



**UNION**  
OF BRUNEL STUDENTS

**Union of Brunel Students**

**2012-2013 Policy & Motions**

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## MOTION

**Title: National Union of Students – Demo 2012**

**To: Student Assembly**

**Meeting: 01**

**From: Peter Smallwood, Vice-President Academic Representation and Promise Phillips, President**

**Date: 25th October 2012**

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### **This Union Notes**

1. That the National Union of Students is holding a National Demonstration in Central London on 21st November.
2. That this decision was passed by a vote at the NUS national conference in April.
3. That the Demonstration is related to the future of Education in the United Kingdom.
4. That the NUS website has information to educate students about the Demo.

### **This Union Believes**

1. That the information for students to attend the Demo 2012 should be provided.
2. Any relevant existing resources that the Union owns are made available to students attending.

### **This Union Resolves**

1. That a meeting point be arranged on Demo day for all students that are interested to gather.
2. That Union social media be used as the main source of organisation for the Demo.
3. Existing resource be made available to members attending the Demo.

### **This Union Mandates**

1. That the President organises through Union social media a meeting point for interested participants on the day of the Demo.
  2. That the Student leadership team within five working days meets to discuss resources and use those reasonable resources to support the national Demo 2012.
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**Proposed by: Peter Smallwood  
VPAR**

**Seconded By: Promise Phillips, SU President**

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: To increase the Sport Federation committee from 6 members to 8.**

**To: Student Assembly**

**Meeting: 01**

**From: Jamie Edwards**

**Date: 25th October 2012**

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### **This Union Notes**

That the current sports federation committee consists of 6 members.

- There are more clubs this year than the previous year-up from 49 to 52.
- 'Smaller' clubs are dissatisfied with their representation.
- Smaller numbers on the sports federation committee means clubs have less time with their "parent" sports federation committee member.

### **This Union Believes**

- That students are properly supported and represented.
- That students should be at the heart of all decision making processes on campus.
- That students should gain access to valuable personal skills and experiences outside of the academic framework.

### **This Union Resolves**

- To increase the number of positions on the committee from 6 to 8.
- To increase the chance of representation to all members of the sports federation.

### **This Union Mandates**

- The Vice President Student Activities to ensure that the resolved points are facilitated at sports federation hustings.
- 

**Proposed by: Jamie Edwards,  
Sports Fed Chair**

**Seconded By: Gary O'Brien, VPSA**

## MOTION

**Title: The Union of Brunel Students does support Equal Marriage**

**To: Annual Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> November**

**From: Robyn Fitzharris (LGBT President) and Peter Smallwood (Vice President Academic Representation)**

**Date: 15/11/2012**

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### **This Union Notes**

- That the government announced in October 2011 its intentions to legalise Equal Marriage in the United Kingdom.
- That the mooted policy on Equal marriage does not indicate that any religious body be forced to accept or offer the right to marriage within their faith.
- There is no current official union position on equal marriage.
- That a key value of the Union of Brunel Students is to promote equality and encourage empowerment throughout its membership led organisation, both internally and externally.

### **This Union Believes**

- That our values should underpin every driving factor in the planning and delivery of the unions activities and aspirations.
- To be able to fully represent and be the soul voice of the student body, it should acknowledge and promote equality irrelevant of race, disability, sexual orientation, gender, religious beliefs and HIV status.
- That a clear equality and diversity strategy is required.
- Without a clear position on equal marriage it does not fulfil its position on supporting and treating each student equally.
- That a lack of clear positioning around equal marriage has left our membership confused.
- The confusion about the lack of position around Equal Marriage may continue to be a barrier to the involvement of the LGBT community within the structures of the Union of Brunel Students.
- That religions should be free to identify whether religious marriage services be offered or not.

### **This Union Resolves**

- To fully support the right to Equal Marriage and to be able to marry who you love.
- The Union give its written support to the leading campaigns for Equal Marriage.

**This Union Mandates**

- A statement is released by the Student Leadership Team informing the membership of the Unions support for Equal Marriage.
  - Clear support and education around the Equal Marriage debate.
  - The equality and diversity working group to take a lead in facilitating the promotion and education of the Equal Marriage campaign to the wider Brunel community.
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**Proposer:** Robyn Fitzharris**Secunder:** Peter Smallwood**Signature:****Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: The Union of Brunel Students supports the Sports Centre rebuild**

**To: Annual Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> November**

**From: Gary O'Brien, Vice President Student Activities**

**Date: 15/11/2012**

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### **This Union Notes**

- The Sports Centre at Brunel is old, uninspiring and lacks top facilities that are boasted by rival Universities such as Surrey, Hertfordshire and UCL (by 2015).
- Court times for our clubs is severely limited and restricts our top teams to training far less than they should for their Premier/Division 1 status.
- That the Union is here to give Brunel students sector-leading opportunities for their personal development and a full and rounded University experience.

### **This Union Believes**

- To retain a top sporting status nationally and to ensure long term retention, new facilities must be built in order to increase student engagement with sport/activity and to bring in top sporting athletes to the University.
- Out of all the proposed developments, the complete rebuild option is the only option that would cater for the needs of Brunel students and would maximise retention and its sporting heritage over rival South East/London Universities.
- That during the rebuild facilities will be lost and compromised and that during that time students need to have as many venues accessible to them that are friendly, safe and that are recognised as excellent value for money.

### **This Union Resolves**

- To fully support the bid to re-build the sports centre.
- To lobby the University to provide our clubs with the best possible access to their sport training on, or as close to, campus as possible during the rebuild.

### **This Union Mandates**

- The Vice President Student Activities to continue talks with the Brunel Director of Sport to push this build whilst at the same time lobbying the University to maximise provision during the build.

- To continually air the voice of the students at the Sports Centre Redevelopment meetings.
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**Proposer:** Gary O'Brien  
Vice President Student Activities

**Signature:**

**Seconder:** Promise Phillips  
President

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: Union of Brunel Students supporting the Library.**

**To: Annual Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> November**

**From: Peter Smallwood and Gary O'Brien**

**Date: 15/11/2012**

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### **This Union Notes**

- The fantastic service the Library provides year in year out to students at Brunel University.
- That the Library was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> best in the United Kingdom in the recent National Student Survey.
- That the Library provides a vast and rich range of resources for students to access.
- That there is an ever increasing shift towards interactive and e-learning, with e-books and journals becoming increasingly popular.
- That the Library continues to provide a 24/7 service during the bulk of academic term time.
- That the Library currently has to consider cutting e-journal subscriptions.

### **This Union Believes**

- That the Library should continue to be 24/7 during term time.
- The all book, e-journals and interactive recourse should be protected and not face any cuts.
- That the Library should remain in its current place and not move or have floor space taken away.
- That any cuts to academic resources are completely opposed.

### **This Union Resolves**

- That the Vice President Academic Representation continues a close dialogue with the Library and report any concerns to Student Assembly.
- That the Union should campaign and lobby against any cuts that the Library may face to academic resources.

### **This Union Mandates**

- That the Vice President Academic Representation writes to the Vice Chancellor to express UBS concern over proposed cuts to resources and seek assurances that there will not be cuts made.

- The Vice President Academic Representation assure that the appropriate action is taken if need if any cuts take place.
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**Proposer:** Peter Smallwood

**Seconder:** Gary O'Brien

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: Motion to Amend By-Law B**

**To: Annual Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> November**

**From: Peter Smallwood**

**Date: 15/11/2012**

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### **This Union Notes**

- That currently Senior Reps are elected in the Autumn elections.
- That the role of a Senior Rep has an ever growing importance within the Student Rep structure.
- That Senior Reps are currently elected into a 9month term with little preparation time.

### **This Union Believes**

- The Senior Reps should be elected in the Spring elections.
- That with an appropriate hand over period and a summer to prepare Senior Reps can be more effective.
- The By Law B should be amended to allow for these elections to take place (See amendment in resolves)

### **This Union Resolves**

That by law B be amended as follows. (Amendments in italics)

#### **Processes**

15. There shall be the following Elections of the UBS:

15.1 The Spring Elections shall be those elections in which the *Student Officers, Union Chairs and Senior Reps shall be elected*. The Spring Elections shall take place in the second term of the academic year before the expected term of office.

15.2 The Autumn Elections shall be those elections in which *Student Assembly Members (excluding Senior Reps), NUS Conference Delegates, Societies Guild Committee Members, Sports Federation Committee Members, Media Association Committee Members and RAG Team Committee Members* shall be elected for the current academic year.

### **This Union Mandates**

- the organisation to amend processes to ensure that the opportunity to be elected to Senior rep positions is placed in the Spring Elections
- the president to ensure that all constitutional and bye law references to the election of senior reps, are reviewed and to bring back any contradictions to the next Student

Assembly meeting, ensuring no constitutional contradictions are generated by this change.

**Proposer:** Peter Smallwood

**Seconder:** Promise Phillips

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title:** Promoting Democracy: the development and publishing of 'strategy plans' and report documents.

**To:** Student Assembly

**Meeting:** 31 January 2013

**From:** George Bowden

**Date:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013

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### **This Union Notes**

There is no formal requirement for elected officers and chairs to design and maintain published 'strategy plan' materials during their term of office.

- There is no clear, consistent and unified method of reporting the work of elected officers and chairs to both Student Assembly and publically through the Union's website.
- Student Assembly members question elected officers and chairs on points contained within their submitted materials.
- Peer unions and organisations are using their internet presence as a transparency tool.

### **This Union Believes**

The absence of a regularly maintained 'strategy plan' document means that any progress made by elected officers and chairs may not be formally recorded and may not be fully disclosed to Student Assembly members and Brunel students.

- The lack of clear, consistent and unified reports means it may be difficult for Student Assembly members and Brunel students to hold elected officers and chairs to account and to easily compare their performance.
- That the Union's website provides an opportunity to host a variety of file formats and an archive of officer reports.

### **This Union Resolves**

To form a steering group with the aims of: researching, designing and delivering a new 'strategy plan' format; a new regular reporting format; and to explore ways in which the website could publish these materials.

To ensure that the steering group has at least one representative from: (1) the team of sabbatical officers; (2) the group of chairs; and (3) Student Assembly members.

### **This Union Mandates**

- The Chair of Student Assembly or their Nominate, together with the support of Union resources to: assemble the steering group; to oversee the steering group's meetings; and to ensure its work promotes democracy and integrity.
- The Chair of Student Assembly or their Nominate to deliver the steering group's recommendations no later than the April 2013 Student Assembly meeting.
- The Chair of Student Assembly to seek the permission of Student Assembly, by two-thirds majority vote, to amend Bye-Law G in accordance with these recommendations.
- The Chair of Student Assembly to organise a trial of the new reporting format at the subsequent Student Assembly.
- The SU President, together with the support of Union resources, to ensure the new 'action plan' materials for all elected officers and chairs be prepared for use by the beginning of the upcoming academic year (2013-14).
- The SU President, together with the support of Union resources, to ensure the Union's website hosts the new 'strategy plan' and reporting materials and that these are actively maintained.

Proposed by: George Bowden

Seconded by: Robert Barnstone

Signature:

Signature:

## MOTION

Title: The removal of Jimmy Savile as Patron of Brunel RAG

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> January

From: Nicole Eversfield, RAG Chair

Date: 17/1/13

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### **This Union Notes**

Jimmy Savile was, and still is, Patron of Brunel RAG since 1968.

Jimmy Savile, although now deceased, has had many allegations come to light that has consequently brought his name, and therefore the reputation of Brunel RAG into disrepute.

The Union has a strategic responsibility to ensure that students are properly supported and represented.

### **This Union Believes**

That students should be properly supported and represented.

That despite his passing, associating the name of Jimmy Savile to a Union of Brunel Students service can bring its name into disrepute and not represent its students in the proper light.

### **This Union Resolves**

To ensure its students are properly represented by the right ambassadors.

To ensure all ambassadors are positive role models in society

### **This Union Mandates**

Student assembly to vote for the removal of Jimmy Savile as Patron of RAG.

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**Proposer:** Nicole Eversfield  
RAG Chair  
Signature:

**Seconder:** Gary O'Brien  
Vice President Student Activities  
Signature:

## MOTION

Title: Union of Brunel Students policy on Social Events, Initiations and Alcohol

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> January

From: Gary O'Brien. VP Student Activities

Date: 17/1/13

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### **This Union Notes**

It is The Union of Brunel Students' aspiration that "Every student is free to develop within and enjoy every aspect of University life".

The Union of Brunel Students has a duty to ensure that members can participate in all student activities in a safe, non-threatening and enjoyable environment (as laid out in the UBS Strategic Plan.)

British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) has made it essential that every institution affiliated, must have a policy on social events, initiations and alcohol.

### **This Union Believes**

That students should be properly supported and represented.

That this policy would allow a wider range of students to enjoy all aspects of University life away from the pressures of alcohol and forced procedures.

A wider range of students will be empowered and supported to engage in, organise or lead groups or activity.

### **This Union Resolves**

To ensure its students are properly represented and supported by the Union using the correct forms of governance.

To ensure that correct sanctions be made against those in breach of this policy in accordance to the Union of Brunel Students' and/or Universities' disciplinary procedure.

### **This Union Mandates**

Student assembly to vote for the passing of this Policy.

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Proposer: Gary O'Brien  
Vice President Student Activities

Seconder: Promise Phillips  
SU President

Signature:

Signature:

## Union of Brunel Students policy on Social Events, Initiations and Alcohol

### 1. Introduction

1.1 It is The Union of Brunel Students' aspiration that "Every student is free to develop within and enjoy every aspect of University life".

1.2 The Union of Brunel Students has a duty to ensure that members can participate in all student activities in a safe, non-threatening and enjoyable environment (as laid out in the UBS Strategic Plan.)

### 2. Alcohol Statement

2.1 The Union of Brunel Students is aware that student life often involves alcohol consumption, but it condemns any behaviour that damages students' health and wellbeing or has any adverse effect on the local community.

2.2 The Union of Brunel Students recommends that all of its members take a responsible attitude to the provision and consumption of alcohol at activities on and off campus.

2.3 Excess alcohol can lead to ill-health and anti-social behaviour. The Union of Brunel Students expects all of its membership to ensure that the consumption of alcohol in and around events is managed appropriately, promoting moderation and responsible behaviour at all times.

2.4 Participating in Student activities at university is a great way to develop skills and make new and lasting friendships, adding value to the overall student experience. However, activity and sport involvement and participation should never put students in situations where they feel pressurised in to participating in activities they do not wish to.

2.5 The Union of Brunel Students requires that all activity groups develop their own policies and procedures for managing student behaviour and alcohol misuse within their activities. The Union of Brunel Students will provide a generic code of practice to activity groups for this purpose.

### 3. Social Events

3.1 Social events act as a team building exercise, whereby new activity group members can meet and socialise with other members. The following aspects need to be considered.

- All activity groups' members must recognise and adhere to The Union of Brunel Students' Equal Opportunities Policy. This will provide every single student an equal chance to get involved in the social, campaigning, democratic, activities-based and commercial aspects of an activity group.

- It is an individual's choice whether or not they attend any social event. Non - attendance must not be a barrier within the activity.

- It should be each club or society's objective that every member has an enjoyable time. It follows that each member will have a different response to activities, and no 'peer' pressure (intended or not) should be placed on any member to do anything that they may not enjoy.

- The Committee of each sports club or society is responsible for the welfare of all members and must take the necessary measures to ensure that an adequate level of safety is maintained at all times.

- All members of sports clubs or societies must show respect towards members of the public and other members of the University, at all times.

a. The Union of Brunel Students recognises that social activities are an important part of activity groups; however they must not involve degrading acts and/or the abuse of alcohol.

#### 4. Initiation Ceremonies\*

4.1 The Union of Brunel Students believes the practice of initiations may be a dangerous and degrading exercise that jeopardises the safety of its members and can be a source of negative publicity for the Union. It is also considered that unforeseen circumstances that may result from such ceremonies can cause anguish that may affect students both personally and academically.

The Union of Brunel Students does NOT condone initiation ceremonies whether on or off Campus.

\*Definition: An initiation ceremony is an event in which members (often new members) of the activity group are expected to perform a task or tasks as a means of gaining credibility, status or entry within that club. This may involve peer pressure (though not explicitly) exerted on students, and may compromise a person's inherent dignity as a person by forcing or requiring an individual to drink alcohol, eat mixtures of various food stuffs, nudity and behaviour that may be deemed humiliating.

4.5 Breaches of this policy will result in action being taken in accordance with the Union of Brunel Students disciplinary procedure. Individuals who organise events in breach of this policy will also be subject to disciplinary action in line with the Union of Brunel Students Disciplinary Procedure.

It is the belief of the Students' Union that every student has the right to participate as a full member in all activities and have the freedom of choice over what they take part in. Selection for competitive sporting activities should be based purely on ability, skill, fitness criteria and attendance at training.

#### 5. Behaviour

5.1 Every society or sports club shall be responsible for ensuring that its members, players, officials and all persons purporting to be its supporters or followers conduct themselves in an

orderly fashion whilst attending or taking part in an event, match or competition in which it is involved, whether on University premises or elsewhere. Any of the following actions by the above shall render the Activity group liable to a charge of misconduct for failing to discharge its said responsibility:

- Violent, threatening, abusive, obscene or provocative behaviour, conduct or language;
- Throwing missiles, bottles or other potentially harmful or dangerous objects at, onto or adjacent to the playing/activity area.
- Every activity group shall be responsible for ensuring that its members, officials and all persons purporting to be its representatives do not conduct themselves

that may bring The Union of Brunel Students into disrepute.

5.2 Open alcohol containers and drinking of alcohol is illegal on private and hired transport as laid out in the driver's handbook. It is also against National Governing Body regulations and code of conduct at the majority of sports fixtures, centres and facilities.

6. Breach of this policy

- a. If a member or member of the public feels that these guidelines have been breached, The Union of Brunel Students welcomes any grievance or complaint; to do this, please submit a written complaint via email to the Student Activities Manager or in the case of a complaint against an elected officer or chair of The Union of Brunel Students to the UBS President. The Union of Brunel Students will enact its disciplinary proceedings against the individual(s) or group as laid out in the UBS Constitution and Bye-Laws

## MOTION

Title: Union of Brunel Students' Against Rising Accommodation Deposits.

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013

From: James Ward (Vice President Community Welfare) and Peter Smallwood (Vice President Academic Representation)

Date: 15/11/2012

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### **This Union notes:**

- That accommodation deposits have risen again, from £350 to £400, being the second time the deposits have risen since 2011, when they were £250.
- That students, returning and prospective, will be unlikely to afford a place in halls
- Brunel struggled to fill its allocation for halls for the year 2012/13
- The NUS Pound in your Pocket research underlines accommodation as one of many hidden costs at university, which contributes to high dropout rates
- That although the deposits are returned, students cannot afford to pay for the deposit in the first place.

### **This Union believes:**

The campus atmosphere is what makes Brunel unique, and why people came here and enjoy the experience.

- That students who live on campus have a better student experience than those who do not
- That the union have a responsibility to stand up for the students

### **This Union resolves:**

- To lobby the university to review the charges and to at least provide valid justification for the students
- To use this motion to highlight that the Union of Brunel Students is against the rising accommodation deposits

### **This Union mandates**

- The VP Community Welfare to keep this issue on the agenda and continue to lobby the university senior management to review this issue.
- The VP Community Welfare to decide the best course of action, (most likely direct student action and/or a campaign) following attempts to negotiate with the university

senior management

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**Proposer:** James Ward

**Seconder:** Peter Smallwood

Signature:

Signature:

## MOTION

Title: Union of Brunel Students' Support Syrian Students.

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013

From: Peter Smallwood (Vice President Academic Representation) and James Ward (Vice President Community Welfare)

Date: 15/11/2012

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### **This Union notes:**

1. As of the 2nd January 2013, an estimated 60,000 Syrians had died as a result of the violent conflict in Syria which has been ongoing since March 2011.
2. According to the UN, more than 335,000 Syrian refugees have registered with the UN, with 21,000 claiming asylum in the EU between March 2011 and September 2012.
3. At present an estimated 600 Syrian students are studying in UK Higher Education institutions, at least 300 of whom were sponsored under the Syrian Government under the British Council's Capacity Building Scheme but whose funding has been stopped by the Syrian authorities.
4. We have 64 Syrian students studying at Brunel. This makes up 10% of all Syrian Students in the UK. Giving Brunel the highest population of Syrian Students in UK.

### **This Union believes:**

1. Syrian students at other UK universities are facing immediate expulsion if, due to the conflict, either they or their sponsors can no longer pay their tuition fees.
2. Syrian students who return to Syria before completion of their sponsored qualification, will face severe financial penalties from the Syrian authorities.
3. Syrian students whose student visas lapse and lose the right to work and risk destitution in the UK.
4. Should they return to Syria, those involved in anti-government protests risk detention, torture and even assassination at the hands of the Syrian regime according to the Centre for Assisting Refugee Academics.
5. The Foreign Secretary, William Hague MP, ensured that Libyan students affected by the conflict in 2011 were able to continue their studies and should extend this gesture to Syrian students.

### **This Union resolves:**

- 1) That the Officers will urgently meet with the university's senior management to ascertain how many Syrian students at Brunel have had their funding streams

disrupted and to demand:

- a. That university management waive or reduce the fees or extend the payment periods for all Syrian students affected by the conflict, whether sponsored or self-funded, so that they can complete their studies.
- b. That university management should not make any Syrian student sponsored by the Syrian government personally liable for their tuition fees but should register their tuition fees debts against the Syrian authorities.
- c. That the university make hardship grants, scholarships and bursaries available to all affected Syrian students, whether sponsored or privately funded, to cover their living expenses.
- d. That the university allow any Syrian students who have already been forced to suspend their studies to return to complete their degrees and have access to the necessary finances.

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Proposer: Peter Smallwood

Seconder:

Signature:

Signature:

**INSERT**

**RENT INCREASE EMERGENCY MOTION FROM PETER SMALLWOOD APRIL 2013**

## MOTION

**Title: Amendments to Bye Law H (part 1) of the RAG Bye Laws**

**To: Annual Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 07**

**From: Nicole Eversfield, RAG Chair**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

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### **This Union Notes**

Content of Bye Law H 3.4 is outdated by over 3 years as written in March 2010.

Bye Law H 3.4 stipulates that RAG is a separate society or 'team'.

Bye Law H 3.4 does not stipulate that RAG reaches out to the whole of the student membership.

### **This Union Believes**

RAG is an entity that serves the whole of the Union membership; it is not a service which requires members to sign up.

RAG contributes to students' experience outside of academia and provides opportunity for personal development and engagement in group activity.

The proposed changes will enhance the above strategic goals of the Union of Brunel Students and contribute to students enjoying a full and rounded university experience.

### **This Union Resolves**

To amend Bye Law 3.4 to;

"3.4 RAG Committee

"3.4.1 The aim of the RAG Committee is to promote and extend involvement in the Union's awareness of, and fundraising for, charity across the Student Membership."

"3.4.2 The RAG Committee shall act as the principle representative charity fundraising awareness body for all members of Union."

"3.4.3 The RAG committee shall ensure that all activities undertaken by RAG adhere to Charity Law and budgets as set by Union Meeting. All budgetary requests must be ratified by the Student Activities Manager and Vice-President Student Activities."

“3.4.4 The RAG Committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring all funds raised for charities by full members of the Union are processed through the Union’s RAG account.”

“3.4.6 The RAG Committee shall be responsible for overseeing and authorising all RAG activities across the Union.

### **This Union Mandates**

The Rag Chair, RAG Committee and VP Student Activities ensure that the amendments to Bye Law H 3.4 are adhered to.

That the operational demands of Bye Law H 3.4.3 are enforced by the Student Activities Manager.

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**Proposed by: Nicole Eversfield**  
**Chair Elect**

**Seconded by: Matt Cahill, RAG RAG Chair**

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: Amendments to Bye Law H (part 2) of the RAG Bye Laws**

**To: Annual Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 07**

**From: Matt Cahill, RAG Chair Elect**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

---

### **This Union Notes**

The current charity selection process is as follows; the RAG Chair and RAG committee receive requests for support from charities, they send them an application form, and then choose charities based on these applications.

This does not include students at the heart of decision making on campus.

This does not empower or support students to engage in, organise or lead groups or activity.

### **This Union Believes**

That RAG represents all students and should do so in every decision that they make. The current selection process does not empower the voice of Brunel students, nor does it fully support and encourage student led co-curricular activity.

The proposed amendments to this bye-law would increase the union's democratic integrity and empowerment values for its members.

### **This Union Resolves**

To amend Bye Law H 3.4.5 to:

"3.4.5 The RAG committee shall ensure that all fundraising activities organised by the RAG Committee are in donation to the charities as selected for the start of the academic year. Charities can be nominated by full Union members by the start of the academic year.

To add to Bye Law 3.4.5:

"3.4.5.1 The RAG Committee have the power to select a shortlist of RAG Charities for the Union members to vote for after an advertised amount of time of free nominations. Voting will continue for these shortlisted charities until the start of the academic term."

### **This Union Mandates**

The RAG Chair and RAG Committee ensure that the amendments and additions to bye-law 3.4.5 are adhered to.

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**Proposed by: Matt Cahill,  
RAG Chair Elect**

**Seconded by: Nicole Eversfield  
RAG Chair**

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: Amendments to Bye Law B of the RAG Bye Laws**

**To: Annual Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013**

**From: Gary O'Brien, VP Student Activities**

**Date: 10/05/13**

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### **This Union Notes**

- Since the construction of the Bye Laws in 2010, RAG has rapidly expanded and changed within the Union.
- RAG carry themselves as a Union-wide opportunity for all students to get involved in.
- There is no separate membership required to be part of RAG.

### **This Union Believes**

- That RAG no longer has a separate team, or society, but is a Union wide activity with a committee acting on behalf of all students.
- That Bye Law B 2.7 is out of date and doesn't empower students to be at the heart of all decision making on campus or to be empowered and supported to engage in, organise or lead groups or activity.

### **This Union Resolves**

- That Bye Law B 2.7 be changed from

"RAG Team Committee positions shall only be available to members of the Union who have joined RAG Team. The posts may only be voted on by those members who hold RAG Team membership."

To

" RAG Committee positions are available to any full member of the Union. Posts may be voted on by any full member of the Union."

### **This Union Mandates**

- Elections occur with the Union spring elections so they're open to the full membership from Spring 2014.
- The elections/voting open at the start of the academic year 2013/14 as a one off to ensure a committee is active for the year 2013/14.

- The VPSA elect and RAG Chair elect to ensure that the whole membership are educated by RAG and ensure that the opportunities to learn valuable skills and enjoy every aspect of University life are made available to the whole membership.
- 

**Proposer:** Gary O'Brien  
VP Student Activities

**Seconder:** Cam McKirdy  
VP Student Activities Elect

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: Motion to integrate Video Brunel formally as a division of Student Media.**

**To: Student Assembly**

**Meeting: Annual Union Meeting.**

**From: Chadley Richards, Media Chair Elect.**

**Date: Thursday, 9 May 2013**

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### **This Union Notes**

1. Student Media at Brunel has no official platform for students interested in screen media.
2. Students with interest & talents within screen media are not able to get involved directly with the union.
3. Video Brunel is a platform created by a Brunel student to promote Brunel, its students, events and nightlife, and this contribution has not been recognised.
4. There is no media platform, which covers or promotes nightlife, social events or clubs and societies within Student Media.

### **This Union Believes**

1. Video Brunel should be formally recognised as the 3<sup>rd</sup> division of student media.
2. The budget for Student Media should be modified to cater for the initial set up cost of Video Brunel, which would be self-sustainable thereafter.

### **This Union Resolves**

1. The union resolves to make Video Brunel formally apart of the Union of Brunel Student, student media brand.
2. For the standing committee Bye-laws (H) that relate to the Media committee to be updated to include video Brunel in the membership. In this update Video Brunel will have its releases passed by the Media Association Chair.
3. Update Bye-law H 1.3 to read 'In the case of Media Association the Committee must include the editor of the radio station, student newspaper and video Brunel. The committee must include 2 members of the radio station, 2 members of the newspaper and 2 members of video Brunel.

### **This Union Mandates**

1. The Media Chair should along with the help of the, Union Management team should converse with the aim of having Video Brunel operational for the incoming Freshers Week, promoting the union, its students and our nightlife.

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**Proposed by: Chadley Richards**

**Seconded by: Promise Phillips**

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: The Union of Brunel Students Facilitating Sports and Society Alumni Memberships**

**To: Annual Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

**From: Gary O'Brien, Vice President Student Activities**

**Date: 2/5/13**

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### **This Union Notes**

- Many clubs and societies have a vast group of alumni still wishing to be involved and partake in the activities put on by the clubs and societies.
- In activities such as away trips in climbing, alumni are not necessarily allowed to partake in the activities due to lack of union insurance cover.
- There is a growing resolve to continue the relationship with our students as shown by the first (hopefully of many) alumni vs student day held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May.
- Many Unions and institutions pride themselves on making a great event out of alumni vs student days.

### **This Union Believes**

- Alumni are defined as any such individuals who have a) previously studied at Brunel University (or its predecessor/constituent colleges) or b) are approved by club and society committees (committee minutes must be provided), who do not gain rights through any other route.
- Alumni may apply to join Union Clubs and Societies at the standard fee plus Sports Federation and Societies Guild membership at the alumni rate.
- Alumni will have no democratic rights and will not be able to become part of any club or society committee.
- Alumni will not be eligible to compete in any BUCS fixtures (and/or any other competitive fixtures according to individual league rules)
- Campus Residents are defined as any such individuals who are resident on campus, who do not gain rights through any other route.
- Campus Residents may apply to join Union Clubs and Societies at the standard fee plus Sports Federation and Societies Guild membership at the alumni rate.
- Campus Residents will have no democratic rights and will not be able to become part of any club or society committee.

- Campus Residents will not be eligible to compete in any BUCS fixtures (and/or any other competitive fixtures according to individual league rules)

### **This Union Resolves**

To provide alumni with the opportunity to still engage with our clubs and societies and some services.

### **Alumni Rates**

- That for 2012-13 Alumni membership is only available as a cash payment through student activities.
- That for 2012-13 Alumni Sports Federation membership will cost “an amount to be agreed by Cabinet”
- That for 2012-13 Alumni Societies Guild membership will cost “an amount to be agreed by Cabinet”
- Once the above Alumni Memberships have been purchased it will then cost the same for Alumni members to join clubs and societies as the current student rate.
- That for 2013-14 Alumni membership will be available online through the new MSL system.
- That for 2013-14 an Alumni Gold Card is introduced which can be purchased for “a cost to be agreed” this will then allow Alumni access to Union venues and must be purchased before Alumni Sports Federation or Societies Guild membership can be purchased.
- Alumni Sports Federation Membership will mean access events such as the Sports Federation Ball and Tour.

### **This Union Mandates**

- To make this service available for Alumni students from the academic year ending 12/13.
- To conduct annual reviews on the type and value of membership provided to our alumni.

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**Proposer:** Gary O'Brien  
Vice President Student Activities

**Seconder:** Promise Phillips  
President

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: Fighting Hidden Course Costs**

**To: Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 7**

**From: Joshua Dixon**

**Date: 23 May 2013**

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### **This Union Notes**

1. That students coming to study in September 2013 are paying up to £9,000 in tuition fees.
2. Research in one institution has shown a correlation between access to resources and a drop-out rate.
3. That, apart from tuition fees, currently there is no accessible information which outlines the extra costs that students will face when studying at Brunel.
4. That at Salford University, all additional costs were publicised in their 2012/2013 Prospectus.
5. That at Liverpool John Moores University, a campaign against Hidden Course Costs helped save students over £1.5 million pounds in additional costs, with similar campaigns proving effective at other institutions.

### **This Union Believes**

1. That whilst students are paying so much money to their institution, it is unacceptable that they are also expected to foot the bill for components of their education.
2. It is even more unacceptable that many of these additional costs are unmentioned in prospectuses or during visits to Brunel.
3. That the financial pressure these extra costs may bring will mean some students have to obtain paid work in order to fund their studies, committing to extra hours of work which will cut corners into their education.
4. That in some cases, students may drop out due to the pressure of facing up to these financial obligations which in turn may put Brunel as responsible for being guilty of neglecting students' wellbeing.
5. All costs should be published in the prospectuses and in handbooks up front to give students the prior knowledge from the point of their initial application.
6. That the University should look into how such additional costs can be absorbed into the tuition fees to relieve the financial pressure from the student population.
7. Where large costs exist which cannot be absorbed by the institution, there should be mechanisms in place so that the student cannot miss out on such activities. If need be, there should also be a means-tested support mechanism to ensure every student has the opportunity to access their education and its accompanying activities fully.

8. It is unacceptable that some students will be in a position to potentially obtain a better grade just because they can afford to spend more money on resources to help them achieve such a grade.

**This Union Resolves**

1. To deliver a campaign which will seek to expose and ultimately abolish hidden course costs on campus.
  2. To lobby the Vice Chancellor to commit to a review of all additional costs and to support the following three principles:
    - All costs should be published up front.
    - Where possible, such costs should be included in students' tuition fees.
    - A support fund should be established for remaining costs, which should also be promoted prior to application.
  3. To lobby the University to guarantee that students will no longer be able to pay for higher grades by simply investing more in resources and materials.
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**Proposed by: Joshua Dixon**

**Seconded by: Marcus Bernasconi**

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: Sports Centre and Multi Faith Centre Push and Prioritised Club use for Facilities**

**To: Annual Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013**

**From: Gary O'Brien**

**Date: 10/05/13**

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### **This Union Notes**

- In November 2012, Student Assembly passed a motion (100%) in support of the VPSA to continue to lobby for the sports centre rebuild.
- That the VPSA, and student activities, continue to do so in steering group meetings.
- That Council in June will determine whether the Sports Centre and multi faith centre developments proceed or not.
- Brunel Sport is internationally well known as are some of its facilities. That Netball have lost up to 24 hours a week of training/potential training time due to Brunel being used as an international training camp yet external bookings have not lost out.
- Many governing bodies wish to use Brunel as a centre of excellence.
- The new Chancellor thinks the sports centre should “absolutely be knocked down and replaced by a better model.”

### **This Union Believes**

- That Brunel is a much desired institution and its sporting accolade brings in great financial, reputational and performance benefits.
- That, in its current size, the facilities at Brunel Sport are over capacity and many are under quality for the reputation we have built.
- That our sports clubs and societies are having their full University experience hindered by the demands of external bookings, keeping an international reputation, expansions in the numbers of clubs and societies.
- That if the University is to keep/improve its national sporting acclaim, it needs to have new and far greater (in terms of quality and quantity) facilities.
- That if the University is to keep/improve its international student appeal, it needs to have new and far greater (in terms of quality and quantity) facilities.

### **This Union Resolves**

- To support the FULL sports centre and multi faith centre rebuild in cabinet in June.
- To continue to lobby the University for training hours for its clubs that match or better their rivals and competing Universities.

### **This Union Mandates**

- The President to air the voice of the Brunel students with the sports centre and multi faith centre redevelopments.

- The VPSA elect to continue lobbying for (student) prime time training that matches or better competing Universities' allocations.
- 

**Proposer:** Gary O'Brien  
VP Student Activities

**Seconded:** Promise Phillips  
President

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: Voter Registration Motion**

**To: Annual General Meeting**

**Meeting: AGM**

**From: Kerri Prince, Campaigns Chair**

**Date: 24/04/2013**

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### **This Union Notes**

- 18-24 is the least electorally represented age bracket.
- The on-going campaign for polling stations on campus.
- That there are local and European elections in May 2014.

### **This Union Believes**

- Any campaigning body like a Student Union has a duty to promote participation in democracy.
- The more Union of Brunel Students who are registered to vote, the better.

### **This Union Resolves**

- To make every effort to encourage students to vote by emails, social media and readily available voter registration forms at SU events
- To ensure voter registration forms are available at the UBS Reception, and that this is advertised. Postal vote applications will also be available.
- To mandate the President to work with the University to ensure the inclusion of a voter registration form in every University-provided accommodation room.
- To email all societies and clubs about the campaign, asking for their support in signing up their members.

### **This Union Mandates**

- The President to work with the University to promote and encourage students to register to vote.
- The four Sabbatical Officers to ensure that they all promote voter registration throughout the year, and that it is advertised on the Union website, their Union social media accounts and to be seen to endorse the campaign in public.
- The Campaigns Chair to work with all those interested in the campaign, including the political societies on campus, to create innovative ways to encourage students to register to vote throughout the academic year 2013/14.

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**Proposed by: Kerri Prince**

**Seconded by: Katie Stewart**

**Signature:**

**Signature**

## MOTION

**Title: Motion to Commend the Media Association Chair**

**To: Student Assembly**

**Meeting: 07**

**From: Peter Smallwood, Vice President Academic Representation**

**Date: 10 May 2013**

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### **This Union Notes**

- The remarkable transformation in student media at Brunel during the Media Association chairs premiership.
- That Radio Brunel has a record amount of shows and listeners.
- That hundreds and hundreds of students have become engaged in Student Media.
- Le Nurb is now a flagship student newspaper with a highly increased readership.
- Le Nurb online has been an overwhelming success.

### **This Union Believes**

- That that state in "this Union notes" is a maverick and remarkable achievement.
- All of his media work was all done as a volunteer.
- That Rupert Murdoch should be very scared.

### **This Union Resolves**

That the Media Association Chair be commended for his outstanding contribution to the Union of Brunel Students.

### **This Union Mandates**

That this AGM do hereby commend the Media Association Chair

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**Proposed by: Peter Smallwood**

**Seconded by: Promise Phillips**

**Signature:**

**Signature:**

## MOTION

**Title: Exploring the re-creation of VP Sport and VP Activities Officers in the Union of Brunel Students.**

**To: Annual Union Meeting**

**Meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

**From: Gary O'Brien, Vice President Student Activities**

**Date: 10/6/13**

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### **This Union Notes**

- That, up until 2003, the Union of Brunel Students had a VP Sport and VP Activities.
- That the remit of student activities is ever growing in terms of areas within the remit, club numbers, society numbers, RAG expansion and overall membership numbers on an operational and strategic basis.
- That Student Activities, as a department, is regularly losing staff and is stretched in peak times.
- That many institutions who have a VP Sport and VP Activities thrive on sport and society engagement levels as well as in RAG and media (a few good examples are Portsmouth, Sheffield Hallam, Birmingham and Loughborough).
- That with the possible new sports centre/multi faith centre developments the remit of student activities will become even larger and more demanding on sport and activities fronts.
- For many years, societies have felt under represented.

### **This Union Believes**

- Its sole purpose is to act for the benefit of students at all times ensuring that its sustainable, membership led Union thrives as a result.
- Expansion in the remit of VP Student Activities would expand the workload and detract total attention away from members in the current remit.
- Exploring the possibilities of splitting the remit into Activities and Sport would
  - i) Give students greater empowerment and support to engage in, organise or lead groups or activity.
  - ii) Be more at the heart of all major decision making on campus.
  - iii) Give students proper support and representation for their preferred co-curricular activity.
  - iv) Enable students to enjoy a full and rounded experience from timely and specialised attention and expertise from their sabbatical officer.

### **This Union Resolves**

- To conduct research on the benefits and the negatives of having a VP sport and a VP Activities over the summer period.
- To report to AUM in the first term on these findings and to give recommendations to AUM on the findings.
- To decide on the feasibility and whether to split the remit into two sabbatical positions by AUM 2014 (meaning if passed as appropriate, the first year of VP Sport and VP Activities would be 2015, the year before the sports centre/multi faith centre is completed).

#### **This Union Mandates**

- The VPSA elect to carry out “Union resolves” with support from the President Elect.
  - The elected trustees to explore the financial implications to such a development against the benefits to the student experience.
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**Proposer:** Gary O'Brien  
Vice President Student Activities

**Seconder:** Cam McKirdy  
VP Student Activities Elect

**Signature:**

**Signature:**