



Union of Brunel Students

2011-2012 Policy & Motions

Overview

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Motion to Change the Bye-Laws to include Senior Reps as members of Student Assembly	Thursday 24 May	n/a	Page 33

MOTION

Title: Motion to produce a “user friendly” bye-law document

To: Student assembly

From: Promise Phillips, President

Date: Tuesday 18th of October 2011

This Union Notes:

1. The current bye-laws may not be assessable to all students
2. A proportion of our students have great difficulty understanding the content of the bye-laws
3. The bye-laws contain some jargon and contradicting information
4. There are a number of errors in the bye-laws

This Union Believes:

1. The bye-laws should be assessable and understood by all.
2. The bye-laws should be written in plain English

This Union Resolves

1. The union resolves to put together a working group that will develop the bye-laws to reach the crystal clear quality standard mark.

This Union Mandates

1. The president to convene the working group by December 2011 with the aim of producing the re-written document by the first assembly of 2012-13.
-

Proposed by: Promise Phillips

Seconded by: Avina Patel

Signature:

Signature:

MOTION

Title: Motion to lobby the University to reduce the issue of single use disposable plastic bags through its retail outlet by 80 % by July 2013.

To: Student Assembly

From: Vice President Community Welfare

Date: Thursday 27th October 2011

This Union Notes:

- The responsibility of the Union and University to reduce waste to landfill.
- That plastic will soon become an increasingly scarce resource and that current disposable carrier bags take centuries to degrade
- That these carrier bags represent a visible source of litter
- In the UK - For every one of us, 216 plastic bags a year are handed out. A typical free supermarket bag is used for an average of 20minutes before it is thrown away.
- One of the University's Environmental action plans is to - Implement the waste hierarchy to minimise waste through elimination, reduction, reuse and recycling

This Union Believes:

- That single use disposable plastic carrier bags represent a waste of resources, and contributes significantly to landfill waste in the UK
- That carrier bag litter causes widespread damage to the worlds ocean environments and ecosystems.
- That litter generated from campus causes concern in the local community
- That the University and the UBS has a responsibility to encourage behaviour change on campus that will impact far beyond the campus boundaries.

This Union Resolves:

- To campaign for the significant reduction in issue of single use disposable plastic carrier bags from all retailing environments on campus.
- To campaign for the introduction of a carrier bag collection/recycling point in cost-cutter.

This Union Mandates:

- The VP community welfare to present our resolutions to the University Environmental Strategy Group and to ask that a campus wide disposable plastic bag reduction strategy be developed.
 - The VP Community Welfare to run a behavioural change campaign in term 2 (January – march 2012) to encourage Union Members to reduce their use of disposable plastic carrier bags
 - The Chair of the Environmental Working group to encourage members of the working group and members of the People and Planet society to highlight to Union members through all available channels the hazards to wildlife of disposable plastic bags.
-

Proposed by: Avina Patel
Signature:

Seconded by: Melissa Wong
Signature:

MOTION

Title: UBS ETHICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

To: Student assembly

From: VPCW and Environmental Working Group Chair

Date: Tuesday 18th of October 2011



Please consider the environment before printing.

UBS ETHICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

UBS ETHICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

The Union of Brunel Students is committed to the creation of a sustainable and carbon neutral community. We will demonstrate this through an awareness of the Unions detrimental effects on the environment and a commitment to reducing these in the short term, and continue to improve its sustainability in the future.

Approved by:
Student Assembly

Date:
27th October 2011

Signed:

Environmental Working Group Chair

VP Community Welfare

Review date (by): October 2014

Manager responsible for review and implementation:

Director of Operations

Trustee responsible for review and implementation: President

Trustee responsible for interpretation: President

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The UBS wishes to lead by example to both staff and students in reducing its impact on the environment. As such the UBS requires an Ethical & Environmental Policy in order to measure these improvements and set out its aims for limiting its detrimental effect on the environment and society.
- 1.2. The UBS also understands that it should use its position as an influential stakeholder to promote and apply pressure on the University, in order to take significant steps that affect both the UBS and the University in terms of their environmental impact.
- 1.3. The following Ethical and Environmental Policy aims to officially declare the Union's commitment to negating its detrimental impact on the environment and its continuing role as a lobbying force to convince the University to do the same.
- 1.4. This Policy exists to:
 - 1.4.1. Encourage the adoption of ethical and environmental best practices within the Union
 - 1.4.2. Ensure the Union is proactive in promoting ethical environmental issues to students, staff and the University
 - 1.4.3. Commit the Union to delivering an implementation strategy which embodies the beliefs stated herein, monitors the impact of such implementation and constantly evaluates its effectiveness

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. The Union is a student led organisation which exists to represent the needs of its members. As such, the Union recognises the need for an Ethical & Environmental Strategy to promote sustainability at Brunel and in the wider community. In recognising this, the Union has the following objectives:
 - 2.1.1 To create and sustain an ethically and environmentally aware organisation
 - 2.1.2 To lead by example to both staff and students in reducing its impact on the environment
 - 2.1.3 To publicly commit to reducing negative impact on the environment thereby ensuring that our members, Officers and staff are aware of the Union's environmental commitment.
 - 2.1.4 To educate students, staff and the local community as to the importance and benefits of environmental best practices
 - 2.1.5 To evaluate and monitor the Union's impact on the environment
 - 2.1.6 To commit to a reduction in this impact and set specific targets
 - 2.1.7 To ensure that the Union meets where practicable, legislative requirements
 - 2.1.8 To source and provide Fairtrade products as an ethical and environmental choice in our product range wherever possible.

- 2.1.9 To encourage modes of transport by staff and students which minimise the environmental impact
- 2.1.10 To promote a purchasing policy which will, as far as practicable and cost effective, consider and give preference to the use of products and services which cause the least harm to the environment

3. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

3.1. FREQUENCY

- 3.1.1. The Working Group shall meet formally at least once a month.
- 3.1.2. The Working Group may meet at any time outside of the Groups formal meeting times.

3.2. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.2.1. The Working Group shall consist of the Environmental Working Group Chair, President and any other full member of the Union.
- 3.2.2. Union Staff may attend if required
- 3.2.3. The Chair of the Working Group shall be elected in a secret ballot of all Full Members of the Union. If the position of Chair is not filled in the Spring or Autumn Elections, it is the responsibility of the President to convene the meetings of the Working Group.

3.3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.3.1. To create and implement strategy to improve the Union's environmental performance
- 3.3.2. To find innovative ways to campaign and raise awareness of issues connected with the environment across the Membership.
- 3.3.3. Liaise with the University to improve its Environmental Strategy.
- 3.3.4. Work with relevant external organisations to raise awareness of environmental issues across the Membership.

4. TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

- 4.1. In order to implement this policy and to promote continuous improvement in ethical and environmental practices, UBS will organise regular training and development activity on E & E issues. The focus of such training will be empowering staff to take decisions themselves in their day-to-day work and lives that encourage E & E best practice.
- 4.2. All new staff will receive training, briefing and guidance on E & E issues as part of their induction.

- 4.3. Staff Development Days and Management Development Days will be used to promote this policy and to offer training and development in E & E issues.
- 4.4. This policy will be circulated to all staff via electronic format. Ongoing communication of E & E issues will also be provided via the staff newsletters.
- 4.5. The Union has also established a Staff Environmental Working Group whose membership will include at least one student officer, one member of the SMT and a variety of staff from across the Union. The group shall be responsible for the implementation of environmental initiatives within the Union and shall report to Union Cabinet through the Chair.

5. GENERAL PROCUREMENT

The Union of Brunel Students is a not for profit organisation, therefore conscious of effective budget management.

Our general principles will be to purchase products or services as ethically or environmentally friendly as possible within the agreed and practical budget constraints.

Prior to purchasing environmental or ethically sourced products or services not specifically highlighted in this policy, where the cost of purchasing will exceed our expected budget, appropriate authorisation will need to be sought from and approved by UBS Cabinet.

- 5.1. To procure environmentally friendly and ethical products, such as Fairtrade and biodegradable packaging, in all areas of the UBS where practicable
- 5.2. To develop a culture within the UBS that encourages all staff and students to consider their personal energy, water and resource consumption levels, including personally generated waste, and associated carbon emissions.
- 5.3. To provide environmental services to both staff and students, such as mobile phone and battery recycling facilities, in order to reduce the environmental impact of the UBS and to involve staff and students in these environmental practices
- 5.4. To procure energy efficient electronic equipment where possible
- 5.5. To continually improve on the Environmental Policy through yearly reviews

6. PURCHASING

- 6.1. Where possible, UBS will purchase from suppliers who have achieved the highest ratings in NUSSL's E&E screening process.
- 6.2. The Union will engage with its service suppliers to improve their ethical and environmental practices, for example encouraging cleaning contractors to use environmentally friendly cleaning products.

- 6.3. When purchasing electrical equipment, such as fridges, freezers, etc. account must be taken of the energy efficiency of the equipment and, where possible, the highest rated energy efficient equipment should be purchased.
- 6.4. In the purchasing of all other goods and services, decision-makers should take ethical and environmental issues into consideration and ensure that sustainability criteria is included in specifications to suppliers and where possible, in the award of contracts
- 6.5. In the purchasing of all other goods and services, decision-makers should ensure that suppliers' environmental credentials are considered in the Supplier Appraisal process
- 6.6. When purchasing white A4 and A3 size paper, UBS will always purchase FSC approved or equivalent paper made from at least 75% renewable sources?
- 6.7. In the purchasing of all other goods and services, decision-makers should consider products that are Fairtrade accredited
- 6.8. In the purchasing of all other goods and services, decision-makers should exploring opportunities for reuse and recycling of materials as appropriate by questioning:

What you buy:

Is there a less environmentally damaging alternative?

Is there a more energy efficient product available?

Does it need to be bought at all – could you borrow or use a similar piece of equipment from elsewhere in the Union?

How you buy it:

Is delivery of the product needed every week?

Is the product necessary or could it be replaced by a service?

Who you buy it from:

Are there any local suppliers of this product?

Has the supplier any environmental convictions?

Challenge repeat purchases of the same product:

Are there more sustainable options?

Is the product value for money?

7. FAIRTRADE

- 7.1. UBS assigns great importance to its role within the wider world and hence acknowledges its commitment to supporting, using and promoting Fairtrade products.
- 7.2. The Union and University have achieved Fairtrade University status through collaboration and partnership working.
- 7.3. The Union is committed to maintaining Fairtrade status and to promoting Fairtrade products wherever possible.

- 7.4. The Union will promote Fairtrade produce in its retail outlets and will stock as wide a range of Fairtrade products as possible.
- 7.5. Where this is not possible, the Union is committed to being selling Fairtrade as soon as it becomes feasible.
- 7.6. The Union will ensure that union officers T-shirts, staff uniform T-shirts and where possible, other clothing items used by the Union, are made from Fairtrade cotton or are WRAP (Worldwide Responsible Apparel Production) certified or similar.
- 7.7. The Union will seek to promote the Fairtrade concept to its members and staff, to the University and to the wider community, via campaigns and events such as One World Week.

8. WATER

- 8.1. Where possible The Union will apply water saving measures
- 8.2. The Union will apply water saving technology where possible; this will apply mostly when replacing equipment and refurbishing buildings
- 8.3. The Union will install water saving devices on all urinals as and when toilets are refurbished or new toilet facilities are installed.

9. TRANSPORT

- 9.1. The Union owns and leases a number of vehicles that are used to transport people and products, on and off campus. When considering the replacement of these vehicles, the Union will attempt to purchase or lease the most environmentally friendly vehicles available.
- 9.2. During the day-to-day operation of owned and leased vehicles, The Union will ensure that vehicles are regularly serviced, emission levels are checked annually and that the vehicle is regularly inspected.
- 9.3. The Union will encourage drivers to drive responsibly in order to minimise fuel consumption.
- 9.4. Brunel University and the UBS have implemented a Travel Plan.
- 9.5. The travel plan's over-riding objective is:

'To encourage staff and students to use more sustainable ways of travelling to campus, through improvements in the quality and more effective promotion of the alternatives to the car and by engaging more with students to develop potential improvements to travel opportunities both on and off campus.'

- 9.6. Objectives:

- 9.6.1. To encourage the reduction in single occupancy car borne trips to the University
- 9.6.2. To introduce and promote measures to encourage staff and students to walk and cycle to the University
- 9.6.3. To introduce and promote measures to encourage staff and students to motorcycle to the University
- 9.6.4. To introduce and promote measures to encourage staff and students to use public transport to travel to the University for longer distance journeys, where cycling and walking is not feasible.
- 9.6.5. To introduce and promote measures to encourage staff and students to car share when travelling to the University
- 9.6.6. To reduce the need for students to travel to campus.
- 9.6.7. To raise awareness amongst staff and students of the impacts of their travel choices on their health, the local environment etc.
- 9.6.8. To introduce information measures that enable staff and students to make informed travel choices

10. ENERGY

- 10.1 The Union will choose energy saving devices (light-bulbs, industrial equipment) when ordering new items or replacing old.
- 10.2 The Union will ensure that staff and officers turn off computers and their monitors, photocopiers, lights and all other relevant electrical equipment at the end of each working day.
- 10.3 Publicity to remind staff of the importance of this in reducing energy consumption will be prominently displayed.
- 10.4 To lobby the University to have the Union or at least the building individually metered so that progress can be measured and incentivised.
- 10.5 To ensure that all electronic equipment is switched off when not in use i.e. computers, lights and venue television screens.
- 10.6 To acquire control over the heating and lighting of offices and venues in order to reduce the energy used.
- 10.7 Where possible to change light switches in all Union toilets to motion sensors.

11 RECYCLING

- 11.1 To reduce the amount of waste generated daily in all areas of the UBS and limiting the use of non-recyclable materials used, whilst considering the slogan: “Reduce, Reuse *then* Recycle”.
- 11.2 To improve the recycling services already installed in the UBS to include other reclaimable materials when facilities become available.
- 11.3 To recycle all old computer and office equipment, including toner and ink cartridges where facilities are available.
- 11.4 To reuse non confidential paper
- 11.5 To aim to print all documents double-sided as standard
- 11.6 The Union will endeavour to, ideally, Reduce the amount of waste produced; secondly, Reuse products, rather than dispose of them; thirdly, Recycle waste that is left over.
- 11.7 The Union will measure the volume of solid waste produced each year, the cost of disposal of such waste and the proportion that is recycled.

12 THE UNIVERSITY

- 12.1 To support the University as far as possible in any decisions they make to install environmentally friendly facilities and products, such as composting, the green travel plan and Fairtrade, and relay that support to the student population; the UBS may also at any time suggest improvements to the University and campaign for those suggestions to be installed.
- 12.2 To apply continual pressure on the University in order to roll out comprehensive recycling facilities, for all staff and students, in all areas of the University
- 12.3 To publicly call on the University to maintain a steady rise of sustainability on campus, to ensure that environmentally friendly services and products remain in place, only replacing such services and products as and when improvements are made.
- 12.4 To lobby for all new buildings to be environmentally friendly (e.g. with motion sensors in kitchens and corridors)

13 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

13.1 RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1.1 The Union recognises that this Ethical & Environmental Policy can only succeed with the support of all members.
- 13.1.2 All members are responsible for their own actions and should abide by this policy.
- 13.1.3 The operation and implementation of this policy is the overall responsibility of the Union Cabinet

13.1.4 The President will regularly review and make recommendations to Cabinet to update and evaluate the implementation of this policy.

13.1.5 The Environmental Strategy Working group will meet once a month to direct and assess the activities and developments within the Union against this policy, its resultant operational plans and relevant documentation.

13.2 PUBLICITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

13.2.1 A copy of this Ethical & Environmental Policy should be accessible to any individual, at any time, via the UBS website and promoted through UBS media.

13.2.2 A concise statement must be written, to be permanently displayed in the Union building and on the Union website.

MOTION

Title: Motion for conferring the role of Honorary President of the UBS to Robert Macredie

To: Union Meeting

Meeting: 01

From: Alex Mitchell, Volunteer Chair

Date: 09/11/2011

This Union Notes

- 1) The outstanding contribution that Robert Macredie has made to the Union and students for several years.
- 2) That Rob gives up his Sunday in Freshers' week every year to assist the Union and its' contacts in welcoming new students to Brunel.
- 3) The Union constitution allows for the election of an Honorary President in the same way as other Honorary membership.

This Union Believes

- 1) That electing an Honorary President who is a member of the University staff would assist us in creating stronger links within the University.
- 2) That the Union is missing out on the benefits of having an Honorary President and would improve its own voice by electing one.

This Union Resolves

- 1) That Robert Macredie be named Honorary President of the Union of Brunel Students effective until the first Union meeting of the next Academic term.
- 2) That the Union should formally announce the election in the form of a press release on its' website and via other outputs such as IntraBrunel and the next issue of LeNurb.

This Union Mandates

- 1) The President to write to Robert Macredie to congratulate him on his election and cc's in Trustee Board and The proposer and seconder of this motion.
- 2) The Chair of Assembly to write to the Honorary President to invite him along to observe the next Student Assembly meeting and address Assembly should he so wish.

Proposed by: Alex Mitchell

Seconded by: Craig Best

Signature:

Signature:

MOTION

Title: Working Party to look into forming an LGBT Chair and Working Group

To: Annual Union Meeting

Meeting: Annual Union Meeting

From: Peter Smallwood (Assembly Member)

Date: November 23rd 2011

This Union Notes

This Union notes the recent Stonewall (LGBT pressure group) report on Brunel University gave us a rating of 3/10. The Union had addressed many of the issues that arose but recognise that we can do much more to promote LGBT issues with the Student Union. The Union would like to do more and promote LGBT issue and tackle the issues and concerns that they have. The Union notes the important role that LBGT movements play within other Student Unions and wish to emulate other successes at Brunel. The Union notes that there is a difference between an LGBT society and a LGBT working group, in that the society focuses more on social activities for students and not policy issues within the union. It is also vitally important to empower students in the decision making of the union.

This Union Believes

This Union believes that LGBT students should have a voice within the Union. LGBT students should be free from discrimination of all kinds. It is important to support and encourage LGBT students to take a strong role within the Student Union. This Union believes that the Union should have a sustained working group separate from the LGBT Society to deal with certain LGBT issues.

This Union Resolves

This Union resolves that a working party be formed. Students from that wish to take part in the working party should be welcomed. A Chairman will be elected by the members of the working party. Support will come from the president of the LGBT society and the Equality and Diversity Chair who will act as an adviser/overseer. The Vice President Community Welfare will also be an advisor to the working party committee. The group will be open to any members of the Union. The Chairman and advisors will draw up a constitution and regulations for the working party and report back to the Union meeting in May. The working party will be given Union recourses to help their investigation. This union resolves that the formation of a working party may attract interest from other areas within Equality and Diversity Working Group e.g. Disability and Dyslexia, Minority groups etc. and they should be welcomed to provide input . This is up for future discussion within the working party.

This Union Mandates

This Union mandates that the Vice President Community Welfare and the Equality Diversity Chair call an initial meeting before Christmas inviting LGBT members to form a working party. In this initial meeting a plan and direction shall be laid out.

In the first meeting a Chairman will be elected by those who attend the working party.

The working party will draw up guidelines and plan for the potential starting of an LGBT working group.

The working party will also be allowed to begin to promoting LGBT issues on campus.

The Union will give the Working Party union resources to help promote issues for the rest of the Academic year.

This group will be open to any members of the LGBT society and any other members of the Union at the discretion of the Equality and Diversity Chair and Working Group Chairman.

Proposed by: Peter Smallwood

Seconded by: James Ward

Signature:

Signature:

MOTION

Title: Social Media Working Party

To: Annual Union Meeting

Meeting: Annual Union Meeting

From: Peter Smallwood (Student Trustee and Student Assembly Member) and Sean Smith (Societies Guild Chair)

Date: 10th November 2011

This Union Notes

This Union notes the rising use of Social Media as a means of contacting Students. This has led to elected representatives using Social Media (Facebook, Twitter etc.) to keep Students up to date with what they are doing. There are currently no rules in place relating to the use of UBS branded social media accounts. In recent times there have been concerns expressed as to what UBS related pages should or shouldn't be used for. This needs to be addressed in order for fair boundaries and rules to be made in relation to elected members of the Union and their Union related social media accounts.

This Union Believes

That social media is a key way of contacting Students and engaging them in the Student Union. Whilst personal social media accounts are for personal views, this Union believes that UBS branded accounts should be used to deliver and report the union's united message.

This Union Resolves

This Union resolves that working party made up of Officers, Chairs or Assembly Members be established to come up with a set of rules and guidelines surrounding this issue of Social Media. This working party will be elected and a Chairman chosen from the volunteers. They will bring a recommendation to the Annual Union meeting in May. This Union resolves that documents already being written by Union staff be used as a guideline for the working party.

This Union Mandates

This Union mandates that the President (or appointed representative) call an initial meeting within **10 working days, on returning from Christmas break** for all interested in joining the working party. This working party will report back to the Union meeting in May. They will present a recommendation and guidelines for future social media use. The working party will use documents already being written as guidelines. The Union staffs who have been working on related items to this will be invited to advise the working party.

Proposed by: Peter Smallwood

Seconded by: Sean Smith

Signature:

Signature:

MOTION

Title: Motion to lobby the university on worker's rights

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 02

From: Daniel Rowe: Student Assembly Community Member

Date: Thursday 24th November 2011

This Union Notes

That some cleaning staff employed by OCS, contracted by Brunel, to clean the non residential buildings on campus are being denied their basic working rights, by not having a contract of employment as laid down in the Employment Rights Act 1996

This Union Believes

That all workers are entitled to a full and proper contract or written statement of employment as laid down in the Employment Rights Act 1996 which sets out terms and conditions of employment.

That Brunel University has an overarching responsibility to ensure all workers who work on Brunel Campus have their basic working rights met.

This Union Resolves

That the Union should lobby the university and OCS and publically support all cleaners who work on the campus to be given a full and proper contract or written statement of employment as laid down in the Employment Rights Act 1996 which sets out terms and conditions

To call on Brunel University and OCS to publicly state that no victimization of any cleaners who demand their legal rights to contract, or of any trade unionist for advising the workers, as both are within their rights.

This Union Mandates

This union mandates the Student Officers to work with and lobby the university to ensure that the legal working rights of staff working on campus are upheld, as stated in the Employment Rights Act 1996, calling for the University to investigate the ethical policies of external contractors and to ensure that no victimization of any staff occurs.

Proposed by: Daniel Rowe

Seconded by: Rainard Bhirroo-Stocks

Signature:

Signature:

EMERGENCY MOTION

Title: To Replace Academic Diversity Working Group Chair with Postgraduate Students' Chair

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: January 2012

From: Craig Best, VP Academic Representation

Date: 18th January 2012

This Union Notes

- That the Postgraduate body represents 35% of the Union membership.
- That it has been identified that there is no clear and effective representation of the Postgraduate body within the Union.
- That the majority of the Postgraduate students enrol in September of an academic year and do not follow a typical Undergraduate academic calendar.
- That after the resignation of the Academic Diversity Chair who in that past has represented this group of the student body that there was a clear need to review the function of the position.
- That effective representation for all groups of our membership is essential.

This Union Believes

- That the level of representation and engagement offered to the Postgraduate student body was not of an acceptable level.
- That the low number of engaged Postgraduates in previous academic years shows that the Academic Diversity Working group was not fulfilling its policies and functions to the fullest of its capacity.
- That due to the lack of engagement of Postgraduate students the Union could not effectively campaign and support the Postgraduate needs.
- That the "Academic Diversity" title offered ambiguity and confusion to what the roles and responsibilities of the chair were.

This Union Resolves

- To offer effective representation to the Postgraduate Student body.
- To highlight the opportunity for Postgraduate engagement within the Student Union and University.
- That the Academic Diversity Working Group Chair and Working Group role is ineffective and needs to be replaced with a Postgraduate specific Chair.
- That the new role and responsibilities be brought back to Annual Union meeting to be noted but the wider student body.
- That the Spring election does not offer effective engagement for Postgraduate students and the new role should be offered at a more appropriate time of year.

This Union Mandates

- That Student Assembly members approve the recommendations set out below:
 1. That Academic Diversity Chair position is replaced with the Postgraduate Students' Chair position.
 2. That the Academic Diversity Working group is replaced with the Postgraduate Forum and Postgraduate Forum Committee. This will continue to sit under the Working Group section of the bye law for continuity and clarity.
 3. That the election of the Postgraduate Students' Chair will take place in the autumn term and not in the Spring elections.
 4. That the Postgraduate Students' Chair be elected from the Postgraduate student body.
 5. That the amendments of the Bye-law I are brought into line with recommendations made. (appendix 1)
 6. That the role and responsibilities of the Postgraduate Students' Chair are approved in principle with recommendations and to be noted at the Annual Union meeting.

Proposed by: Craig Best
VPAR

Signature:

Seconded by: Promise Phillips
SU President

Signature:

Appendix 1

The Postgraduate Students' Chair

Bye-Law I

Working Groups of Student Assembly

1. At any given time, there shall be 6 Working Groups of the Union, identified and authorised by the powers of Student Assembly.
2. The Working Groups shall remain flexible and changeable to reflect the present issues of the Student Body at the time.
3. The Chairs of all the Working Groups shall be elected alongside the Student Officers and Standing Committee Chairs in the spring elections. [\[Apart from the Postgraduate Students' Chair who will be elected in the autumn term.\]](#) If a position is left vacant, it shall go to the Autumn[/Spring] Elections.
4. If a Working Group is changed by the powers of Student Assembly, it must be done by a two-thirds majority of Student Assembly at least 2 months prior to the next Spring Elections.

[Remove section 10. Academic Diversity Working group and replace with below:](#)

10. Post Graduate Forum

Frequency

- 10.1 Post Graduate Forum shall meet twice a Term
- 10.2 Post Graduate Forum Committee shall meet formally at least once a month.
- 10.3 Post Graduate Forum Committee may meet at any time outside of the Groups formal meeting times.

Membership of Committee

- 10.4 Postgraduate Students' Chair (Chair)
- 10.5 VP Academic Representation
- 10.6 2 – Post Graduate Taught Students
- 10.7 2 – Post Graduate Research Students
- 10.8 1 – Mature Student
- 10.9 1 – International Post Graduate Student

10.10

- a** The Chair of the Postgraduate Forum shall be elected in a secret ballot of all Full Members of the Union. If the position of Chair is not filled in the Autumn Elections, it is the responsibility of the Vice-President Academic Representation to convene the meetings of the Working Group.
- b** All other members of the Postgraduate forum committee will be elected at the first forum 10 working days after the election of the Postgraduate Students' Chair apart from the VP Academic Representation who is elected in the Spring elections.

Responsibilities

- 10.11 To identify issues and concerns which face Postgraduate Students across the membership.
- 10.12 To implement campaigns, raise awareness and represent the views, issues and opinions of the Post Graduate Student body across the Student Membership.
- 10.13 To find innovative ways to increase participation of Postgraduate Students in the Union and ensure they are effectively represented.
- 10.14 To liaise with the relevant organisations within the University to ensure effective representation of the Postgraduate body and improve the services provided to them.

Postgraduate Students' Chair

10.15

- a. Shall be a Postgraduate Taught or Research student shall be elected in a secret ballot of all Full Members of the Union by a cross-campus ballot of all students in the Autumn Term elections and commence office for November 1st.
- b. Shall work in conjunction with the Vice President Academic Representation in determining and promoting the needs of postgraduate students in the University.
- c. Shall work closely with the Vice President Academic Representation to ensure the voice of postgraduate students is heard by the Students' Union, the University and external organisations.
- d. Shall send representation to all University committees that require Postgraduate representational input shall meet regularly and informally with the International Students Chair in order to work in conjunction on issues relating to international postgraduate students.
- f. Shall meet regularly and informally with all Postgraduate Forum Committee in order to establish common issues raised by students throughout all Schools,
- g. Shall work closely with the Vice President Community Welfare and Equality and Diversity Chair to ensure that the welfare of Postgraduate students is effectively looked after and managed by the Students' Union and University.
- h. Shall chair the Postgraduate Forum. (See section 10)
- j. At the University shall sit on the Graduate School board and Sub Committee for Post Graduate Research Degree or nominate a member of the Postgraduate forum committee to attend on their behalf.

EMERGENCY MOTION

Title: To investigate unruly protests by pro-Palestine campaigners

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 26th January 2012

From: Alex Mitchell (Volunteer Chair) and Peter Smallwood (Student Assembly Member)

Date: 25th January 2012

This Union Notes

- On Wednesday 18th January 2012, there was an anti-Israeli protest outside the Michael Sterling building by a group of Brunel students.
- that no prior warning was given to the union or the university in regards to this protest and that it took place during RAG week, a time which is meant to be about sharing and promoting good causes.
- the No Platform Policy.

That there are the following allegations;

- i. The protest was aggressive in tone and, at times, intimidating to passers-by.
- ii. Amongst the protestors were assembly members and a chair who were openly endorsing this unacceptable method of protest on university grounds.
- iii. The group were responsible for shouting abuse at other student union members (including chairs and other assembly members) and there have been reports that an imitation firearm was used to intimidate onlookers.
- iv. The statue of Isambard Kingdom Brunel was climbed on and used as a platform from which the protestors continued to shout anti-Semitic slurs at people who were exiting a talk on Arab-Israeli relations.

This Union Believes

- That everyone should have the right to protest peacefully and in a pre-warned, organised manner.
- That the actions of the Chair and Assembly Members involved, along with unelected students, brought this university into disrepute.
- That the Brunel Friends of Palestine Society were present at this protest and were therefore endorsing these actions.
- That the comments and remarks shouted by the protestors were racist and offensive - something that cannot be tolerated in a university that is as diverse and multicultural as Brunel.
- This Union believes that the actions of the incident broke the No Platform Policy.

This Union Resolves

- That in accordance with the No Platform Policy, the actions of those involved in this despicable display of violence and abuse should be officially condemned.
- That it completely condemns anti-Semitic, intimidating and racist behaviour.

This Union Mandates

- That an investigation be conducted by the Vice President Student Activities.
 - That the Student Union President release a statement on the Student Union website, publicly condemning any violence or intimidation of any student by another, on behalf of the Union of Brunel Students.
-

Proposed by: Alex Mitchell**Seconded by: Peter Smallwood****Signature:****Signature:**

MOTION

Title: Motion to Commend the Vice President Community Welfare

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 03

From: Brett Halsey, RAG Chair

Date: Wednesday 11th January 2012

This Union Notes

The hard work and dedication that has been shown by the Vice President Community Welfare regarding the Drugs and Alcohol Awareness Campaign that took place late December.

This Union Believes

The campaign was extremely visual throughout the whole of campus, as well as the main Student Union. This engaged a high level of students and a whole schedule of events and activities were organised, with many volunteers helping out and serving to deliver the exceedingly effective campaign.

This is reflective of the passion and commitment that was displayed by the Vice President Community Welfare in working relentless to pull together and deliver the Drugs and Alcohol Awareness Campaign.

This Union Resolves

To commend the Vice President Community Welfare for her hard work and achievement in delivering the highly effective campaign.

This Union Mandates

That the Student Assembly commends the Vice President Community Welfare for her hard work and success in delivering the above mentioned campaign.

Proposed by: Brett Halsey

Seconded by:

Signature:



Signature:

MOTION

Title: To support “NUS LONDON MOTION” at NUS National Conference.
To: Student Assembly
Meeting: February 2012
From: Craig Best, VP Academic Representation
Date: 9th February 2012

This Union Notes

There are to 460,000 HE students in London.

The mayor of London and the gla has a huge amount of power over issues that face London students.

There is no structure in place for students to influence the mayor or hold the mayoral office to account.

The mayor of London is one of the most powerful directly elected positions in the United Kingdom with the power and responsibility over transport for London, the London metropolitan policy authority, training and apprenticeship schemes in London.

This Union Believes

Where there is devolved decision making there should be NUS representation that reflects this NUS should not just support London students unions during a mayoral or gla election, but have mechanisms in place to help London unions keep the mayor to account through the year.

The Unions in London share unique challenges and require unique support

A representative structure within NUS to support London would be wide- reaching and encompass both higher and further education institutes.

This Union Resolves

To support the motion being submitted to National Conference.

To have the Unions name as co-signature on the motion submitted to conference.

This Union Mandates

- The President to inform all NUS Delegates that Student Assembly support the motion being submitted to National Conference.
- The President on behalf of Student Assembly to sign the motion submitted to National Conference as a co-sponsor.
- The elected officers and Chairs 2012/2013 to support and work with NUS and other London SU to deliver the motion if passed at conference.

Proposed by: Craig Best
VP Academic Representation

Seconded by: Promise Phillips
SU President

Signature:

Signature:

MOTION

Title: Motion to increase the support and resources available to the UBS Student Media Department

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 05

From: Tom Scott, Media Association Chair & Ben Moxey, Community Assembly Member

This Union Notes

That the development of student media over the last 2 years has grown beyond the expectance of the Union.

The current student media is being classed as one of the top in the country.

That UBS Student Media currently engages over 200 students a year more than RAG and all other chairs (excluding Sports Fed).

That the entire student media department is run by a dedicated group of volunteer students who spend hours of their spare time helping student media run.

The current resources that the student radio station has are very outdated, with most equipment dating back to the 1970's.

That student media is often given 'hand-me-down' computing facilities, with some computers being 3rd/4th hand.

That the current levels of resources and facilities available to student media only just cover the basic running costs of both the student newspaper and the student radio station.

That other student unions have a greater number of resources available for student media, including newer technology and full time members of staff.

That students have referred to the building where UBS Student Media is housed as 'a shed' due to its age and state of disrepair.

This Union Believes

That UBS Student Media is in dire need of an increase in resources in order to help the department grow even further and to see off any chance of stagnation in numbers.

That UBS Student Media has shown that it can be hugely successful department due to the growth it has received over the last 2 years.

That student media should be allowed to grow and develop to allow for a greater student experience.

The current levels of resources available to UBS Student Media only cover the basic running costs of the student newspaper and radio station and do not allow for growth or improvement.

That a successfully run student media department will improve the transparency issue that the UBS is currently facing.

This Union Resolves

That an increase in the number of available resources be made available to UBS Student Media.

That members of the Media Association, led by the Media Association Chair, detail exactly what is needed to ensure that UBS Student Media grows and continues to be successful.

This Union Mandates

That the Media Association Chair works with the Director of Membership Engagement and the Director of Operations to develop UBS Student Media for the future years by finalising a budgetary increase for the next academic year to be presented and noted at the AUM in May.

Proposed by: Tom Scott

Seconded by: Ben Moxey

Signature:

Signature:

MOTION

Title: Motion to Encourage Voting in the London Mayoral Elections in May

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: Student Assembly Thursday 29th March

From: Peter Smallwood and Gary O'Brien

Date: 12th March 2012

This Union Notes

This Union notes that it is important for all Students to be able to and take part in National and Local elections while at Brunel. This Union notes that not all Brunel Students are registered to vote. This Union notes that a Political Awareness week will take part in late March 2012, with the intention of engaging students in the upcoming election. This Union notes that in past elections turnout from Brunel has been very low.

This Union Believes

This Union believes that we should encourage all students to cast their vote in all elections. This Union believes that it is important for Brunel Students to have an active say in who their elected representatives are. This Union believes that we should take an active role in registering people to vote during political awareness week. This Union believes that working with political party related societies (Conservative and Labour) we can raise awareness of the campaigns themselves and would encourage other campaigns to come forward.

This Union Resolves

This Union resolves that we take active steps to register people to vote, through an awareness campaign on campus. This Union resolves that required Union resources should be given to the "Political Awareness Week" working party. This Union resolves that it will support this campaign fully and provide the support the campaign requires. This Union resolves that we should continue to encourage Students to register until the closing deadline. This Union resolves that working with political party related societies (Conservative and Labour) we must encourage people to vote once they have registered.

This Union Mandates

This Union mandates that Union resources be supplied to raise awareness of voter registration and the importance of voting. This Union mandates to support the political awareness week working party. This Union mandates the advertising be made available to the working group e.g. poster, union website etc.

Proposed by: Peter Smallwood

Seconded by: Gary O'Brien

Signature:

Signature:

MOTION

Title: Motion to Commend the Election and Referenda Committee

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: Student Assembly Thursday 29th March

From: Peter Smallwood and Gary O'Brien

Date: 12th March 2012

This Union Notes

This Union notes the hard work and dedication that the Election and Referenda Committee dedicated over the Spring Election period and beyond. This Union notes the excellent way the elections were conducted. This Union notes the extensive amount of personal time that was given up by members of ERC. This Union notes the elections where conducted in a free and fair manor.

This Union Believes

This Union believes that the members of the Election and Referenda Committee should be commended for their work during the Spring Election. This Union believes that the Election and Referenda Committee conducted themselves in a professional manor, to deliver free and fair elections.

This Union Resolves

This Union resolves that Assembly Members Coudrille, Moxey, Frost-Wellings and the Vice President Academic Representation be formally commended for their work during the Spring Elections.

This Union Mandates

This Union mandates that the members of ERC (named in Union Resolves) be formally commended for their work during the Spring Elections.

Proposed by: Peter Smallwood

Seconded by: Gary O'Brien

Signature:

Signature:

MOTION

Title: To Create a Sports Club and a Societies Development Fund.

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 29 March 2012

From: Alec Beeson, Vice Chair Student Assembly

Date: 14th March 2012

This Union Notes

- There are several defunct Clubs and Societies.
- These Clubs and Societies have funds in their function accounts gathered through fundraising activities and now not being used.
- A defunct Club or Society is defined as being inactive for two or more years.
- A two year time period is used to prevent Clubs and Societies who cease activity due to members being on a placement year from losing funds.
- That returning this money to the membership would be practically impossible.

This Union Believes

- Redistributing this money via other Clubs and Societies to students is the most appropriate way of ensuring it is used for purposes similar to why it was raised.
- This is an opportunity for money from defunct Clubs and Societies to be used to help further the success of existing Clubs and Societies.

This Union Resolves

- A Sports Club Development Fund be formed using the balance of defunct Sports Clubs function accounts that rolls over each year.
- A Societies Development Fund be formed using the balance of defunct Societies function accounts that rolls over each year.
- The two funds will be overseen by Student Activities as with other function accounts.
- The funds will be distributed on a case by case basis.
- Sports Clubs and Societies will apply for funding as and when required.
- Respective Societies Guild Committees and Sports Federation Committees will decide on the calibre of each application.
- Funds will be released by Student Activities Manager pending the approval of the Societies Guild Committee and Sports Federation Committee.

This Union Mandates

- Vice President Student Activities works with Student Activities to ensure the necessary changes are enacted.

Proposed by: Alec Beeson

Seconded by: Alex Mitchell

Signature:

Signature:

MOTION

Title: Motion to Change the Bye-Laws to include Senior Reps as members of Student Assembly

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 08

From: Craig Best

Date: 24th May 2012

This Union Notes

That the Constitution and Bye-Laws currently state that there should be a Student Rep Committee as part of Student Assembly

That the Student Rep Committee currently exists and is made up of 8 Senior Reps (one for each school) and is chaired by the VP Academic Representation

That currently the Student Rep Committee is not linked to Student Assembly

This Union Believes

That the Student Rep Committee would be more effective if it were to be linked with Student Assembly

That the inclusion of Student Reps within Student Assembly would help to improve the overall representation of the Union

That in order to have truly democratic academic representation system, the Student Rep Committee should have a presence on Student Assembly

This Union Resolves

That the current membership of Student Assembly be modified to include the 8 Senior Reps.

That the Student Rep Committee as a whole should submit a report to each Student Assembly in the same way as an Officer or Chair

This Union Mandates

That the current Bye-Laws of the constitution be amended to include one Senior Rep for each school in the membership of Student Assembly in place of one School member for each school

That the Senior Reps be elected in the same way as School Members during the Autumn Elections period.

Proposed by: Craig Best

Seconded by: Ohenewaa Adu-Akyeampong

Signature:

Signature: