



Union of Brunel Students
2017-2018 Policy & Motions

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Union of Brunel Students'

Social Events, Alcohol and Initiation Policy (including Code of Conduct)

Social Events policy for all full and associate members of the Union.

They can act as an effective team building exercise, whereby new club, society or other group members can meet and socialise with other members. Yet it is important that they are accessible to all students who wish to join.

The following need to be considered:

- All Union members (Students) must recognise and adhere to all Union of Brunel Students' policies and in particular the Equal Opportunities Policy. Every single student is entitled to an equal chance to get involved in the social, campaigning, democratic, activities-based and commercial aspects of the Union.
- It is an individual's choice whether they attend or partake in any social event. Non-attendance must never be a barrier to participation in any of the group activities, democracy or competitions.
- The Union purpose states "*The Union exists to ensure that every Brunel student has the opportunity to enjoy, challenge, influence and benefit from all aspects of their studies and the wider student experience*" (strategic plan 2021) It follows that each member will have a different response to activities, and no peer pressure¹ (intended or not) should be placed on any member to undertake any activity to initiate them into membership that they would not do willingly.
- 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 and wellbeing is maintained.
- All members of sports clubs or societies are representatives of their group and the Union. Members must show respect towards members of the public and other members of the University, at all times.
- The Union of Brunel Students recognises that social activities are an important part of activity groups; however, they must not involve activities of:
 - a sexual or sexually degrading nature,
 - any activity that is illegal,

¹ Peer pressure is defined as follows: when a peer group or individual encourages another person to change their values or behaviours to suit other people's convenience.



- any activity that encourages irresponsible drinking or the use of drugs,
- any activity that causes harm or damage to others or property,
- any activity that promotes or glorifies discrimination of any kind and
- any activity that brings the Union or the University into disrepute.
- this list is by no means exhaustive, all actions taken by a club or society are subject to investigation and/or disciplinary proceedings

Alcohol and Initiation Policy

The Union recognises that for many students, alcohol can be part of life, and as such, it has no wish to discourage responsible drinking. The Union is, however, committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of its students and as such is concerned about the effects that irresponsible drinking may have upon students, whether physical, social or academic. Furthermore the Union is also mindful of the fact that many students do not want to drink alcohol when they attend events. This can be due to health reasons or lifestyle, but in particularly students who are from countries or faiths where they are not routinely exposed to, or permitted to drink alcohol. Where the consumption of alcohol is perceived as being 'expected', this may dissuade student from attending.

The Union does not approve of irresponsible drinking. This policy sets out how the Union expects to minimise the effects of alcohol abuse. Furthermore this policy encourages students to think about the impact of alcohol misuse on themselves, as well as upon those around them. Whether they are on or away from campus, as an individual or representing the University/ Union.

The Union - Bars

The Union is committed to providing great entertainment, events and services to all students and guests. The Union is also committed to provide a safe environment for students and their guests to enjoy the range of activities and services on offer. The Union acknowledges that when consumed responsibly, alcohol can, for some, add to the enjoyment of events and as such, are committed to promoting safe drinking among students.

The bars will actively engage and participate in University, local and national safer drinking and drink aware campaigns and staff members will receive specific training on their responsibilities under legislation and local union policy.

During the operation of events where higher attendance is anticipated, the Union provides licensed door staff to further ensure a safe, enjoyable environment for all. Should any individual/s be identified as having potential problems with alcohol misuse, relevant Support Services are liaised with to establish the most appropriate way to support them.



The Union - Sport

There is often an association with alcohol and sport, be it through sponsorship, spectator drinking or alcohol consumption post game. In moderation this relationship between alcohol and sport can be a positive one. It is when this relationship is not moderated, that problems may occur.

All sport club committees **must** attend a formal annual training session on how to effectively run a club at the start of term one. During this training, it is explained that forced drinking and initiations are not tolerated and responsible drinking is promoted.

It is recognised that some spectators want to consume alcoholic drinks at sporting events. If the event is taking place in a licensed area, only alcohol bought from the licensed bar can be consumed at that venue. Alcohol cannot be brought onto the premises as it would contravene licensing laws. Anyone wishing to book an event that includes the sale of alcohol must give sufficient warning to allow licences and permissions to be obtained. Without this permission events, must be alcohol free.

Initiations

The Union of Brunel Students believes the practice of initiations is a dangerous and degrading exercise that jeopardises the safety of members and reflects negatively on the public image of students. The Union is also aware that unforeseen circumstances resulting from such activities can cause anguish that may affect students and their families both personally and academically. It is also a requirement of the British Universities Colleges Sport (BUCS) that all Universities must have an initiation policy to compete in the BUCS competitions.

Definition

An 'Initiation Ceremony' is defined as:

An event in which members (often new members) of a club are expected to perform a task or tasks, as a means to gain credibility, status or entry in to the club. This may be achieved by peer pressure (although not explicitly) and may compromise a person's inherent dignity by forcing or requiring an individual to partake in activities such as: drinking alcohol, eating mixtures of various foodstuffs, nudity and any other behaviour that may be deemed humiliating. This also extends to online initiation activities on social networking sites or blogs, etc. Individuals should not be pressured into divulging personal information, be subject to comments, photos or images that demean or compromise the dignity of individuals or groups. '



Initiation Ceremonies' are not allowed at Brunel University London, on or off site.

Discipline

Any student who identifies a concern over their drinking habits will be referred, in the first instance, to the University services for further advice and assistance. Yet it is important to note nuisance or anti-social behaviour which can be investigated under the Union's regulations for inappropriate or poor behaviour. Being intoxicated will not be recognised as sufficient mitigating circumstances from being investigated. It is important clubs and societies are not used as an excuse for excess drinking, especially if it can lead to anti-social behaviour.

Many student clubs and societies have specific committee positions (Social Secretary's) that are responsible for organising social events. Organised '*socials*' often involve certain forced rules based around alcohol consumption. Some students may feel uncomfortable and/or pressured to consume excessive amounts of alcohol. Members must respect their peers, by recognising that not all students wish to or like to drink alcohol, and may stop at any time. Any individual found pressuring another student into forced drinking sessions will face disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Procedure

1. Complaint is received by the HR Manager.
2. HR Manager sends the complaint to the Student Activities department to be tabled at the respective meeting.
3. The Sports Federation/Societies Guild, the Vice President Student Activities and the Student Activities Department determine the consequence.
4. Consequence is communicated to club/society and monitored by the Student Activities department.
5. If the club/society wishes to appeal, the appeal will be heard by the Union's cabinet group.

When the complaint is received, the club or society is still in operation. Action is not taken until the consequence has been decided.

Consequences

Any breach of this policy will result in one or more of the following:

- Club/Society receives a fine (up to £250)/ account frozen
- Community service for club/society member(s)
- Union grant withdrawn
- Member(s), team(s) or club removed from specific match, matches or removed from all competitions
- Withdrawal of facilities for clubs/societies
- Suspension or complete closure of the club/society
- Member(s) referred to The Union's disciplinary procedure
- Referral to the police
- Removal of recognition of club/society activity from the HEAR



If any incidents occur at the end the academic year, the sanctions may be levied for the following year. As a member of The Union you must understand that you have a responsibility to report to The Union should any activities break this code.

Advice & Support

Excessive drinking can be the first outward sign that a student is under stress or experiencing other forms of emotional ill health. Students are strongly encouraged to seek support from the University or Union's Services, who are not only well placed to help and advice, but are also able to refer students more effectively to specialist services.

Students who feel that their own, or a friends use of alcohol is becoming problematic, are encouraged to talk to somebody about this. A student may feel comfortable talking in the first instance to family or friends. They can also talk to a member of Union staff in the Advice and Representation Centre (ARC). The service is confidential. The **ARC** is based in the Hamilton Centre and for further details please visit <https://brunelstudents.com/advice/>.

In instances whereby a student is admitted to hospital as a consequence of alcohol consumption, the Residence Support team and University Security will, when made aware, ensure that the student and their friends are appropriately supported.

Recommended Levels of Consumption

The government's Chief Medical Officer advises that men and women should not drink more than **14 units** per week, these should be spread across a week i.e. daily unit guidelines of **2-3 units** of alcohol for men and women (generally one unit is equal to half a pint of **4%** beer, one single spirit measure or a **125ml** glass of wine **ABV 8%**). Large portion, or spirits poured without a measure can easily have double or triple the Units.

It is also recommended that individuals should have 2 or 3 alcohol free days every week. All students should be aware that the overconsumption of alcohol can damage health, both in the short and long term. Individuals react differently to alcohol; factors including weight, height and gender may, as such, determine these effects. In addition to this, eating habits, sleeping patterns and even mood may make a difference to how students will feel after consuming alcohol.

The Union therefore advises that individuals should adhere to recommended levels of consumption. Further Information on safe drinking and how to calculate the units of alcohol can be found at www.DrinkAware.co.uk

Risks of Alcohol

Alcohol is often a common factor in anti-social behaviour, accidents leading to physical injury and can impair academic performance. The Union believes that intoxication is not an excuse for bad behaviour and students who cannot control their behaviour should drink less. Students should also be aware that excessive alcohol consumption can also make them vulnerable and put them at risk.

Education and Publicity

The Union will encourage safer drinking, whilst increasing awareness and understanding of alcohol misuse and related issues. We will do this by undertaking to regularly educate and publicise the risks associated with the misuse of alcohol. Along with the University, we will



produces publicity material to raise student awareness in the form of posters and leaflets and information on the web. At other agreed points in the Academic Calendar, the University and Union will deliver Alcohol Awareness events and/or campaigns.



Team Brunel Code of Conduct

Team Brunel (as individuals and collectively) is committed to welcoming, and providing a positive experience for, any Brunel student who chooses to participate (indicated through membership). As such it does not tolerate, and will not act in such a way as to discriminate or discourage participation through:

Bringing Team Brunel into disrepute

- On the pitch. *Examples of which would include any breach of the points below within a match environment, violent behaviour, undue disrespect of officials, failure to follow instructions or policies required by the sport's governing body, the facilities, etc.*
- In the wider world (stashed means you represent Team Brunel wherever you are). *Examples would include the cause of offence to members of the public, wilful damage of property, filming or otherwise sharing private or inappropriate activity.*

Sexual Bullying and harassment, discrimination or sexualised banter

- *We will not use our gender or the gender of others as the basis of intimidation, discrimination or bullying. This could include sex based language, inappropriate and uninvited proposals or touching (although this might fit better in the general/licensed venues section)*
- *We respect individuals, their choices and their rights. We will not denigrate or discriminate against individuals based on their gender.*

Racist, anti-religious, anti-cultural or anti-ethnic language or behaviour

- *Our activities will never discriminate or cause people to feel discriminated against due to their race, religion, culture or place of birth. This could take the form of language used to humiliate others or activities.*

Homophobic, bi-phobic, transphobic or other anti-sexuality language or behaviour

- *We will not use the sexuality of others, or lack of, as the basis of intimidation, discrimination or bullying. This could take the form of language designed to humiliate, or to define someone's sexuality, or implied, as a negative thing.*

Initiations, and restricting activity or participation to those who act in a certain way,



undertake defined tasks or any other peer imposed filters

- *If you choose to join our club, you're a part of us. We'll never require you to undertake tasks or activity to "prove yourself", will accept your choice how you get involved socially, and never denigrate you "in the spirit of fun".*
- *We will not exert Peer pressure: No group or individual should encourage another person to change their values or behaviours, to suit other people's convenience.*

As a member of Team Brunel I understand and accept these commitments, will abide by them, and recognise that failure to do so will be challenged.



Societies' Code of Conduct

The Societies' Guild (as individuals and collectively) is committed to welcoming, and providing a positive experience for, any Brunel student who chooses to participate (indicated through membership). As such it does not tolerate, and will not act in such a way as to discriminate or discourage participation through:

Sexual Bullying and harassment, discrimination or sexualised banter

- *We will not use our gender or the gender of others as the basis of intimidation, discrimination or bullying. This could include sex based language, inappropriate and uninvited proposals or touching (although this might fit better in the general/ licensed venues section)*
- *We respect individuals, their choices and their rights. We will not denigrate or discriminate against individuals based on their gender.*

Racist, anti-religious, anti-cultural or anti-ethnic language or behaviour

- *Our activities will never discriminate or cause people to feel discriminated against due to their race, religion, culture or place of birth. This could take the form of language used to humiliate others or activities.*

Homophobic, bi-phobic, transphobic or other anti-sexuality language or behaviour

- *We will not use the sexuality of others, or lack of, as the basis of intimidation, discrimination or bullying. This could take the form of language designed to humiliate, or to define someone's sexuality, or implied, as a negative thing.*

Initiations, and restricting activity or participation to those who act in a certain way, undertake defined tasks or any other peer imposed filters.

- *If you choose to join our club, you're a part of us. We'll never require you to undertake tasks or activity to "prove yourself", will accept your choice how you get involved socially, and never denigrate you "in the spirit of fun".*
- *We will not exert Peer pressure: No group or individual should encourage another person to change their values or behaviours, to suit other people's convenience.*

As a member of the Societies' Guild I understand and accept these commitments, will abide by them, and recognise that failure to do so will be challenged.



Motion to widen the range of pronouns use on its forms and surveys

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: SA01

From: Cayla Martin Date: 11/10/2017

This Union Notes:

1. Many of the barriers transgender students face at university can be removed by de-gendering the aspects of work and public life where knowing information about sex and gender is not necessary or relevant.
2. That tick boxes with just male and female answers is not fully representative of gender today. A comprehensive, and inclusive list agreed by the Union and LGBT+ Officer would make sure no students felt left out or discriminated against.

This Union Believes:

1. That all forms and surveys created by the University and Union must fall in line with international practices to recognise that Gender is fluid; it is much more than a simple on or another tick box.
2. That the University and Union should look at how new forms can be inclusive to transgender students.

This Union Resolves:

1. To lobby the university to look at the relevance of asking students to state their gender and their sexual orientation in some forms and surveys.
2. To remind the University that it has a duty to ensure that all students are represented and respected regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. To lobby the university to adapt new structures to enable Brunel to be considered a trans positive community.
4. That all forms and surveys created and used by the Union must look at the relevance of asking students to state their gender and their sexual orientation before putting the forms up online.

This Union Mandates/Aims

1. The president and the LGBT+ Officer to lobby the university to widen the range of pronouns used on all its forms and surveys.
2. The President and the LGBT+ Officer to work to improve the range of pronouns used on forms and surveys by the Union
3. The VPC's to encourage the University to extend the use of pronouns that students must use in their own coursework submissions (for example when they conduct surveys).



4. The LGBT+ Officer to offer guidance to the university in how to ensure every student is represented and respected by all forms and surveys undertaken.

Proposer:

Cayla Martin

LGBT+ Officer

Secunder:

Pauldy Otermans

President



Motion to lobby the University and Union to create gender neutral toilets

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: SA01

From: Cayla Martin

Date: 11/10/2017

This Union Notes:

1. Trans people are frequently harassed in gender specific spaces and toilets can be a site of physical and mental abuse, in which people are often barred from entering, humiliated and physically abused for being in the “wrong” toilet. In spite of this, trans people are required to live full time as the gender they know themselves to be for a number of years before being granted access to hormones, surgery or full legal recognition. That means being able to use (and prove they are using) the appropriate toilet facilities.
2. Toilet harassment is often based on the transphobic views, even those which are systematic within society, and therefore may not be consciously aware of their transphobic views.
3. Adapting toilet facilities is an easy process – a block of toilet cubicles rather than urinals for example is a great way to ensure privacy and safety. (With regards to the union building for example knocking down the wall between the men and women’s bathrooms and creating a single block of toilet cubicles would be a simple and effective way to create a neutral bathroom environment.

This Union Believes:

1. It is unacceptable for trans people to be denied access to toilets, or for trans people to encounter hostility while trying to take part in a basic biological requirement which we all must do.
2. That everyone has the right to self-ID when it comes to their gender identity, and that everyone has the right to use the toilet facilities they feel most appropriate.
3. That the creation of gender neutral toilets within the Union, library and the lecture centre would be a way of ensuring that students of all genders do not feel discriminated against.
4. That simply adding a gender neutral sign to existing disabled toilets is unacceptable and unfairly disadvantages those students with disabilities.



This Union Resolves:

1. To lobby the university to adapt toilet facilities within the library and the lecture centre to meet the needs of a diverse and inviting community.
2. To adapt toilet facilities within the Union building to meet the needs of a diverse and inviting community.
3. To campaign for better awareness of trans issues.

This Union Mandates/Aims

1. The Union (with the LGBT+ Officer) to lobby the University for the adaption of toilet facilities in the library, the lecture center and all new academic buildings.
2. The LGBT+ Officer and the LGBT+ society to create a campaign to educate students on the changes being implemented and why they are important.
3. (Only if necessary) the RAG chair to work with the sabbatical officers and come up with ways to fundraise for the required changes if money cannot be found to implement these changes within a reasonable time frame.

Proposer:

Cayla Martin

LGBT+ Officer

Seconder:

Pauldy Otermans

President



Title: Motion to Support BDS (Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions)

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: SA1

From: Ammaar Ikram (Vice-President CBASS)

Date: 26th October 2017

This Union notes:

1.2 - The crimes committed by the Israeli government against innocent Palestinians against international law [citations available upon request].

1.3 – Israel’s construction of a separation wall and Jewish-only settlements in the occupied West Bank has been labelled ‘illegal’ by the ICJ and UK government [citations available upon request].

1.4 – BDS action has been endorsed by the NUS, NUT, TUC and UCU, over 25 UK student unions, as well as other NGOs, trade unions, student unions & grassroots networks across the globe [citations available upon request].

This Union believes:

2.1 – That the Union should be active in campaigns which concern human rights.

2.2 – BDS movement is capable of persuading both private and public bodies to reduce their complicity in Israel’s violations of international law.

2.3 – This policy has no intention to negatively impact/divide any community at Brunel. This is not to do with religion, it is concerned with human rights and preserving the safety/livelihood of the Palestinian population.

2.4 – This is not an attack on the Israeli people, it is against the policies of the Israeli government.

This Union resolves:

3.1 – To publicly support BDS. To find out the companies/organisations that we will lobby to boycott, find list here: <http://bdslist.org/full-list/>

3.2 – Encourage academics and other campus unions to support BDS.

This Union mandates:

4.1 – Union announces their policy of renewing the lapsing BDS policy.



4.2 –To work together in order to lobby the university to divest from companies complicit in the actions of the Israeli government against the Palestinian population.

Proposer:

Ammaar Ikram

Vice President CBASS

Secunder:

Mohamed Omar

Vice President CEDPS



Title: The Union of Brunel Students supports a new Sports and Health Centre Project.

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: 9th November 2017

From: Dev Aditya, Vice President Student Activities

This Union Notes

- The Sports Centre at Brunel University is old and is in continuous need of repairs. This results in key provisions of the facility being closed down and students being unable to use them during term time.
- That the Court times for our clubs is severely limited and restricts our top teams to training far less than they should for their high Premier/Division status.
- That the Union is here to give Brunel student's sector-leading opportunities for their personal development and a full and well-rounded University experience.
- That there is a need for a swimming pool and multiple indoor sports courts in the new facility to support the improvement of our sports facilities on campus.

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.
- The University should build a new state of the art sports facility for our students which enables the development of Sports and Brunel University and directly benefits the 2000+ members of our student community who undertake sports on a regular basis during their time at Brunel.
- That out of all the proposed developments, the option to build a new state of the art facility is the only option that would cater for the needs of Brunel students and would maximise retention and its sporting heritage over rival Universities.
- That during the building phase, the existing sports centre will stay open in order to avoid any interruptions to the sports needs of students.
- That given the influx of students joining and participating in sports through our "Free Sports Club membership" and "Active at Brunel" schemes, new facilities are needed to keep up with demand and to facilitate quality court time to all members.

This Union Resolves

- To fully support the bid to build a new Sports and Health Centre.
- To apply for planning permission for the project within July 2018.
- To continually push for improvements to the facilities provided for sport on campus.

This Union Mandates

- That the Vice President Student Activities to continue talks with the Brunel Head of Sport and other senior members of the University to push for the creation of a new facility and apply for planning permission within the above mentioned time period.

Proposer: Dev Aditya, Vice President Student Activities

Secunder: Pauly Otermans, President



MOTION

Title: Motion to pause the boycott of the NSS

To: Student Assembly

From: Rachel Kerslake (Vice President CHLS)

Date: 06/12/2017

This Union Notes

1. The national student survey (NSS) is run every spring to gather final year student satisfaction of their institution
2. The NSS is one of three principle metrics used by the government in the Teaching, Excellence Framework (TEF).
3. The NSS is conducted for three main reasons:
 - i. To inform student decisions: It enables prospective students to compare courses at different institutions when deciding what and where to study.
 - ii. To provide information to enhance the student learning experience- universities and colleges use the results to help develop their courses and facilities for future students.
 - iii. To support quality assurance and accountability- the survey provides information as part of the quality assurance system and contributes to the public accountability of higher education.
4. Last academic year the Union chose to boycott the NSS as part of the national campaign against the rise in tuition fees.
5. This academic year the University will not be participating in the TEF.
6. For the upcoming academic year tuition fees will be frozen and not linked to TEF results.

This Union Believes

1. Although the NSS is a metric used as part of the TEF, it is also used to identify the student experience by the University. By not participating in the NSS we lose out on the ability to collect information which would help improve the Student Experience at Brunel.
2. The data provided from the NSS is beneficial for prospective students, as it allows them to make informed decisions about their studies.

This Union Resolves



1. On the years where the University will not be partaking in the TEF, and tuition fees remain frozen, we will not actively boycott the NSS.
2. We will make clear to the University and the students the rationale for not partaking in the boycott during the academic year.

Proposed by: Rachel Kerslake, VPCHLS

Seconded by: Ammaar Ikram, VPCBASS

Signature:

Signature:



Title: Motion for Democracy Committee to be elected from Student Assembly

To: Student Assembly

From: Pauldy Otermans (President)

Date: 17/01/2018

This Union Notes

1. In 2016/17 the Union changed the Elections and Referenda Committee to become the Democracy Committee.
2. This committee was also changed to be elected via a cross campus ballot in the first instance, and for any vacant slots to be filled at student assembly.
3. All other select committees are elected from amongst the membership of Student Assembly.

This Union Believes

3. That the Democracy committee is better suited to being elected from amongst the membership of Student Assembly.
4. By electing the committee from student assembly the members of the committee will have a lived experience of the processes of the Union and be better placed to enact change.
5. If the members of democracy committee are also part of student assembly they will gain more skills and experience through a more diverse engagement with the Union.

This Union Resolves

3. For the Democracy Committee to no longer be elected by a cross campus ballot, but instead be elected from amongst the membership of Student Assembly.
 4. For the bye-laws to be amended to reflect this change.
 5. For the Union to investigate whether there is a need to increase the posts available on student assembly to ensure we have the membership to fill these select committees.
-

Proposed by: Pauldy Otermans, President

Seconded by: Ammaar Ikram, VPCBASS

Signature:

Signature:



Title: Motion to change the Unions elections cycle

To: Student Assembly

From: Pauly Otermans (President)

Date: 17/01/2018

This Union Notes

4. The Union currently runs 4 election cycles a year; autumn, winter, spring and summer.
5. The number of elections that take place means that students are almost always being contacted regarding standing or voting in an election.
6. The voting turn out in both the winter and summer elections is far below that of the principal elections with only around 5% of our students voting.

This Union Believes

6. Students are being swamped with messages regarding elections and this is having a detrimental effect on our engagement over elections, and the impact of the communications sent out during our principle elections.
7. The lack of votes cast brings into question the democratic mandate of the candidates elected in both the winter and summer elections.

This Union Resolves

6. For the following posts to now take place as part of the spring election cycle going forwards, and for the bye-laws to be amended to reflect this change:
 - i. Liberation Officers
 - ii. Standing Committee members
-

Proposed by: Pauly Otermans, President

Seconded by: Ammaar Ikram, VPCBASS

Signature:

Signature:



Title: To Move Media and RAG from Standing Committees to Societies

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: Student Assembly (18th of January, 2018)

From: Dev Aditya, Vice President for Student Activities

Date: 20/12/2017

This Union Notes

- That RAG is a student led charity fundraising group.
- That Student Media is a student led media group consisting of Radio, Newspaper and Video
- The chairs of these standing committees sit on SU Exec as non-voting members
- Both the Media and RAG committees are elected by a cross-campus vote where all members of the Union can vote.
- As of writing this, Student Media have not published a written newspaper and the Radio Station is not broadcasting.
- The Student Media chair, who was elected in Spring 2017, has resigned from their post.

This Union Believes

- That RAG and Media have struggled recently due to a lack of membership led structure.
- A membership led structure, with group elections, will provide the structure needed to develop a committee with knowledge and expertise to achieve their aims and objectives.
- Allowing for Membership Lists, which are administrated online, would provide these two groups with a wide community of invested students who would volunteer their time.
- The current cross-campus elections are not appropriate for two groups who share common values and approaches closer to Societies rather than the campaign based part time officers.
- RAG and Media, despite being important, are not based on the liberation and campaigning background of the other roles that sit on the Student Union Executive Committee – They are therefore not appropriate sitting on this body.

This Union Resolves

- That RAG and Media are removed as Standing Committees who are elected by all Union Members
- That RAG and Media are given the opportunity to become Societies of the Union, with their own membership based elections taking place alongside all other Club and Societies.
- That RAG and Media are given the opportunity to take part in Club and Society training and resources, alongside the current RAG and Media training.



- RAG and Media will continue to receive a level of support and resources from Student Activities to ensure they can achieve their aims and objectives.
- Funding will be made available for the core activity of these two groups.
- Both of these groups will sit underneath the remit of the Societies Guild Committee along with all other functioning societies.

This Union Mandates

- The Union to amend the bye-laws and current practices to reflect the spirit of this motion

Proposed by: Dev Aditya, VPSA

Seconded by: Pauldy Otermans, President

Signature:

Signature:



Title: Motion for the Environment and Ethics Officer to take up the position of Bee Co-Ordinator, to support our NUS Student Eats Enterprise.

To: AGM

Meeting: 01

From: Anastasia Walters Woodhead (Environment and Ethics Officer)

Date: 24th January 2018

1. This Union Notes:

- 1.1. That we have been granted £1,000 from the NUS Student Eats Application.
- 1.2. That this grant is to go towards the funding, set up and running of an apiary on campus.
- 1.3. That following a successful and sustainable pilot of the apiary, the Union can apply for a further £17,000 for the future of the enterprise.

2. This Union Believes

- 2.1. That without the role, Bee Sub Co-Ordinator, being made compulsory the success of the project cannot be secured.
- 2.2. That the Bee Sub Co-Ordinator would be best suited to someone within the Union, due to the nature of the role requiring frequent communication between Union staff.

3. This Union Resolves

- 3.1. That the Environment and Ethics Officer will be responsible for fulfilling the position of Bee Sub Co-Ordinator.

4. This Union Mandates

- 4.1. That the Environment and Ethics Officer will work with the University position Bee Co-Ordinator, once elected.

Proposed by: Anastasia Walters (Environmental and Ethics Officer)

Seconded by: Ammaar Ikram (VP CBASS)

Signature:

Signature:



Title: Motion to Ban Companies from Campus

To: AGM

Meeting: 01

From: Dev Aditya (Vice President Student Activities)

Date: 24th January 2018

1. This Union Notes:

- 1.1. There have been attempts by companies invested in the tobacco, alcohol, gambling and pay-day loan industries to target students.
- 1.2. 68% of 18-24 year olds have been prompted to gamble by adverts and posts on social media (source: gamblingcommission.gov.uk).

2. This Union Believes

- 2.1. That the Union should not be an overbearing force in student's lives – students should be able to engage in any legal activity they wish. However, companies that target this demographic solely, or create products designed exclusively for students that will damage their health or bring them into excessive debt should not be able promote on the University grounds.
- 2.2. That any attempts to undermine the health or financial wellbeing of students for commercial gain is a deplorable act.

3. This Union Resolves

- 3.1. To ensure that any company that falls within the categories of smoking, drinking, gambling and pay-day loans do not advertise exclusively to students or create products to the same effect. If it is within our venues (Locos and Academy) they are excluded
- 3.2. To provide further support and advice to those who have become addicted or have fallen into financial difficulties as a result of the companies within these industries.

4. This Union Mandates

- 4.1. The President and the Vice President of Student Activities to discuss with the University the implementation of such a ban in areas not controlled by the Union.
- 4.2. The President and the Vice President of Student Activities to report back to Student Assembly on the progress of the motion's implementation.



Proposed by: Dev Aditya (VPSA)

Seconded by: Pauldy Otermans (President)

MOTION

Title: Motion to ensure that Officer Handovers are implemented

To: AGM

Meeting: 01

From: Pauldy Otermans (President)

Date: 24th January 2018

1. This Union Notes:

- 1.1. That every year, new students are elected into Union leadership roles (including part-time and full-time officers).
- 1.2. That in the past, members of previous student leadership teams has voiced concerns about the quality of the handover process.
- 1.3. That current officers in the role are not mandated to give an effective handover.

2. This Union Believes

- 2.1. That elected representatives should give an effective handover to their successors in order for the incoming officer to have a better understanding of their role and an informative and effective transition into the role.

3. This Union Resolves

- 3.1. To implement the below within the relevant byelaws that an effective handover should include:
 - 3.1.1. Overview of what has been achieved for the year (wins, campaigns and events).
 - 3.1.2. Update on what has not been achieved and why.
 - 3.1.3. Update on policies where you are mandated.
 - 3.1.4. Details and feedback of meetings you are required to attend.
 - 3.1.5. List of key university staff you will work with.
 - 3.1.6. Social media passwords.
 - 3.1.7. Your role and responsibilities (refer to relevant byelaws).



3.1.8. All handovers be completed a week before the end of your term in office.

3.1.9. Every handover to include the same generic overview of the Union and the University.

4. This Union Mandates

4.1. The President to ensure that handovers are implemented.

Proposed by: Pauldy Otermans (President)

Seconded by: Dev Aditya (VPSA)

Signature:

Signature:



Title: Motion to oppose the Counter Terrorism & Security Act

To: AGM

Meeting: 01

From: Ammaar Ikram (Vice President CBASS)

Date: 22nd January 2018

1. This Union Notes:

- 1.1. That the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act (CTSA) received Royal Assent in February 2015
- 1.2. The CTSA has issued a number of measures, such as placing a statutory requirement of public bodies – e.g. nurseries, schools, universities and hospitals – and ‘PREVENT’ people from being drawn into extremism/terrorism. However these measures have facilitated temporary exclusion of individuals returning to Britain, including British nationals, seizing of travel documents, university lecturers handing student documents to local PREVENT Coordinators, amongst many other things.
- 1.3. The government definition of extremism includes “a vocal opposition to fundamental British values”. These ‘British values’ include: Actively promoting democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- 1.4. Opposing this government definition of British values does not equate to extremism/terrorism.

2. This Union Believes

- 2.1. The government mention “mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs”, yet claim that those who oppose promoting democracy are at risk of being an extremist/terrorist. This is contradictory and does not encourage open, free discussions.
- 2.2. This Union believes that non engagement with all aspects of the PREVENT programme including attending workshops, university PREVENT planning meetings or receiving funds for training will clearly demonstrate that the union does support or legitimise what we believe to be a fundamentally racist Government policy.
- 2.3. Muslim, Sikh and Black communities are systematically targeted by this policy – they are being subjected to extreme scrutiny and paranoia, particularly in regard to the colour of their skin and clothing.
- 2.4. The statutory responsibility placed on universities by the Act may conflict with their responsibility under the Education Act 1986 to secure and protect freedom of speech.



2.5. This Union believes that teaching of practical PREVENT administration and processes should not form part of any students legitimate academic study.

3. This Union Resolves

3.1. To investigate, identify and block any Prevent funding for any UBS activities or departments.

3.2. To work with the NUS Black Students' Campaign and Disabled Students' Campaign to lobby for removal of Prevent teaching from healthcare & educational qualifications.

4. This Union Mandates

4.1. For the full-time officer team to work in conjunction with all necessary parties to ensure this policy is enforced.

**Proposed by: Ammaar Ikram (VP CBASS
CEDPS)**

Seconded by: Mohammed Omar (VP

Signature:

Signature:



Title: Motion to set up a University run gym on campus

To: AGM

Meeting: 01

From: Dev Aditya (Vice President Student Activities)

Date: 29th January 2018

1. This Union Notes:

- 1.1. More Energy is currently the external company providing the main gym service on campus.
- 1.2. More Energy has a higher joining fee and student membership rate than its local competition; Tru Gym and Simply Gym.
- 1.3. More Energy has released a student Direct Debit option for students which is higher than its local competition.

2. This Union Believes

- 2.1. Students wishing to join the gym on campus have to pay higher prices than other gyms in the local area; Tru Gym and Simply Gym.
- 2.2. Students currently commute to cheaper gyms because of the perceived high prices of More Energy gym.
- 2.3. A University run gym will let Students have access to a quality gym at an affordable price.
- 2.4. Students need to have access to the gym as it directly helps maintain physical wellbeing.

3. This Union Resolves

- 3.1. The University does not renew the contract of our current external gym contractor More Energy and starts working on creating a University run gym.
- 3.2. The rates of the University run gym should be at par or cheaper than local competition to provide students with an affordable and competitive gym membership on campus.

4. This Union Mandates



4.1. The Vice President Student Activities to lobby the University to issue notice of non-renewal of contract to More Energy immediately and move towards a University run gym.

Proposed by: Dev Aditya (VPSA)

Seconded by: Pauldy Otermans (President)

Signature:

Signature:



Title: Motion to support Free Education

To: AGM

Meeting: 02

From: Rachel Kerslake

Date: 25th January 2018

1. This Union Notes

- 1.1. There is an alternative to paying for university through tuition fees or a graduate tax – public investment in free education.
- 1.2. Education is a right, not a privilege.
- 1.3. If the government increased tax on corporations and the wealthy, scrapped Trident or reduced military spending, billions of pounds would be made available to fund free education and other vital public services.

2. This Union Believes

- 2.1. Abolishing fees is insufficient if students are excluded or impoverished by the cost of living.
- 2.2. Our vision for free education goes beyond abolishing fees: it is for the transformation of the education system.

3. This Union Resolves

- 3.1. Oppose and campaign against all methods of charging students for education – including tuition fees and a ‘graduate tax’ which is nothing more than a euphemism for ‘student debt’.
- 3.2. To campaign for:
 - i. A liberated curriculum
 - ii. The abolition of student debt
 - iii. Open and public access to universities and colleges, democratically-controlled institutions free from surveillance and harassment by police and immigration officials.
- 3.3. Get involved in the national campaign to bring back EMA

4. This Union Resolves

- 4.1. A campaign such as this one is in line with Bye-Law C which states that the Vice Presidents of each college will:
 - i. The Vice-President Colleges’ (CBASS, CEDPS, and CHLS) of the Union shall: Represent the welfare needs of all members.
 - ii. Promote, encourage and extend academic and welfare representation within the College and throughout the University;
 - iii. Work closely with external organisations to ensure local, regional and national representation of the Union’s membership with regard to academic and welfare issues;

5. This Union Mandates

- 5.1. All incoming officers to co-operate and campaign for the terms set above.

Proposed by: Rachel Kerslake (VPCHLS)

Seconded by: Ian Stone (Mature and PT Officer)

Title: Medical Centre Campaign Hand over motion to Vice President of College of Health and Life Sciences



To: AGM

Meeting: 02

From: Rachel Kerslake

Date: 25th January, 2018

1 This Union Notes

1.1 The Medical Centre that is situated on campus has for a long time been at the centre of discussions amongst the students. Many students have expressed their discontent with its service and operation, and therefore a campaign aimed to tackle these issues was instigated in 2015. The campaign will be handed over to the Union Officers for continuation.

2 This Union Believes

2.1 By putting this campaign in the remits of the Union Officers they will be able to work together collectively on issues, it will also enable the VPCHLS to involve the academics in their college in the campaign.

3 This Union Resolves

3.1 A campaign such as this one is in line with Bye-Law C which states that the Vice Presidents of each college will:

3.2 The Vice-President Colleges' (CBASS, CEDPS, and CHLS) of the Union shall:

- i. Represent the welfare needs of all members.
- ii. Promote, encourage and extend academic and welfare representation within the College and throughout the University;
- iii. Work closely with external organisations to ensure local, regional and national representation of the Union's membership with regard to academic and welfare issues;

4 This Union Mandates

4.1 The President and the Vice Presidents to carry on the campaign focused on student health and the on campus Medical Centre, making sure students are informed of their rights and responsibilities when it comes to using the services of the Medical Centre.

4.2 The Union also mandates the Vice President of College of Health and Life Sciences to ensure that a survey is regularly executed to receive feedback from the students.

Proposed by: Rachel Kerslake (VPCHLS)

Seconded by: Ammaar Ikram (VP CBASS)



Title: Motion of No Confidence in a Student Trustee

To: Annual General Meeting

From: Pauly Otermans (President)

Date: 26/01/2018

This Union Notes

- The student trustees were elected into their position in May 2017 and took office in June 2017.
- Some student trustees have not maintained communication with Union staff or officers since taking office.
- Some student trustees have not attended any training provided to them both online and face to face and no apologies have been received.
- Some student trustees have not attended any trustee board meeting in full since taking office and no apologies have been received.

This Union Believes

- Student Trustees are elected by the membership and thusly accountable to them.
- Those student trustees who are not fulfilling their duties in line with the by-laws are liable to be democratically removed from office.
- Despite numerous attempts to support the student trustees, hardly any correspondence has been received by some trustees, and seemingly no work has been completed.

This Union Resolves

- That the members recommend the Trustee board to pass a motion of no confidence in the student trustees who have not maintained communication or have not attended full meetings, removing them from their current position in office and therefore excluding them from running for any future Union position/s

This Union Mandates

- The Union to fulfil the requirements of this motion immediately.
-

**Proposed by: Pauly Otermans (President)
CEDPS)**

Seconded by: Mohamed Omar (VP



Title: Motion of No Confidence in RAG committee members

To: Annual General Meeting

From: Dev Aditya (VPSA)

Date: 26/01/2018

1. This Union Notes

- 1.1. The RAG committee members were elected into their position in March 2017 and took office in June 2017.
- 1.2. Certain RAG committee members have not communicated with Union staff or officers since September 2017.
- 1.3. Certain RAG committee members have not attended any training provided to them since taking office.
- 1.4. Certain RAG committee members have not attended any meeting in full since taking office and no apologies have been received.

2. This Union Believes

- 2.1. RAG committee members are elected by the membership and thusly accountable to them.
- 2.2. Those RAG committee members who are not fulfilling their duties in line with the bye-laws are liable to be democratically removed from office.
- 2.3. That certain members did not participate in RAG Week without sufficient apologies being communicated.
- 2.4. Despite numerous attempts to support the RAG committee members, hardly any correspondence has been received from certain members, and seemingly no work has been completed.

3. This Union Resolves

- 3.1. Those members that fail to attend 3 meetings without appropriate apologies being sent will be deemed to have resigned.

4. This Union Mandates

- 4.1. The Union to fulfil the requirements of this motion immediately.
-

Proposed by: Dev Aditya (VPSA)

**Seconded by: Jonathan Fernandes
(Student Trustee and RAG
committee member)**



Title: Motion to back the UCU February/March 2018 Strike

To: Student Assembly

Meeting: Student Assembly 22nd February 2018

From: Dev Aditya, Vice President for Student Activities

Date: 20/12/2017

This Union Notes

- 1) Brunel lecturers with the UCU have voted to go on Strike over UUK plans to change their pension
- 2) The UUK plan, according to the UCU, would see our lecturers' pensions worse off by £10,000 per year

This Union Believes

1) That the UUK plan detrimentally affects our lecturers at Brunel, and while strike action does impact upon students, who we represent, it is in our interest not only to show solidarity to striking workers, but especially when it is our lecturers as we want to ensure the best lecturers stay in the profession so that our students continue to gain world class education in their fields of study, from Undergrad to PHD students.

This Union Resolves

- 1) That the Union should back the striking lecturers in this UCU strike
- 2) That the Union lobbies the VC over the UUK Plan
- 3) That this motion is only in relation to the February 22nd – March 16th UCU Strike.

Proposed by: Cayla Martin, LGBT+ Officer

Seconded by: Ian Stone, Mature and Part Time Student Officer