspect those with mental health difficulties, as well as racial profiling. We want to not comply with the Prevent agenda with external speaker forms, guidelines for student events and checking student literature. Policies concerning student groups should be informed from students themselves not the Government.</p>
<p>Facts <i>Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This Student Union engages with Prevent currently 2. Many student unions nationally have passed motions condemning and campaigning against Prevent. 3. National Union of Students (NUS) has passed a motion at their conference opposing the Act and Prevent. Citing that it 'conflicts with institutions' duties to promote freedom of speech, by making them overly risk- averse and unwilling to engage in important topics of discussion" 4. Universities and Colleges Union (UCU) has passed a motion against prevent citing 'The intention to force our members to be involved in the racist labelling of students is unacceptable' 5. 500 Academics & lecturers have spoken out and condemned prevent: http://gu.com/p/45e54/sbl 6. Liberty Human Rights group stands against prevent citing Prevent as 'threatening the freedom of thought and academic freedom that is the hall mark of universities'

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Student Unions as registered charities do not have to comply with Prevent policies on the ground but will attend Prevent steering meetings at the University to ensure they are keeping with charity regulation. 8. Students in British Universities have been falsely reported under Prevent training e.g reading a terrorist textbook http://gu.com/p/4ckem/sbl
<p>Opinions <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That we agree with the Governments objective to tackle radicalisation but disagree with the flawed approach they have taken. 2. That the Act could serve to isolate many students who already feel that the only avenue through which the Government will engage them is 'anti-radicalisation' initiatives resulting in further alienation. 3. The union should fundamentally believe that the union is a safe space. 4. This act racially profiles students and stigmatises mental health issues which contradicts the values and principles of this Students Union.
<p>Actions/Outcomes <i>What are the things you would like to see happen?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To mandate the officers to oppose the prevent ideology and to be part of a campaign against the issue. 2. To use our own policies for students such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) NUS No platform speaker policy b) Reaffirm Zero-tolerance policy for all forms of safe guarding c) Shape Prevent awareness training for Union Staff to be student led 3. The officers to still attend the Prevent Steering Meeting at university to ensure students voice is represented and read out a statement before all meetings. 4. To lobby the university to be more open and transparent about how they are engaging with Prevent and other similar initiatives. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Holding consultations with the student body regarding how this affects students. b) To release the minutes from the Prevent Steering meeting without the inclusion of sensitive information. c) To consult the Student Union before enforcing any policies d) Actively inform the student body of any university policy changes

University Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Renewal Date: 2022/23

<h2>UNIVERSITY DIVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUELS</h2> <p>DAN SCHOFIELD (ON BEHALF OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION SOCIETY)</p>	
<p>Approved By Zone, <i>including comments and details of any vote</i></p>	Community Zone 02.11.15
<p>Approved by Scrutiny Committee, <i>including comments</i></p>	12 November 2015
<p>Overview (100 words)</p>	<p>UK universities hold £6.6 billion in fossil fuel industries providing financial and moral support to a sector that is undeniably driving climate destruction. Divestment would set a precedent for other universities to follow (18 in the UK have already committed) and establish the university as a world-leader. We believe that profiting from unethical industries is wrong and that it is the university's moral obligation to invest ethically. This is something that can be achieved without damaging the university's finances.</p>
<p>Facts <i>Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The university invests in fossil fuel industries, tobacco companies and arms industries in its investment portfolio. 2. The university is not following its own Treasury Management Policy. <p>Comprehensive references can be found at the end of the open letter that is being sent with this proposal.</p>
<p>Opinions <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is immoral to invest in environmental destruction. 2. The university's investments should be transparent and subject to ethical scrutiny. 3. The university should update its ethical investment guidelines and adhere to them.
<p>Actions/Outcomes <i>What are the things you would like to see happen?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The university divests from companies listed on the Carbon Underground 200 list. 2) The university divests from other companies with environmental and ethical issues. 3) The university's guidelines for ethical investment are updated and adhered to. 4) The university's investment portfolio is made accessible to all by being posted online. 5) The university invests a minimum of 15% in renewable technologies as 'a university led by discovery and innovation'.

This is what we requesting of the university. Things we would like to see happen from the Union Council are as follows:

- 1) The council write a paper in support of divestment to the Board of Financial Directors. The board has requested that this happens and the paper will be considered in their next meeting (January 2016).
- 2) The SU officially supports the EAS' campaign for divestment and continues to work with us.
- 3) Any council members especially interested in the campaign put themselves forward to join our 'divestment team' to continue to grow our campaign.

Wednesday 14th October 2015

Re: University divestment

Dear Board of Financial Directors,

I am writing this letter on behalf of students with a concern for the environment and the future of the planet. To this end, we request that the University of Leicester divests its funds from fossil fuel industries and other unsustainable and unethical industries. Divestment is defined as 'the opposite of an investment' (gofossilfree.org) and other divestment campaigns have had a positive impact on global issues including violence in Darfur, tobacco advertising and South African apartheid. The present divestment movement is targeting the issue of climate change; the international community agree that a global temperature increase of 2°C would have catastrophic global effects which we are already experiencing with melting ice caps and more erratic global weather. Despite estimations that an increase of 2°C could happen within just 16 years at our current rate of consumption, UK universities continue to provide financial and moral support to the industry; to the tune of £6.6 billion per year. The University of Leicester has a part to play in this with over half a million pounds invested in various fossil fuel industries.

Considering that tuition fee income represented 47.8% of the university's income in the year 2013-2014 and that most people would consider paying the university fees an investment into their future, we feel it is immoral for the university to then invest this money into industries that are ultimately destroying our future. Global divestment has seen a huge increase in recent years with 449 institutions worldwide committed to removing their money from unsustainable industries. Cumulatively, this represents more than £1.7 trillion that has been divested from fossil fuel industries. Six UK universities are already on this list, including the universities of Edinburgh,

Holocaust Memorial Day

Renewal Day 2022/23

Holocaust Memorial Day

RACHEL HOLLAND

Approved By Zone, <i>including comments and details of any vote</i>	Community Zone 30.11.15
Approved by Scrutiny Committee, <i>including comments</i>	3 December 2015
Overview (100 words)	The Union currently does not recognise Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) as part of its calendar of events; recently we have had a move towards creating a broader, year-long programme of events and a push towards acceptance and tolerance of other cultures and in order to foster this atmosphere we should start acknowledging events like this as well as the celebratory ones.
Facts <i>Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holocaust Memorial Day occurs on 27th January. 2. The Holocaust killed 6 million Jews and 5 million others, including political opponents, disabled and LGBT+ individuals, and those of Roma descent. 3. HMD is a national day to commemorate those who perished in the Holocaust and other genocides of the 20th and 21st century. 4. The Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, a study centre in the Department of History, already runs a series of lectures each year to commemorate HMD.
Opinions <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A number of students at Leicester SU have been impacted by the Holocaust and other worldwide genocides, whether that is immediate family, grandparents or friends. 2. As a Union should commemorate these events appropriately and sensitively. 3. Days like this are important in order to keep the memory of recent horrors alive and allow us to reflect on both historic and contemporary events.
Actions/Outcomes <i>What are the things you would like to see happen?</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the Union to work with the Stanley Burton Center on its HMD activities. 2. For the Union to acknowledge HMD as part of its calendar of events.

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. To use resources from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and the Holocaust Education Trust to run and promote an annual programme of events to commemorate HMD. |
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Autism Awareness Week

Renewal Date: 2022/23

<h1>Autism Awareness Week</h1> <p>CHARLOTTE FAWDRY</p>	
Approved By Zone, <i>including comments and details of any vote</i>	(leave blank)
Approved by Scrutiny Committee, <i>including comments</i>	(leave blank)
Overview (100 words)	I am mandating the yearly inclusion of an Autism Awareness Week on campus, coinciding with the official World Autism Awareness Week. To be organised by the SU officers, as well as in collaboration with the Autistic Spectrum Society (ASS), a week dedicated wholly to events focused on the Autistic Spectrum Condition. Such a week will aid in raising awareness for the Autistic Spectrum Condition by educating everyone (staff and students) on campus and locally. By collaborating with the ASS, the SU officers can help to offer an impression of Autism that goes beyond mere generalisations to a more personal perspective.
Facts <i>Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the past, the SU has proved very unsupportive towards the Autistic student community at the university. Several attempts were made during the academic year 2014/15 to shut us down due to insufficient members. We are a Society which supports and represents students with a communication disorder, many of whom do not like to meet face-to-face, especially in an unknown environment and with unknown people. We feel that the SU did not take this into account. Also, there has been an issue with last minute changes of room allocation. Again the SU showed a lack of understanding that students with Autism tend to have an extreme dislike for change. While such a situation causes no difficulties for those without Autism, for our members a change of location will prove discouraging in terms of attendance. The SU has now begun to enter into a dialogue with our Society and is now willing to work with us to improve our position as students at the university. 2. The academic year 2014/2015 saw an intake of more than 60 Autistic students –

	<p>that is roughly 1 in 341.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Currently (2015/2016) the University has 150+ students with an Autism Spectrum Condition and a total of c. 170 Autistic individuals (students and staff combined). 4. In the general population, there are around 700,000 people living with Autism – that is 1 in 100.
<p>Opinions <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Union should recognise the opportunity for it to lead the way amongst universities in actively supporting its Autistic student community by raising awareness and educating the general student population. 2. The Union should think positively about creating an environment which strives to include and accommodate its Autistic students. 3. The Union should believe in its ability to create itself as a place where Autism is automatically accepted – a place where there is no allowance for any type of judgement, prejudice and harassment. 4. Since the Autistic Spectrum Condition is a social communication difficulty, there needs to be a realisation within the Union that they will most likely need to be active in advertising, promoting and organising the week.
<p>Actions/Outcomes <i>What are the things you would like to see happen?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandating that the SU officers commit to a yearly Autism Awareness Week of talks, workshops, and activities all focused on creating greater awareness of and appreciation for what exactly is Autism. Ending the week with a 'Night Walk for Autism' to raised money for Autism services and charities in the local area. 2. Just as much as any other student, those with Autism should be able to use the SU, but due to the type of environment, it is unsuitable and extremely uncomfortable. Therefore, we would like to see the SU make provision for this with the creation of a <u>safe, quiet</u> socialising place within the SU specifically for members of the Autistic Spectrum Society. This has nothing to do with favouritism. It is simply accommodating the needs of students who cannot use a facility that we have every right to due to issues we face with regards to noise, smell, light, etc.. 3. To be safe in the knowledge that on the

	<p>completion of my studies there will be a week in which the university makes a concerted effort to build greater understanding and awareness for the Autistic Spectrum Condition. I will have begun something that may long continue helping reach a situation of acceptance of difference.</p>
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Campaigning to improve conditions for those with Dietary Requirements at the University of Leicester

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes:

- 1 in 100 people have a food allergy
- 3 in 4 people have a Dairy intolerance
- 1 in 3 people have Yeast sensitivity
- 1 in 7 people have Gluten sensitivity
- 1 in 3 people have Fructose or Sugar sensitivityⁱ
- One in a hundred people in the UK have Coeliac disease (one in ten amongst families where the condition already exists)ⁱⁱ

That dietary requirements are a commonly occurring condition in modern society, and that the younger demographic group, many of whom are students are entering University either unaware they have these conditions or as recently diagnosed sufferers of them.

That conditions such as intolerance to lactose, gluten, nuts and numerous other products as well as auto-immune conditions like Coeliac disease need to be well catered for, as their effects can be severe, lifelong and even fatal in some cases. Even a slight contamination of food during preparation can have these effects.

That the current state of safety and availability of “free-from” food both on campus and in catered halls is, by accounts from current students, below standard for those with dietary requirements. In the worst case, a student has been promised good provision prior to entering catered halls and has had repeatedly bad experiences, despite being proactive in trying to gain recognition of their condition before and during their time at University.

That when looking at these issues from a legal standpoint, it is important to note that:

- The Food Labelling Regulations 1996 specifically states that if there is an allergen present in food, its presence must be clearly labelled alongside ingredients.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Legal requirements such as European Directive 2003/89/EC mean that only foods that contain 20 parts per million of gluten will be allowed the label “gluten free”¹. As some gluten foods are manufactured on campus (ie: freshly prepared) it is vital that those preparing such items are both aware of what gluten free foods there are and correctly label these to protect students and adhere to the law.

This Union Believes:

¹ Labelling Legislation: Coeliac UK Website - www.coeliac.org.uk/food-industry/manufacturers-and-retailers/labelling-legislation

Information available to those with Dietary requirements of free from foods when eating at campus outlets (such as the Library Café) is currently very poor.

That correct labelling of food is a matter of particular importance to those with dietary requirements.

That past and current students have suffered due to a poor understanding of, and provision for such conditions, and that this Union should fight to improve this situation both now and for future generations of students'.

The ability to eat safely and be healthy as a student is not only integral to an individual's studies and their student experience, but more fundamentally is a human right.

Simple steps can be taken by those involved in the sale and distribution of food to prevent problems such as better education for catering staff about such conditions, putting procedures in place to prevent contamination, and providing "free-from" menu's at campus outlets. These objectives should be campaigned for too happen comprehensive both on and off campus.

This Union Resolves:

For the sabbatical team to review this issue, as well as the cost and provision of food on campus at least once per annum and campaign so that our Institution strives to both maintain and improve provision of and access to free-from foods to all students who need them.

For the Campaigns and Involvement Officer to work alongside the Dietary Requirements Society to look at the setting up of a national campaign on this issue, but over the coming academic year to build a campaign to achieve this in the short term, by raising awareness of the issues surrounding dietary requirements as well as improve the student experience overall for those with these conditions.

Proposed by:

David Cavell
OWP Science & Engineering
Campaigns Officer, University of Leicester Dietary Requirements Society.

Laura Brooker
President, University of Leicester Dietary Requirements Society.

Thom French
Campaigns and Involvement Officer, University of Leicester Students' Union.

Improving the support offered to those suffering from a mental health disorder

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes:

1. Mental illness is a serious medical issue which should not be marginalised as secondary to physical illness and should not be stigmatised due to lack of knowledge.
2. Mental health disorders can take many forms and affect a vast amount of individuals among society;
 - 1 in 4 people will experience some kind of mental health problem in the course of a year
 - Mixed anxiety and depression is the most common mental disorder in Britain²
3. To support the argument for institutional concern with student mental health it may be useful to cite some relevant statistics relating to the incidence of serious mental ill-health in the student body. National studies have demonstrated that students are a vulnerable group in terms of mental health difficulties, for example:
 - 63% of universities report an increase in psychological distress among students. (Association of University and College Counselling, 1996/97).
 - Schizophrenia is the most common form of severe mental illness, with the first episode typically occurring between the ages of 18 - 30 years and usually induced by stress (IRISS Project, 1994).
 - Manic depression commonly begins between the ages of 16 - 25 years, with 1 in every 100 people being diagnosed as suffering from this illness (Manic Depression Fellowship, 1990).
 - The largest group of males who attempt suicide are aged between 20 and 24. Suicide, second to accidents, is the largest cause of death in 15 - 24 year old men. 56% of young men who attempt suicide have employment or study problems (The Samaritans, 1990).
 - 1 in every 500 women between the ages of 15 and 25 will require extensive treatment for anorexia. Incidence of anorexia has been linked with high academic achievement (Eating Disorders Association, 1997)³.
4. Nevertheless, despite the prevalence of mental health issues among students, the Union website notes that in a recent survey 80% of students say they would not ask for help because of the stigma attached to mental health disorders⁴, implying that there is a lack of awareness among students around the topic of mental health.

² Statistics taken from <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/help-information/mental-health-statistics/>

³ Taken from <http://www.studentmentalhealth.org.uk/chap1.htm#c1p14>

⁴ <http://leicesterunion.com/welfare/welfare>

5. The waiting list for regular and sustained sessions at the student counselling service is up to twelve months.

This Union Believes:

1. Students in particular are very vulnerable to developing issues surrounding their mental health due to the pressures facing them at university. Pressures such as exams, coursework, finance and the future can place stress on students and exacerbate existing mental health issues or even contribute to the onset for development of a mental health disorder.
2. The welfare services offered in support of those suffering from a mental health disorder at university could be reviewed.
3. Information available to both those suffering from a mental health disorder and equally to those around someone with a mental health disorder is not adequately visible and provided.
4. That some current students have had unsatisfactory experiences after seeking help in response to making the enormous step in acknowledging that they are suffering from a mental health disorder.
5. Early intervention has been shown to reduce the severity of symptoms and drive down relapse rates so it is vital to raise awareness about mental health disorders so that they are no longer stigmatised or marginalised and those suffering from them feel they can seek help.
6. It is also important to raise awareness of mental health disorders so those around those suffering from a mental health disorder know how to respond and offer support while at the same time maintaining their own mental wellbeing.
7. Mental health should not be marginalised as secondary to physical health.

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the Welfare and International Officer to further investigate the provision of support offered by Freeman's Common Health Centre for those suffering from a mental health disorder. As a result, to then provide a report to Parliament where action points will be discussed and then meet with the head of counselling to discuss how to combat these problems.
2. To mandate the Campaigns and Involvement Officer to work alongside the Equality Officer to campaign to change the conditions in society surrounding mental health disorders as well as improving the visibility of support offered for those suffering from a mental health disorder by holding an annual campaign.
3. To mandate the relevant officer to work alongside the NUS Welfare Zone, mental health charities and the Mental Wealth Society towards ending the stigmatisation of mental health disorders within our Union.
4. To mandate the Welfare and International Officer to work with the Mental Wealth Society towards setting up a mental health disorder peer-support group.

Proposed by: Ria Blakemore

Mandate External Trustees to submit Yearly Reports to Council

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes:

1. This Union has four External Trustees: James Hunt, Keith Julian, Neville Reed and Alison Shakespeare.
2. Questions regarding the role of External Trustees in the management of this Union have been raised in Union Council.

This Union Believes:

1. The External Trustees fulfil a vital function in the operation of this Union.
2. Understanding of the role of the External Trustees is low amongst members engaged in the activities of this Union (e.g. Union Council members), and largely non-existent in lay students.
3. A greater degree of understanding of how this Union is actually run will reduce confusion amongst Union Council members.

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the External Trustees to submit to Union Council brief yearly reports on their activities in their role.

Stop Food Waste in the Students' Union

Renewal Date: 2022/23

<h2>STOP FOOD WASTE IN THE STUDENTS UNION</h2> <p>JULIA MAROH (WITH PERMISSION OF ROBYN ELMS)</p>	
<p>Approved By Zone, <i>including comments and details of any vote</i></p>	Union Zone 05.11.15
<p>Approved by Scrutiny Committee, <i>including comments</i></p>	12.11.15
<p>Overview (100 words)</p>	<p>On 3.10.15 a new policy was introduced that all unsold pre-opened or prepared food from SU outlets must be binned daily. (Before 3.10.15 student staff could take home these leftovers for private consumption.) As a former employee in the Common Room I have personally witnessed this. Massive quantities of within date food is wasted each day because of this policy. I understand that the SU is unable to donate these leftovers to charities, however the Islamic Society are willing to donate it at their own risk. I ask that the policy that all leftover food must be binned be revoked.</p>
<p>Facts <i>Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currently all leftover opened or prepared food from SU outlets has to go into the bins after each day. 2. This creates massive amounts of waste daily. 3. The Islamic society would be willing to take the leftover food to distribute it to charities (at their own risk).
<p>Opinions <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students feel uncomfortable about this massive waste of resources. 2. The current situation is not environment friendly. 3. It is not in the spirit of a students union that has won the Green Impact golden excellence award.
<p>Actions/Outcomes <i>What are the things you would like to see happen?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revoke the policy made on October 3rd that all leftover food has to be put in the bins. 2. Enquire how much food exactly is wasted by the SU on a regular basis. 3. Allow individual students or societies to take the leftover food to donate it at their own risk.

Becoming a Zero Tolerance Union - Ending sexual harassment in our Students' Union

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes:

The NUS Hidden Marks report, published in March 2010, shows these key findings:

1. 68% of respondents had experienced sexual harassment whilst at university or college.
2. 1 in 7 survey respondents has experienced a serious physical or sexual assault during their time as a student.
3. 12% have been stalked while at university or college.
4. 16% of respondents have experienced unwanted kissing, touching or molesting during their time as a student.
5. More than 1 in 10 respondents have been a victim of serious physical violence.
6. Students were the majority of perpetrators in most categories (except physical violence where 48% of offenders were students).
7. In the majority of cases in all incident categories surveyed, the perpetrator was known to the victim.
8. In the incident categories for which relevant data is available, the majority of perpetrators were male (89% for stalking and 73% for physical violence).
9. Only 4% of women students who have been seriously sexually assaulted have reported it to their institution.
10. Only 10% of women students who have been seriously sexually assaulted have reported it to the police.
11. Of those who did not report serious sexual assault to the police, 50% said it was because they felt ashamed or embarrassed, and 43% because they thought they would be blamed for what happened.

This Union Believes:

1. In order for our Students' Union to be a safe space for all of our students we need to adopt a zero tolerance policy.
2. It is better to *hollaback* than to slut shame, it is important for students to be empowered to dress how they wish and feel safe to call sexual harassment when they see it, rather than reigning in personal expression over safety.
3. This proposal is to make the University of Leicester Students' Union a zero tolerance union: to tackle sexual harassment and to end the culture of acceptability that leaves such behaviour unchallenged.

This Union Proposes:

1. To inform our students and participants at Union events that the zero tolerance policy is in place, including the understanding of what constitutes as sexual harassment, and that is not tolerated, but to create an empowerment culture not a victim culture.
2. To mandate the Chief Executive Officer of the Students' Union to write a Human Resources document on sexual harassment training for current and future staff.
3. To review the current disciplinary and complaints procedures in the Students' Union, ensuring that they fit in with the zero tolerance policy and to mandate the Student Activities Officer to ensure that sports and societies are aware of this policy through their training.

4. To identify a clear path for those who wish to complain about sexual harassment, including selecting a forward facing member of staff who is highlighted as the person whom to complain to and what happens once the complaint is submitted.
5. To ensure students know about support services provided by both the University and the Union.
6. To work with local police to ensure their support, and to make the process for reporting serious crimes easier.
7. For the Welfare and International Officer to submit a report to the NUS Women's Officer to become an NUS accredited zero tolerance union.
8. To allow the Campaigns and Involvement Officer to use this policy as a launch pad for campaigns about sexual violence against students.

The Zero Tolerance Charter

Renewal Date 2022/23

The Union Notes:

- 68% of female students nationally have reported some form of sexual harassment⁵

The Union Believes:

- The Union does not know enough about measures in place across Leicester to combat sexual harassment
- We need to search for ways to tackle sexual harassment throughout Leicester
- The 'Zero Tolerance' policy that is being implemented in the Students Union should be an example to establishments throughout Leicester

The Union Resolves:

- To fully support the campaign for the city-wide adoption of a 'Zero Tolerance Charter' as outlined below:
 1. Prominently display high-visibility posters in venue, which discourage harassment and encourage the reporting of harassment.
 2. Publish a 'zero tolerance' policy to sexual intimidation, harassment and assault.
 3. Implement training for all front of house staff which addresses how to deal with harassment, using approved Suzy Lamplugh Trust guidance.
 4. Send a public letter to the Security Industry Association (SIA), the national body that regulates the private security industry in the UK, setting out the steps the club has taken and asking it to publicly endorse the Zero Tolerance Charter.
 - For the Student's Union to comply with point 4 of the charter, as specified above, as this is not part of the Zero Tolerance Policy
 - To campaign to mandate all bars and clubs that the Union associates with to implement this charter.

Proposed by:

Brad Marshall: Officer without Portfolio – Arts, Humanities and Law

⁵ <http://www.nusu.co.uk/files/zero-tolerance-sexual-harrassment-policy-nus.pdf>

Support for Students with Disabilities

Renewal Date: 2022/23

4.

31 MOTION

Ms Bell proposed the following motion.

This Union Notes:

1. The difficulties encountered by students with disabilities in surviving in a university designed for able bodied students.
2. When one partially sighted student arrived at this university she was given no support in negotiating the campus or the entry procedure.
3. The Visually Impaired Students Friendship Network is an organisation enabling visually impaired and sighted students to work together in setting up a network facilitating the needs of the visually impaired.

This Union Believes:

1. That all students regardless of disability have a right to equal access to further and higher education.
2. That society is ignorant of the needs of disabled people and attempts to meet these needs are often tokenistic.
3. That disabled people have requirements that are different from those of 'able-bodied' people but the 'problem' of disabled people is that of living in an able-bodied world.

This Union Resolves:

1. To start a campaign promoting the needs of disabled students.
2. To approach the university authorities and campaign for changes in the campus that would make it more accessible to disabled students.
3. To give more support to disabled students in their first weeks at the university.

Amendments

Mr. Holden-Davies proposed the following amendments which were ACCEPTED by Ms Bell.

Add new Resolves:

4. To respect the autonomy of the disabled at all times.
5. To offer its support to NEC member Becky Canning in her campaign against the organisation "Progress".
6. To join with other Student Unions in pressing NUS for positive images of the disabled.

There was no opposition to the motion.

The meeting voted and the motion was CARRIED.

Promotion of inclusion of the LGBTQ community in wider society

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes

1. Under the FA guidelines and regulations, homophobic chanting or similar is banned and should result in the offender from being removed from the ground, this rule applies to every team from the Premiership to Level 15 clubs.
2. Almost two thirds (65 per cent) of young lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils have experienced direct bullying. Seventy five per cent of young gay people attending faith schools have experienced homophobic bullying.⁶
3. 95 per cent of secondary school teachers and three quarters of primary school teachers report hearing the phrases like 'that's so gay' in their schools.⁷
4. 'Nine in ten teachers and non-teaching staff at secondary and primary schools have never received any specific training on how to prevent and respond to homophobic bullying.'⁸

This Union Believes

1. That the University of Leicester is training the teachers of tomorrow, our members. We can influence our members to take LGBTQ issues seriously in schools.
2. Our Sports Teams provide amazing talent for local, national and international sports community or become some of the most vocal fans. These members can challenge hate when they see it around them on and off the "pitch".

This Union Resolves

1. For the Students' Union to work with PGCE students, the school of Education and our links with teaching unions to support school students with LGBTQ issues and problems.
2. Encourage the University and School of Education to ensure that all courses leading to Qualified Teacher Status include mandatory training on homophobia and the inclusion of LGBTQ students and issues
3. For the Students' Union to encourage Student Group Leaders (Captains, Presidents, Chairs etc) to become Leaders in Equality, for them to actively discourage hate and promote an *equality-cool* attitude.
4. For the Students' Union to ensure Sports Clubs' Constitutions, Codes of Practice corresponding to such sports, and the Sports Association Constitution, cover LGBTQ issues, in the wider context of providing a state of equality in the Union's sporting activities.

6

[http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at school/education for all/quick links/education resources/4004.asp](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at%20school/education%20for%20all/quick%20links/education%20resources/4004.asp)

7

[http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at school/education for all/quick links/education resources/4003.asp](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at%20school/education%20for%20all/quick%20links/education%20resources/4003.asp)

⁸ [http://www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/the teachers report 1.pdf](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/the%20teachers%20report%201.pdf)

5. The Student Activities Officer to work with the ARC team to produce a physical/online Varsity program with a Spectators code of conduct.
6. To associate with the Justin Campaign and work with them on future campaigns.

Thom French
Campaigns and Involvement Officer

Nightline's involvement in Students Union welfare campaigns.

Renewal Date: 2022/23

Facts

Leicester Nightline is an information, listening and support service run by students, for students every night during term time.

Leicester Nightline is the only overnight support service for the students of Leicester University.

Leicester University Students Union runs a number of welfare campaigns throughout the year as well as producing a large amount of welfare literature.

Opinions

With only 3 public faces to the service, who are responsible for a number of areas of service provision, and a limited budget it is difficult for Nightline to publicise extensively.

Welfare campaigns are an excellent opportunity to make students aware of particular issues and inform them of routes to support.

Over the past few years Nightline has successfully run several publicity campaigns and we believe the knowledge we have gained through running these could be beneficially used in welfare campaigns that are run by the

Students Union.

Nightline is a service run by a large number of highly trained volunteers who all care passionately about student welfare, we would like to work more closely with the Student's Union as we believe combining our capabilities would improve student support provision.

Proposal

Nightline be given the opportunity to take part in all relevant welfare campaigns, this will include having the opportunity to publicise during the campaigns and if possible be included in the planning process of the campaigns.

All welfare literature produced by the union to include information and contact details for Nightline.

Proposed by Ruth Matthew – Associations Rep Elect and Nightline Coordinator.

Ethical Society Hoodies from 2014

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes:

- Student groups commonly purchase hoodies for sale to their members, and are known to make a profit which benefits the group(s) as a whole
- From 2014, societies will be mandated to purchase ethical 'Living Wage' hoodies through NUSSL/The Students Union as stated in the 'G Factor' proposal resolves 7 and 8^[1]
- The 'Living Wage' hoodies do not as yet exist
- Societies were not informed or consulted about the proposal passed in 2012 mandating them from 2014 to purchase through a single supplier

[1] Resolves 7: For all societies to buy their hoodies through either the Union or NUSSL in compliance with the Union's Living Wage Policy.

Resolves 8: For Resolves 7 to be embargoed until 2014 'The G Factor', Proposed by O Jones 23/02/2012

This Union Believes:

- Societies should be financially autonomous and allowed to make their own financial decisions based on the gain of their members
- Wherever possible, we as a union should be trying to promote ethical produce and goods

This Union Resolves

1. Societies must retain financial autonomy regarding hoodie purchases/sales
2. Amend the 'G Factor' proposal to remove resolves 7 and 8
3. The Union must promote the purchase of ethical hoodies by societies

Proposed by

Jamie Hill

President, University of Leicester Engineering Society

Officer without Portfolio, College of Science and Engin

Pro-Choice Hardship Fund: How our Union can help with our students' with unplanned pregnancies.

Renewal Date: 2022/203

This Union Believes:

1. That we are a pro-choice Students' Union.
2. Unplanned pregnancies can happen to many students' and whatever the decided outcome, we should as a Students' Union and as part of the University of Leicester support the choice.

This Union Resolves:

1. As part of the Hardship Fund already in place, to ask the University Welfare Department to set aside funding in the hardship fund for Unplanned pregnancies.
 - a. Should a student choose to proceed with the pregnancy the fund will contribute to one off costs such as a buggy, cot etc.
 - b. Should a student choose to terminate the pregnancy the fund will contribute towards the cost if it is reasonable to do so, and the student is unable to access the NHS service/treatment.

Thom French
Campaigns and Involvement Officer

Ria Blakemore
Equality Officer
OWP, Arts, Humanities and Law

A Pro Choice Union

Renewal Date: 2022/23

The Union Notes:

1. Current UK abortion law is based on the Abortion Act (1967) and Section 37 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (1990).
2. Abortion in the UK is allowed up to 24 weeks on condition that continuing with the pregnancy involved a greater risk to:
 - i. The physical or mental health of the woman, or
 - ii. The physical or mental health of the woman's existing children than having a termination
3. Abortion is allowed after 24 weeks if there is:
 - i. Risk to the life of the woman
 - ii. Evidence of severe fetal abnormality, or
 - iii. Risk of grave physical and mental injury to the woman
4. An abortion must be:
 - i. Agreed by two doctors (one in an emergency) and
 - ii. Carried out by a doctor, and
 - iii. Carried out in a government-approved hospital or clinic
5. The 1967 Abortion Act only applies to England, Scotland and Wales. In Northern Ireland abortion can only be obtained if the woman's life is at risk and in some cases of fetal abnormality.
6. Abortion laws in the UK are more restrictive than almost every other European country, where abortion on request is legal in the first three months of pregnancy.
7. No form of contraception is 100% effective at preventing pregnancy.
8. An LSE study, in 2005, showed reproductive rights and choices have improved women's social, economic and political position to a greater degree than equal pay and equal opportunities legislation.
9. One quarter of women having abortions in England and Wales have to pay for them - there are no public funds available specifically to help females with low income in these circumstances.
 - i. Woman students, therefore, need to rely on either parental support or student loan to fund terminations, at the expense of their education and/or welfare.
10. Women in the UK have died from forced pregnancy and without free, safe abortion on demand woman's health is put at risk.
11. We currently have policy on being a pro-choice Students' Union (See Appendix A).

The Union Believes:

1. Control over fertility is crucial for women studying in further or higher education.
2. All women should have the right to access reproductive health care, regardless of personal opinion on contraception or abortion.
3. Women should be the sole decision-makers over their own bodies, and current abortion law in the UK does not give females the right to choose.
4. The restrictions on abortion laws can cause women to resort to unsafe methods of getting abortions, or result in unwanted pregnancies.
5. Trans* and intersex individuals who are able to fall pregnant deserve the same rights as all women students in regards to contraceptive and abortion rights.
6. Students from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland should be supported in their access to abortion while studying in England, Scotland or Wales.
7. There is still stigma surrounding the morning-after pill.
8. Women have the right to choose the best method of contraception for their own bodies.

This Union Resolves:

1. To extend the current pro-choice policy to include the following points:
 - i. To support women student's right to choose, the right to free, accessible, safe abortion and agree that women should have the first and only right to make decisions about their own bodies.
 - ii. To support campaigns to make access to abortion fairer for those women who decide to not continue with their pregnancy.
 - iii. To prevent groups that present a threat to woman student's safety and intend to restrict the reproductive rights of women from harassing students on campus.
 - iv. To oppose any restrictions to abortion rights or contraceptive rights being passed through Westminster.
 - v. To make sure that the Union and University has provisions for students who choose to see through their term of pregnancy.
 - vi. To ensure that information about obtaining abortions and effective and/or emergency contraception is readily available and accessible for all women students at the University of Leicester.
 - vii. To promote different methods of contraception to students beyond condoms and the contraceptive pill.
 - viii. To mandate the Women's Officer to run an audit of the current services provided by the sexual health clinic and Student Welfare to see what services are currently provided and what services need improving in regards to contraceptive and abortion rights.
2. To affiliate the Students' Union to Abortion Rights UK at a cost of £5 per year.
3. To mandate the Women's Officer to write a statement of solidarity with Irish students fighting for abortion and contraceptive rights in the Republic Of and Northern Ireland.
4. To ensure that trans* and intersex individuals who fall pregnant are subject to the same abortion and contraceptive rights as woman students.

Appendix A

Proposal: Pro-Choice Hardship Fund: How our Union can help with our students' with unplanned pregnancies.

This Union Believes:

1. That we are a pro-choice Students' Union.
2. Unplanned pregnancies can happen to many students' and whatever the decided outcome, we should as a Students' Union and as part of the University of Leicester support the choice.

This Union Resolves:

1. As part of the Hardship Fund already in place, to ask the University Welfare Department to set aside funding in the hardship fund for Unplanned pregnancies.
2. Should a student choose to proceed with the pregnancy the fund will contribute to one off costs such as a buggy, cot etc.
3. Should a student choose to terminate the pregnancy the fund will contribute towards the cost if it is reasonable to do so, and the student is unable to access the NHS service/treatment.

Zero Tolerance to Harassment – Education not Punishment

Renewal Date: 2022-23

<h1 style="text-align: center;">Zero Tolerance to Harassment – Education, not Punishment</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">ROSANNA ARMENANTE (WOMEN'S OFFICER)</p>	
Approved By Zone, <i>including comments and details of any vote</i>	Approved by Union Zone (03/03/2016)
Approved by Scrutiny Committee, <i>including comments</i>	(leave blank)
Overview (100 words)	<p>Harassment is an ever-prevalent issue on UK campuses. Primarily seen as a women's issue, harassment on campus can actually affect students of any demographic of student, although minority and marginalised groups are disproportionately affected.</p> <p>Being a victim of harassment can have deep and varied effects, whether this be a slight feeling of annoyance after being catcalled in public, to more sinister issues, such as becoming too afraid to leave the house or developing mental illness.</p> <p>A core problem is that often students that participate in harassing behaviour are not aware that their behaviour is unacceptable, and why. Leicester Union is proudly Zero Tolerance to Harassment, but it is now time for a more grassroots approach to educate students on appropriate conduct and aim to eradicate harassment on campus once and for all.</p>
Facts <i>Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leicester Students' Union currently has a Zero Tolerance to Harassment policy in place. 2. Leicester Union currently has a set of defined processes for reporting and investigating serious offences (such as sexual assault), but this is less evident (or perceived as) for cases of more minor incidents or of incidents that are ongoing and/or off campus. 3. NUS has commissioned independent studies of sexual harassment experiences on UK campuses – Hidden Marks Survey, 2010; That's What She Said Survey, 2012 4. Low-level offences (such as harassment) can, if left unchallenged, lead to higher-level offences (such as sexual assault) – http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-preventing-sexual-and-gender-based-

	<p>harassment/2-identifying-sexual-harassment</p> <p>5. People are often not aware of the implications or consequences of their actions. This is exacerbated in recent years by the advent of social media and internet development.</p> <p>https://hbr.org/1981/03/sexual-harassmentsome-see-itsome-wont</p>
<p>Opinions <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The University of Leicester is place of learning, and as such we have a duty to educate our student body on the appropriateness of their conduct as a lifelong necessary quality 2. It will be more effective to target and educate students who exhibit harassing behaviours before they could progress to more serious and potentially dangerous offences. 3. It is important to consider minor harassment incidents as frequently and with the same seriousness as issues of a more serious nature.
<p>Actions/Outcomes <i>What are the things you would like to see happen?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review reporting structures/processes – make these easily accessible and easy to report any and all levels of inappropriate behaviour. Ensure all online links are functioning and easy to locate. Create method of reporting in person on campus. 2. Publicise limits of investigation, ie. 30 day CCTV limit (to encourage students to come forward about on campus incidents sooner and reassure them their report will be investigated and taken seriously). 3. Setting up mechanism of peer review for reported incidents – Task and Finish Group to help. Panel of student volunteers would assess threshold for response – each case on an individual basis, this could be a combination of frequency/nature/seriousness of alleged offence, strike system (as discussed in zones) 4. Develop consent and harassment workshops, to educate on all forms of harassment and inappropriate behaviour (ie. racial, homophobic, transphobic, etc. - not limited to sexual harassment) 5. Workshops to be implemented alongside existing Zero Tolerance disciplinary procedures.

	<p>6. Implement a centralised system of recording names to keep track of students engaging in harassing behaviour (to help implement a 2-strike system, if Task and Finish Group deem this to be an appropriate method of recording and assessing cases)</p>
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Motion for Palestinian Solidarity and to Support BDS (Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions)

Renewal Date: 2022/23

Background Information:

Israel systematically denies the Palestinian right to education of Palestinian students. Israel has bombed and raided universities and Palestinian students are denied their basic rights. Palestinian students are often at the forefront of popular resistance.

BDS is one of the key ways in which students across the world are building effective solidarity with Palestinian students. Scores of student unions and student governments across North America and Europe have voted to launch BDS campaigns demanding divestment from Israel's crimes or academic boycott. Student movements are rapidly growing in South Africa, Brazil, and Chile and across the world.

Student solidarity organizing is helping to build huge support for the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality among an entire generation of young people. In the UK, student campaigns have successfully pressured universities in London, Leeds, and Southampton and have ended contracts with companies targeted by the BDS movement such as G4S and Veolia.

Israel has committed many war crimes Resolutions including: The Fourth Geneva Convention; The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; The United Nations Charter; The Hague Convention and many including the use of illegal chemical weapons targeting UN schools and civilians. This motion is targeting the illegal war crimes and the vast UN violations committed by the State of Israel.

This Union Notes:

1. That the call to Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) came in 2005 from over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations and is fully representative of Palestinian civil society in its call to the international community to hold Israel accountable.
2. That there is an international campaign to boycott Israeli goods in other academic institutions with motions passed to boycott Israeli products and/or terminate contracts with companies that profit from the violation of Palestinian human rights (such as the campaign against G4S in King's College London (KCL), SOAS, Kent and the University of Southampton).
3. BDS action has been endorsed by the NUS, NUT, TUC and UCU, over 25 UK student unions, as well as other NGOs, trade unions, student unions & grassroots networks across the globe [citations available upon request].
4. That Israel in its complete disregard of the human rights of the Palestinians and in its illegal occupation of Gaza and the West Bank is in breach of over 30 UN resolutions as well as in complete violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

5. That Israel's continuing oppression of the Palestinians both inside Israel proper and the Occupied Territories has been compared by South African trade unionists and activists to the Apartheid Regime; nowhere is this more visible than in the construction of the illegal Apartheid Wall.

6. That Israel has denied the right of return for Palestinian refugees recognized under The United Nations UN General Assembly Resolution 194 which was passed on December 11, 1948. Now, there are more than five million Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA, more than one million of them are stateless.

7. That Palestinians living within Israel proper and the Occupied Territories are treated as second-class citizens with no equal rights confirming that Israel is not a democratic state for all its people.

8. That BDS movement has had several victories in the past year and has helped in bringing the end of the occupation and colonization of Palestinian lands closer. For example : Dutch pension fund PGGM divesting from Israeli banks, the divestment of both the Bill Gates Foundation and of the US Methodist Church from G4S, which has led to G4S' yet-to-be-implemented decision to pull out of Israel.

This Union Believes:

1. That the Union should be active in campaigns which concern human rights.
2. BDS movement is capable of persuading both private and public bodies to reduce their complicity in Israel's violations of international law.
3. This policy has no intention to negatively impact/divide any community at Leicester. This is not to do with religion, it is concerned with human rights and preserving the safety/livelihood of the Palestinian population. 3.1 – This is not an attack on the Israeli people, it is against the policies of the Israeli government.
4. That under the UN definition of Apartheid, Israel is an Apartheid state (UN report - https://electronicintifada.net/sites/default/files/2017-03/un_apartheid_report_15_march_english_final_.pdf)
5. That boycotting campaigns against South Africa was an important part of the resistance bringing down Apartheid and that the same means can help bring down Apartheid again.
6. That in light of the Apartheid policies inflicted on all Palestinians by the State of Israel, it is not adequate to separate between settlement products and Israeli products. Instead, it is necessary to highlight the State's role and its full complicity in the occupation and Apartheid by applying pressure through the Boycott.

This Union Further Believes:

1. That on these grounds Leicester University Students' Union to Boycott Israeli products and settlement products on campus.

Settlement products are those which have been produced by companies which have established themselves in illegal settlements.

2. That we should help build and join the movement to boycott Israeli goods and urge the university to do the same.

If the motion is passed we would become part of an international movement and therefore increase the size of the movement

This Union Resolves:

Until such time as a permanent solution has been found to the Israel/Palestine situation, including the withdrawal of all illegal settlements and the lifting of the blockade of Gaza the Union shall:

1. Lobby to boycott Israeli and settlement goods from being sold on Student Union premises
2. Terminate contracts with companies that profit from the violation of Palestinian human rights (such as but not limited to companies that provide technical and logistical support for the occupation).
3. Pressure the University of Leicester to boycott Israeli and settlement goods from being sold on the University of Leicester premises and to terminate contracts with companies that profit from the violation of Palestinian human rights.
4. Publicly affiliate with the BDS movement.
5. Ensure that information is distributed around the University so that students are made aware of the reasons for the boycott.

A Pub on Campus: The Paternoster

Renewal Date: 2022/23

Overview:

A pub on campus would massively benefit the student and staff population. It would make a great late-night safe space on campus for students to fill the gap between lectures and evening activities (especially for Oadby based students) and a perfect place for societies socials. 1 in 4 people fall in love in a pub, and a study run by Oxford university showed that “frequenting a local pub can directly affect peoples’ social network size and how engaged they are with their local community, which in turn can affect how satisfied they feel in life.”

What would it need to succeed?

- Central location on campus
- Accessible from outside, without having to enter other buildings
- Outside area (could be temporary) for summer and smokers
- Products should to be local and in touch with what students want.
- Products should be well priced, with regular offers
- Well-designed interior to create a good atmosphere and ambience
- Good opening hours to minimise downtime (such as later night closing times for Wednesday and Friday)
- A catchy name, with relations to (University of) Leicester’s history. One we suggested that has been well received is ‘The Paternoster’

More details

Location:

Central area on campus will be a necessity to a pub’s success. It would be more eye-catching to student and non-student passers-by, as well as being easier to access therefore would have increased traffic. It would also need an outdoor area for smokers, with potentially seating for the summer months. Finally, it would have to be in a building with a separate entrance due to opening hours so the bar would not be forced to close with the rest of the building. As we know some location reshuffles are occurring, and for these reasons the places we would recommend are: 1: Shop, 2: Delicious, 3: A new establishment in the renovations with above criteria.

Interior/ Atmosphere/ Ambience:

For any pub to succeed it requires a good atmosphere. This is hard to define, but from our wide experience of visiting (Leicester’s) pubs and bars there are a few things that are vital. A sharp and well done, but simple interior design, with Breweriana and things related to the locations on the walls. The lighting needs to be set at an ambient level, a chalk board could be set up with current pricings and offers, and a bulletin board could help societies advertise (as the one in the SU is poorly placed). Potential for creative furniture such as crates or barrels helps with the unique draw of a pub.

Drinks (and food):

The drinks need to be in touch with the student population, and preferably supporting local businesses. For this we suggest around 4 keg-taps, with drinks loved by students like Stella Artois, and Guinness, then 2 craft beers/ ciders. As there is a rise in Real Ales, there should be at least 2

hand pulls for these, sourced locally. I would recommend one of them to be Framework's Jackpin (easy drinking, with a sensible ABV of around 4% and a great introduction to Real Ales) renamed to something University based (we spoke to the owner of Framework and they would be happy with this), and a guest tap (again, the owners of several local breweries have said they would be happy to supply and deliver these).

There should be a good range of bottles and cans if there is enough interest, a mix of well known (like Red Stripe) and local ones (such as Charnwood Brewery) with offers on buying multiple (such as 3 for £5), alongside a range of soft drinks.

Many student frequented bars (such as Firebug) have a great success with cocktails. These are a huge draw for students and even simple ones such as Mojito or purple rain can be made cheaply and sold at an enticing offer (such as 2 for 1) whilst making a profit.

A good range of spirits is also vital for a student pubs success. The best way to do this would be to provide one low cost option of each spirit (e.g. Gordons Gin for £2 a single) and then provide a higher end version alongside this at a higher price (e.g. Hendricks for £3.50 a single). This allows for people who are on a budget to attend, but also for people who want to branch out. There could also be guests' drinks (e.g. Wild Beer Co's sleeping lemons gin) on temporary offer to add more character to the pub.

The bar would probably be best initially to not have a kitchen on site to save costs but could serve classic pub food like cobs/ sandwiches, scotch eggs or crisps made at other Here4U locations. It could also potentially have pizza delivery like at the Oadby Pub.

What went wrong with others?

Castle Inn:

Castle Inn, whilst a lovely little pub has a plethora of flaws contributing to its lack of success. It has a boring interior, is too small, and is seen by students as a staff pub. It also has a small drink range and is hidden in a small building away from DMU's campus.

Gee's:

The drinks available on taps at Gee's (when it was the previous establishment) were terribly out of touch with what students want to drink. It also has an atmosphere that feels like an American, quick food canteen, and not somewhere anyone would want to drink. The interior is also very bright which again, detracts from the user's experience.

Other stuff:

A large investment into pubs and real ale was just made by Asahi in buying a British brewery: Fuller's for £250 million. This is a great sign for the future of cask beer.

The dry dock has also recently closed, leaving a hole missing in this area of town for a pub. Loaded Dog's prices have also risen, with people paying over £4.50 for a pint of Strongbow Dark Fruits. This is crazy overpriced, especially considering their turnover.

It should be open from about 2/3 till late each day, with extended hours on Wednesday, Friday and potentially gig days at the O2. It would also be a great place for Oadby students to relax between lectures (as some have gaps between them that are hard to go home in).

Changing the name of the Trans Officer

Renewal Date: 2022/23

Changing the name of the Trans Officer

Oge Obioha and Nate Searson

Overview (100 words)

The purpose of this proposal is to change the name of the Part-time **Trans Officer** to **Trans and Non-Binary Officer**. This is to ensure that the role is more inclusive and representative of students who do not identify as their assigned sex at birth, and who are not comfortable with the term transgender. This may include, but is not limited to, those who do not identify as either one of the binary genders, especially those that do not wish to transition.

Facts

Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references

Discrimination and other targeted behaviour is higher towards those who identify as Trans or Non-Binary than the general population.

Non-Binary is a term for a person who identifies as neither a man nor a women. Male and female are considered 'binary genders', however someone who is Non-Binary has a gender identity that is not exclusively male or female. Some people have a gender that blends elements of being a man or a women; some people don't identify with any gender; some people may have a gender that is completely different to the binary genders, whilst for others, the way they identify or their gender, may change over time.

According to a **Stonewall report in 2018**, **two in five** trans people (41 per cent) and **three in ten** non-binary people (31 per cent) have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity.

Two in five trans people (40 per cent) adjust the way they dress because they fear

	<p>discrimination or harassment. This number increases significantly to half of non-binary people (52 per cent).</p> <p>Discrimination and hate towards Trans and Non-Binary students is prevalent in universities.</p> <p>Stonewall case study:</p> <p><i>“I have recently started at a new university. I was laughed at, ridiculed, and became the butt of jokes that normally gender me as a woman. This has been constant since day one”. Taylor, 23 (South East).</i></p> <p>This demonstrates that a Liberation Officer is not only needed to represent, protect and to make meaningful change for Trans students, but also for some Non-Binary students who may currently have nowhere to turn to.</p> <p>Other Universities, such as Edinburgh University, Edge hill University and Sussex University Students’ Unions have now named the role Trans and Non-binary Officer to be representative of a wider group of students.</p>
<p>Opinions <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i></p>	<p>It is important for this change to happen because currently, these students do feel as though they are fully represented. The name change would make Leicester Students’ Union a more inclusive place for underrepresented groups.</p> <p>Currently, Non-Binary students may not engage with the Trans Officer as they feel unable to do so. It is hoped that changing the name will help with this.</p> <p>Changing the name of this role to Trans and Non-Binary Officer would also increase understanding towards and visibility of these groups, leading to positive change, such as encouraging more people to utilise and normalise pronouns. It would also help to bring to light the experiences and challenges Non-Binary students face. This would help them to feel more involved and represented, whilst</p>

	<p>working towards breaking down the view that gender is binary.</p> <p>Stonewall Case Study:</p> <p><i>“It's great to know that I'm in theory protected by law for being bi and trans. My partner and I are now married. My non binary partner is not yet protected by law and can't yet get a passport without gender reference. They're suicidal because of these inequalities which impacts me too. Jamal, 47 (East Midlands)”</i></p> <p>By renaming the Trans Officer to Trans and Non-Binary Officer, the Students’ Union would not only be recognising that Non-Binary students still face inequalities and discrimination that need challenging, but would also be supporting wider social change, with the hope that this will influence government policy, laws and local communities.</p>
<p>Actions/Outcomes <i>What are the things you would like to see happen?</i></p>	<p>For the Part-time Trans Officer role to be renamed and changed to Trans and Non-Binary Officer, and for the role of the elected officer to represent both of these groups.</p>

The promotion of inclusivity for students with disabilities

Renewal Date: 2022/23

The promotion of inclusivity for students with disabilities

GEORGE HUDSON

Overview (100 words)

To rebrand the Disabled Students Officer role to make it fully reflective of all students with disabilities, long-term health conditions and students who may have a disability and/or long-term health condition but do not identify as 'disabled' due to stigma attached, or because they do not see themselves as disabled or do not wish to identify this way. Rebranding the officer role would further promote inclusion within the students' union and the university, and create a more accessible university experience for all students.

Facts

Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references

When we talk about disability, many people picture a person in a wheelchair or with some sort of physical impairment; however, a lot of disabilities cannot be seen; they are not visual and you may not even know that a person has a disability.

Under the Equality Act 2010, "If you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities", you can be classed as having a disability.

- 'Substantial' is more than minor or trivial, e.g. it takes much longer than it usually would to complete a daily task like getting dressed, studying, leaving the house or eating etc.
- Long term means one of the following:
 - It has lasted at least 12 months; **or**

- the total period for which it lasts is likely to be at least 12 months; **or**

- It is likely to last for the rest of your life.

According to Disability Rights UK,

A physical or mental impairment can include:

- physical impairments, such as mobility difficulties
- sensory impairments such as those affecting hearing or sight
- autistic spectrum conditions
- learning difficulties, including people with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia and dyspraxia
- mental health conditions or illnesses which have a long-term effect such as depression and anxiety, panic attacks, phobias, eating disorders, obsessive compulsive disorders, personality disorders, schizophrenia and bipolar affective disorder
- genetic and progressive conditions, if the condition affects your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities such as motor neurone disease, muscular dystrophy
- conditions which are characterised by several cumulative effects such as pain or fatigue
- hidden impairments such as asthma or diabetes, if these have an effect on your day-to-day activities
- past history of impairment - this applies if you are no longer disabled but met the definition in the past

All of the above are protected under the Equality Act and individuals affected are entitled to reasonable adjustments. However, when students think of the Disabled Students

	<p>Officer, they may not know that they are included. Commonly, students are unaware of the above definition of the Equality Act, and do not look to the Students' Union for support. This also means that the liberation role which is currently named 'Disabled Officer', is not as wide-reaching and recognised by students as it could be.</p>
<p>Opinions <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i></p>	<p>The Union should adopt a more broad and inclusive term for students who may have disabilities and long-term health conditions. The Union should be at the forefront of breaking down the misconception that disabilities are always visible. Rebranding to the Accessibility Officer would represent the idea that even if you don't personally see yourself as disabled, you are still entitled to support from the Students' Union.</p> <p>This would also extend the remit of the role to students who aren't necessarily disabled or who do not have a long-term health condition. This is important, as students are less likely to seek help from someone if they don't believe that person represents them. A good example of this is a student who may experience a difficult life event and their mental health suffers short-term as a result, or a student who experiences seasonal patterns or intermittent anxiety etc. Some students who struggle with their mental health may not see themselves as disabled per se, but may need help with accessibility adjustments.</p> <p>Likewise, students who may have experienced a short-term illness or have undergone medical treatment requiring them to be on sick leave from University (for a few month or less than 12 months), would also have a point of contact. This would give equal representation and a voice to those who are currently not included in the disability definition. Using the term accessibility would reinforce that the Students' Union support students experiencing any health condition that has a disabling effect on them, whether short term or long.</p>

Actions/Outcomes

What are the things you would like to see happen?

Use of a more inclusive and broader language for students who may have a disability, long-term health condition, and to shed light on shorter-term health issues, that students may face that would impact on their studies.

Re-branding of the Disabled Students Role to Accessibility Officer.

Also, for any Union produced materials (including the union website etc.), to be completely accessible by providing alternative formats for students with visual impairments, hearing impairments, dyslexia and any other issue that may mean they are unable to use the standard version of union media.

To lobby the University to bring greater attention to the International Day of People with Disabilities.

Voting to be open for all students for the Equality and Liberation Officer

Renewal Date: 2022/23

Voting to be open for all students for the Equality and Liberation Officer

James Tidd, Daniel Faulkner, Asher Wood and Nick Postle

Overview (100 words)

Allow all students to be able to vote for all positions in the Full-time Executive Officer elections. This includes removing the self-identification criteria for voting.

Facts

Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references

The role is to represent equality and liberation issues for students. However, by limiting voting, only liberation is focused on. In the role description/job specification, it is stated that the Equalities Act 2010, is one of the main responsibilities of the officer elected.

The job description for this position states: "To represent and protect the rights of students who fall under the Equality Act 2010 list of protected characteristics including race, class, religion or belief".

As quoted above, the description states that class will be protected and represented by the Equality and Liberation Officer. However, working class white men have been excluded from voting for this position.

Also, voting for this position is limited to liberation groups despite the job description which states: "Including, **but not limited** to the 5 NUS liberation groups: Women, LGBT+, Trans, BAME and disabled students".

	<p>The 9 protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 include Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.</p> <p>Based on the role description, the Equality and Liberation Officer will represent students who may be at risk of discrimination due to age (i.e. mature students who may be straight white men), it will protect issues concerning religion (yet a straight white man at risk of discrimination due to religious beliefs is excluded from voting). It will represent the protected characteristic sex. This includes women and man. Race according to the Equality Act 2010, also includes nationality. Therefore a student who may be a European student or International student who may not identify as BAME, is also protected under the act (yet cannot vote if they are white, male and straight).</p>
<p>Opinions <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i></p>	<p>Everyone should be treated equality and the Students' Union champions itself on being inclusive.</p> <p>It is a full-time paid position, which means that it shouldn't be allowed to exclude certain groups who wish to apply.</p> <p>Straight white men care about equality too and have moral values like anyone else and would like to be able to have their personal opinion on equality. Certain criteria must be upheld in positive discrimination.</p> <p>Male students may have friends who identify as one of the liberation groups and may want to vote to have the best officer elected to represent them.</p> <p>Self-identification would not be needed if the voting for the position was truly equal.</p>

Actions/Outcomes

What are the things you would like to see happen?

For all students to be able to vote for the Equality and Liberation Officer.

Take Palm Oil products out of the Students' Union

Renewal Date: 2022/23

Take Palm Oil products out of the Student's Union

ESKARINA HANDLEY

Overview (100 words)

The SU sells many products which contain palm oil, and as well as this, some of these products are mass-produced by companies which endorse unethical actions to produce the foods that the SU are marketing. As palm oil is an environmentally unfriendly by-product of foods, which is essentially destroying many landscapes of South East Asia to create, we do not wish to see it being sold easily and at such a cheap price. Therefore, we wish to take out palm oil products out of the Union and replace them with non-palm oil, Fairtrade, possibly local products or bulk foods.

Facts

Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references

- Palm Oil plantations currently cover more than 27 million hectares of the Earth's surface.
- Forests and human settlements have been destroyed and replaced by "green deserts" (Rainforest-Rescue.org)
- (In Indonesia)- A single palm oil plantation can destroy the forests, watersheds, and forest resources of thousands of Indonesians, leaving entire forest communities to face poverty, many for the first time.
(ran.org/palm_oil_fact_sheet/)
- Palm oil production is said to have been responsible for about 8% of the world's deforestation between 1990 and 2008 (BBC, 2018)

<p><i>Opinions</i> <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i></p>	<p>The Union should take into consideration the impact we as students and consumers have over the environment, and in decreasing our annual consumption of palm oil by removing products which contain this ingredient, we are decreasing our communal carbon footprint as well as assisting a global trend in environmental protection.</p>
<p><i>Actions/Outcomes</i> <i>What are the things you would like to see happen?</i></p>	<p>Remove packaged foods from the SU which contain palm oil or palm fat ingredients, and change them for more environmentally friendly brands such as Green&Blacks for example (which the SU already sells). At most our request is to reduce our palm oil consumption by halting the sale of Nestle brand chain products which have minimal consideration for South East Asia's local inhabitants currently losing their land and lifestyles in the process of palm oil production.</p>

“Big Cycle-iety”

Renewal Date 2022/23

This Union Notes:

1. Fuel Prices are rising, Petrol has hit £6 a gallon.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2011/mar/09/petrol-prices-record-breaking-6-per-gallon>
2. Bus Fares have increased in Leicestershire. <http://www.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/news/Bus-firm-raise-price-city-fares/article-3182675-detail/article.html>
3. New Mayor; Sir Peter “Just call me Peter” Soulsby has said that he has ambitions for a scheme similar to Boris’ Bikes in London. <http://www.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/news/mayor-sets-vision-future/article-3534581-detail/article.html>
4. Many households have old and unwanted bikes.

This Union Believes:

1. The cost of bus fares and passes will increase with the increase in fuel prices.
2. Students will suffer further economic hardships from an increase in fuel and travel costs.
3. Environmentally friendly methods can be taken to offer alternative transport for students, which also go towards promoting healthy lifestyles.
4. The Union should play a role in encouraging the Mayor and Council to adopt a bike scheme, but recycle old bikes.
5. The Union should lobby for discounts for students, and for “bike drop off points” to be at/near places that students frequent (Halls, campus, etc).

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate an Exec Officer to contact the council and the Mayor to push for a bike scheme and to be involved in it’s creation to serve the interests of students. Or if the scheme does not go ahead, to look at the practicalities of creating our own “Bike Donation/Rental” scheme.
2. To include this in any existing campaign, and to promote donation of bikes throughout the city and surrounding areas to any such schemes beneficial to students.

Proposed by:

Alex Moore

Officer without Portfolio (Social Sciences)

Postgraduate Funding

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes:

1. That there is no universal funding system for taught-Postgraduate study in the same way there is for Undergraduates
2. That taught-Postgraduates either have to self-finance or rely on Personal Development Loans featuring high interest rates and that have to be repaid one month after completion of the degree, regardless of income.

This Union Believes:

1. That education is a right, not a privilege.
2. That postgraduate study should not be limited by your ability to pay.
3. That the current system of funding for postgraduates is unfair.
4. That there should be a fair, universal, system of funding that allow all who have the ability to study, to study.

This Union Resolves:

1. To lobby and campaign for a fairer, more progressive system of funding.
2. To lobby the University to do all it can to help students carry on into postgraduate study and to support a fairer system of funding.

Proposed by:

Michael Rubin

Education Officer, 2013/14

Festival of Peace

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes:

1. Peace in Society today is one that exists through society working hard to maintain it.
2. Fascism and extremism is on the rise throughout Europe as stated by George Lordanou of the Guardian on 19 September 2013 in his article titled “Golden Dawn is Growing – Europe must help curb the rise of the Far Right”.
3. Intolerance is more and more evident in our society through economic & immigration pressures.
4. Violence is shown on increasingly on our various media.
5. The silent majority of peace organisations, faith groups and democratic bodies need to be seen and heard much more to challenge extremism.
6. After entering the 21st Century war is still a part of our world as in the case of Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and currently Syria.

This Union Believes:

1. Peace can only be sustained through ongoing and enthusiastic campaigning.
2. The message of Peace needs to be repeated and reinforced.
3. The Peace Festival should be used to unify all of the societies on campus.
4. The Peace Festival should be used to play Leicester Students Union on the map in relation to Peace activities and campaigns.

This Union Resolves:

1. Organise a Festival of Peace at a suitable time in 2014 with a target of March.
2. Ensure that such a Festival is fully funded and supported by the Student Union and private sector bodies through exhibitions and social activities.
3. Ensure the business plan is well established and a budget defined.
4. A working group is established to ensure the effective implementation and planning of the event.
5. In accordance with section 3.8.7 on page 82 of the Student Union Constitution a Forum meeting is to be held on 20 November 2013 where the project document for the Festival of Peace is reviewed and a maximum expenditure is identified.
6. The Festival of Peace Working Group reports to the Union Council on progress and seeks further authorisations as and when they are required.

Proposer

Qamar Khan: Union Council Officer and Chair of the Society & Community Zone

Improving Access to Free Drinking Water

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes:

1. Cognitive function and general health is impaired by poor hydration.
2. It is advised that adults drink at least 2.2 – 3 litres of fluids per day.
3. There are few sources of free, safe drinking water on campus.
4. Many students are unaware of the existence and location of water fountains on campus.
5. Bottled water is readily available but is expensive and generates waste in the form of empty bottles.

This Union Believes:

1. Good hydration is essential for study.
2. Access to safe drinking water is a human right as recognised by the United Nations general assembly resolution 64/292.
3. No student should be unable to access freely available water.
4. Water fountains are an efficient way to provide free drinking water.

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the relevant sabbatical officer to lobby the University for the installation of more water fountains around campus (with a priority placed on those areas far from existing fountains) and to institute a long-term policy to install at least one water fountain in each building.
2. To mandate the relevant sabbatical officer to lobby the University to institute a policy throughout all of RACS' catering outlets that water bottles should be refilled on request without charge. In outlets where tap water is not suitable for drinking, filtered water should be provided.
3. To begin selling refillable water bottles in the "Nourish" shop.
4. To mandate commercial services to review the pricing of bottled water in the "Nourish" shop.
5. To advertise the location of water fountains around campus by way of signage, printed material, our website and social media. This includes signage above the water fountain in the Percy Gee Building.
6. To advertise the result of Resolves 2 & 3 by way of signage, printed material, our website and social media.
7. To mandate the executive to give a report on the progress of this policy to Union Council by the end of the 2013 – 2014 academic year.

Student Fees Equality

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes:

7. International Students currently pay more fees than students from Europe.
8. Once an International Students starts their degree, fees are liable to increase during the course.
9. International Students face major challenges with acclimatisation on campus.
10. Whilst policies exist to better support international students, very little progress is apparent.
11. All International & European Laws in relation to human rights are to be observed and implemented and not just British law.

This Union Believes:

1. All students irrespective of whether they are International, European or British must be treated with equality in every respect.
2. International students should be made to feel equal in all ways possible at all times.
3. Better support needs to be provided to International Students by the International Students Association.
4. Greater links needs to be established between Home Students and International Students to create a United Campus.

This Union Resolves:

7. Call upon the University of Leicester to place a cap on all fees charged to International Students this removing any rise in fees after the degree has commenced.
8. To campaign for the equality of student fees for International Students to the same level as European and British students.
9. To campaign all those concerned to achieve the above goal.
10. Work closely with the International Students Association and improve the service and support given to International Students.
11. Work closely with the International Officer of the University of Leicester and to ensure students representation informs the institution to work better.
12. To lobby the Government.

Water Dispensers on Campus

Renewal Date: 2022/23

APPROVED BY UC 03.03.15

WATER DISPENSERS ON CAMPUS Asimah Soma /Supported by Marcin Wilk

<p>Approved By Zone, <i>including comments and details of any vote</i></p>	<p>Approved unanimously by Education Zone on 28/10/14</p>
<p>Approved by Scrutiny Committee, <i>including comments</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Overview (100 words)</p>	<p>Students don't have much money in the first place and yet we also have to pay for water, in order to keep mental efficiency and focus. Now imagine this, the cost of one water bottle is £1.30 (on campus), multiplied by 5 (for the weekdays) and you get £6.50, and for the month you end up paying £26 merely on water. We believe there should be free water around the campus to support students.</p>
<p>Facts <i>Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water has a direct effect on mental efficiency⁹. 2. There are water fountains in the library and one in the SU, but they're not advertised. 3. If one buys one bottle a day every weekday for a month, the cost of water would be £26 (see the calculation above) 4. Almost 500 students supported the petition to install water fountains on campus¹⁰
<p>Opinions <i>What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The cost of water is expensive and puts unnecessary pressure on students' budget. 2. We believe water should be free to all students 3. We believe water should be available in every building on campus.

⁹ <http://www.uel.ac.uk/news/press-releases/2012/04/waterexams.htm>

¹⁰ https://www.change.org/p/university-of-leicester-install-new-water-fountains-across-campus-especially-bennett-building?recruiter=222008251&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=share_facebook_responsive&utm_term=des-lg-no_src-custom_msg&utm_content=ci_fb_share_title_text%3Ano_dm_r&fb_ref=Default

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The water dispensers should be advertised more strongly so that everyone knows about them.
<p>Actions/Outcomes <i>What are the things you would like to see happen?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of water dispensers in every building (ideally on every floor of every building) on campus. 2. With every dispenser there should be recyclable paper cups with a recycling bin next to it (reused bottles could develop bacteria in the bottle between uses¹¹) 3. A campaign about free water (TV screens, an email, etc)

¹¹ <http://www.foodsmart.govt.nz/whats-in-our-food/chemicals-nutrients-additives-toxins/plastic-packaging/water-bottles.htm>

Equal Access to Higher Education

Renewal Date: 2022/23

Overview (100 words)

The aim of our proposal is to follow the lead of other Universities and to remove the financial barriers preventing asylum seekers from studying at the University of Leicester.

Facts

Statements that are true, please provide appropriate references

1. The term refugee applies to any person who, owing to a well founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.
2. An asylum seeker is someone who has lodged an application for protection on the basis of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.
3. Asylum seekers are in the UK seeking protection and often wait many years for a decision on their asylum claim.
4. Asylum seekers are currently charged international fees at the University of Leicester (fees range between £13,395 and £33,655) while they are: denied the right to work in the UK; not allowed to take out student loans; not allowed to apply for grants and bursaries; sometimes required to wait like this for years while a decision is made as to whether they can stay in the UK; unable to study in another country.
5. Many asylum seekers do not have permission to reside in the UK for the duration of a university course and therefore fail the admissions tests for many universities.
6. A number of UK universities have amended their admissions policies to allow asylum seekers to pay 'home' tuition fees, or have waived fees entirely. These include: Manchester University, Edge Hill University, Liverpool Hope University, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Sheffield, Leeds Trinity University, Keele University, London School of Economics, Queen Mary University and Royal Holloway among others.
7. In Leicester, De Montfort University is offering a number of scholarships to asylum seekers.
8. In 2007 the Scottish Government decided to fund asylum seekers who had arrived under the age of 18 and been resident in Scotland for 3 years.
9. In 2008, the National Union of Students passed a motion that reflects most of the points put forward in this motion.
10. According to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "Everyone has the right to education... and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit".
11. Asylum seekers' experiences and knowledge have the potential to greatly enrich the intellectual and social life of the university.

Opinions

What should the Union think or believe on this topic/issue?

1. The University should adopt a fair and equitable approach in providing access to higher education for all students, including asylum seekers.
2. The University should not discriminate against asylum seekers based on their immigration status.

Actions/Outcomes

What are the things you would like to see happen?

1. To lobby the university to remove the financial barriers preventing asylum seekers from studying here. Specifically to:
 - a. Agree to the 'equal access pledge' to enable asylum seekers to attend university;
 - b. Provide bursaries and grants each year to asylum seekers.
2. For the executive team to request a meeting between the Vice Chancellor and the Students Union to discuss how this can be achieved.
3. For the executive team to sign a letter to the Vice Chancellor to outline the benefits of providing equal access to higher education to this university.
4. To support campaigns on the national level for equal access for asylum seekers to higher education and the right to work.

Executive Officer Time Sheets

Renewal Date: 2022-23

This Union Notes:

1. Previously, Officer Trustees used to keep time-sheets which were scrutinised by Steering as a form of accountability.
2. That this practice stopped and that there is currently no Union policy on the matter.
3. That Officer Trustees are employed full-time to work a minimum number of hours.

This Union Believes:

1. That keeping track of the number of hours worked is one form of accountability.
2. That whilst number of hours worked is not necessarily a measure of how effective an Officer Trustee is, it is still important that it is kept track of.
3. That Steering is the most effective way of holding the Executive to account on hours worked.
4. That all students should be able to run to be an Officer Trustee, and the hours required should not be off-putting.

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate Officer Trustees to record their hours using time sheets or StaffSavvy, whichever is more effective and/or easy to use.
2. For Steering to scrutinise these recordings, and for any questions to first be passed on to the relevant Officer Trustee for further clarity, then to the President and then finally Union Council if no satisfactory explanation is given.
3. For Steering to investigate how best to implement a similar scheme for part-time officers and to report back to Union Council.
4. For Officer Trustees to be able to take any over-time off as 'time in lieu'.

Financial information given to Union Officers

Renewal Date: 2022-23

This Union Notes:

1. Financial information is only presented at the annual members meeting as an annual report.
2. As a result, Union Officers cannot review Students' Union Finance.
3. The Students' Union is losing a significant number of staff.
4. Union Parliament has the power to question its Executive Committee on any issue according to the Constitution.
5. Not all financial information is suitable for a public forum due to its commercially sensitive nature.

This Union Believes:

1. Union Officers should be able to have a view of Students' Union finances.
2. To ensure that any, Union Officers should be given accurate updates on the financial state of the Union and be able to access any appropriate financial information.
3. The student body and Union Parliament officers entrust the Sabbatical Officers to run the Union in a sensible way, for the benefit of all students. We are disappointed that the previously approved budget projections were so clearly wrong, and that no Sabbatical Officer or Management Team member made a statement informing Parliament of this fact sooner. We also are severely disappointed that the Executive and Management response will result in students losing their jobs, and do not condone this as it is a shameful action to take.
4. It is not the job of Union Parliament officers to be liable for, or to micromanage, the Students' Union. Its role is to provide direction and policy for the Sabbatical Officers and Management Team to implement in charitable or commercially viable ways. Parliament must check that Union policies are then properly implemented in the interest of, and benefit for, our students.

This Union Resolves:

1. At the end of every term, an Executive Officer must present to Union Parliament an accurate financial report including any amendments to budgets or projections.
2. Any Union member can ask to be provided with any financial information, which is suitable to public forum and not legally privileged or of a commercially sensitive matter. That information must be provided to them as soon as possible and must be accurate. The Executive Committee decides which information is suitable for a public forum.
3. Where appropriate, as determined by the Executive Committee, Union officers should be informed of any decisions made that cause a significant financial impact on the Students' Union. This information must be accurate and given in reasonable time.
4. Union Officers should be made aware of any decision, which will significantly affect the number of staff.

5. In order to fully perform its role of 'oversight', Union Parliament should be made aware of significant deviations from the previously approved budget, as soon as is practically possible. This will allow any appropriate action against Sabbatical Officers to be taken. This requirement to inform of significant deviations (including an agreed definition of 'significant') should be presented as a constitutional amendment at the next General meeting.

University Accommodation During Vacations

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes:

1. During the summer vacation College Hall is charged to students at conference rate (11.50 per night).
2. The majority of the students cannot afford to pay this higher rate.
3. Income raised by conference fees normally goes into budget of halls.
4. Students who come back for resits, second year Engineering students doing PIEE courses and overseas students doing pre-sessional language courses are mostly affected by this fee.

This Union Believes:

1. The high fees charged for hall accommodation to students during the summer vacation is grossly unfair.
2. The student accommodation should not aim to make a profit from its own students.

This Union Resolves:

1. To state the Union's opposition to the Conference fee being charged for students, to the University.
2. Campaign for fees to be reduced to the term rate for students at all times.

Food Available After Nights Out

Renewal Date: 2022/23

This Union Notes

- There used to be fast food available to students outside the Percy Gee Building after all Union nights out.

This Union Believes

- This “Food Factory” van was very much appreciated after the Union nightlife events. Since its loss, student satisfaction has been reduced.
- A replacement fast food service should be sought out for after Union nightlife events.

This Union Resolves

- For the Sabbaticals to ensure a food service is provided and for the company to be used to be agreed for all parties, including:
 - The University of Leicester Students’ Union
 - The Academy Music Group
 - The University of Leicester

Continue to run Anti-Smoking Campaigns

Renewal Date: 2022/23

Union Council – 17.05.01

This Union Notes:

1. That smoking tobacco is a major cause of cancer and other illnesses.
2. That the Students' Union runs anti-smoking campaigns to try to encourage and help people quit smoking.
3. That the Students' Union has advertising boards promoting cigarettes and other produces associated with smoking.
4. That on 11.3.2001 company reps were giving aware free tobacco, rolling papers, lighters and rolling machines to people in the Redfearn with the intent of promoting smoking to students. This is in the same week as National No Smoking Day and the Students' Union's anti-smoking welfare campaign.
5. That parliament is in the process of debating a bill to ban tobacco advertising.

This Union Believes:

1. That the Students' Union should aim to encourage and help people to quit smoking, through campaigns like National No Smoking Day.
2. That promoting cigarettes and other produces used in smoking is detrimental to this aim.

This Union Resolves:

1. To continue to run anti-smoking campaigns and to support students who are trying to quit smoking.
2. To ban all forms of advertising of tobacco and related products from the Students' Union, including free gifts.

Honorary Vice Presidents of Students' Union

Renewal Date: Ongoing

To appoint the following as Honorary Vice President of the Students' Union

- Chris Higham
 - Roger Blackmore
 - Richard Everard
 - PC Harvey Watson
 - Keith Julian
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