



**Union of Brunel Students**  
**2021-2022 Policy & Motions**



## MOTION

**Title: Motion to Improve The Venue**

**To: Student Assembly**

**Meeting: 01**

**From: Laura Goldsmith (Chair of Brunel Netball)**

**Date: Friday 02 November 2021**

---

### **This Union Notes**

The issues surrounding the venue. Such issues include the conflicts between clubs and also fighting that has occurred within the venue without clear resolutions occurring. The issue with efficiency of queues and entry. The sexual harassment problem which has become a cause of major concern. Along with conduct of the security staff and possible spiking issues that have become a national problem in nightclubs. National movements are occurring in order to make the national spiking problem a more spoken of topic nationally. And in order to prevent this continuing work needs to be done by all clubs to prevent this from reoccurring or occurring at all. All of these issues result in considerable frustration and discomfort for students whilst being in The Venue. Along with not being able to trust the members of staff who are there to keep them 'safe'. These issues are occurring due to the lack of preventative measures and efficiency of staff within their individual roles.

### **This Union Believes**

The venue should be a safe environment for everyone. All students should have access to an area where they can leave the nightclub- dancefloor and bar if incidences occur. No students should have to worry for their safety or have any discomfort when in the university nightclub due to other students' harassment or behaviour.

### **This Union Resolves**

- Quiet Area – Having an area where people who have been in uncomfortable situations or would like some time out of the club and crowds can remove themselves but do not have to leave the night completely.
- Drink Covers - Venue to provide covers for drinks. Make people aware these are available or have this as a compulsory measure.
- Security- Have security complete necessary training/retraining as current security are ineffective. If security team members do not behave well, they should be removed.
- Retrain Security - For specific scenarios such as sexual harassment/ victims of spiking.
- Checks Upon Entry- Have more effective checks upon entry. Not just at the mega globals but at all venue events.
- Hiring of Female Security- More female security within the venue. This will make females more comfortable when reporting incidents. Along with allowing checks to be made quicker on the door.
- Test Kits- Have test kits available on request at the bar and with security so people can test drinks to check for spiking.

- Queues- We feel this is a big issue with nights out the Venue. Queues are currently ineffective and is the place where many complaints come from. Needs to be altered so that queues function better and there is no risk to people's safety.

- Reintroduction of Wristbands- Wristbands should be used once again on busy nights such as mega globals. This will not only help with the queue issues but will allow for entry checks to be more thorough and efficient. Introduction of stamps to allow people to re-enter when coming from the quiet area or outside if in marked areas that are known by security and staff.

- Ask Angela Campaign- Better advertising of the campaign in the Venue, Locos and in both the male and female toilets. Advertising needs to be more informative. What people can report and who they can report it to needs to be clear. It is not just dates; it is all forms of harassment and any scenario where a student has any discomfort.

---

**Proposed by: Laura Goldsmith    Seconded by: Taine Wagstaff**

**Signature:    L.Goldsmith**

**Signature: T.Wagstaff**

## MOTION

**Title: Improving the students experience for students with social anxiety caused by Covid-19**

**To: Student Assembly**

**Meeting: 01**

**From: Natasha Gonsalves (Assembly Representative for the Life Science Department)**

**Date: 08/11/2021**

---

### **This Union Notes**

- Research undertaken in April 2021 showed Covid-19 pandemic affecting students mental health in many different ways, which resulted to decline in student academic performance.
- The Public health Education in the United Kingdom shows a negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on mental health of university students is a growing concern.
- The National statistics showed almost 63% of the students have indicated that their mental health and well-being had worsened. 33% of the students reported being dissatisfied with their academic experience.
- Universities are no strangers to anxiety, but this year has been a rollercoaster and it has been more stressful than the most years.
- The pandemic has amplified the already existing sources which are stress – grades, finances and homesickness which are all greatly impacted student’s mental health and well-being.
- Low levels of mental well-being have reduced motivation, diminish concentration and hinder academic attainment.
- Students have found online learning frustrating working from home isn’t ideal. Student feel that their course has suffered as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Now that we are sort of going back to normalcy, student feel settling into university difficult and these changes have caused them anxiety.
- A demand for better access to psychological support were promised by the government, despite its promises of more investment in student wellbeing the services are badly overstretched.
- Universities may have a range of social activities and societies; however, student’s participation have decreased. Some problems cannot just be solved with more counsellors, the university needs to stop ignoring the behaviours and actions of student that hinder Social anxiety issues while learning.
- Student believe that there isn’t enough support, or they are unaware of any of the services provided at the university. Universities are just reflecting of what goes on in the whole society, there is no support and awareness for students with social anxiety and stress. Student are unaware of the resources provided by the university; they cannot cope up with deadlines as a result they end-up failing tests or exams.
- Due to the pandemic students feel overwhelmed going to university and interacting with other. Lack of communication between staff and student has worsen the situation making it harder to get back into the normal routine. There is no support to students who are transitioning from college to university or even First-year to final year. Transitioning can be very stressful and due to the current situation, there isn’t any help.

### **This Union Believes**

- There should be mandatory mental health and well-being awareness sessions or training for staff and students.
- Staff members need to plan and setup lecturers that involve activities, this can help student interact more effectively and it will help them to understand the task better.
- The university should have activities that can relieve stress eg painting
- The university should hire more students' reps in every department
- A departmental support teams should be available to student's so that students feel adequately supported from the moment they start the course.
- University need to promote health and well-being sessions quite often on weekly basis since some course are really intense.
- Students who are transitioning should get a weekly one to one tutorial or guidance's from staff or student rep.

### **This Union Resolves**

- The union should look more into the university's mental health and well-being department resources available. In order to provide adequate well-being session or activities for all students and staff. This will help to reduce the bridges between staff and students.
- To ensure that the university compiles different resources for new student that are transitioning. For instance: making students aware of all the resources and facilities that are available at the university. Student rep should compile resources that can help newcomer settle in the university with enough support and guidance.
- The union should promote health and well-being awareness by having activities in place to relieve stress.

### **This Union Mandates**

- There is a need for departmental support group, this could include a member of staff and student rep from that department who will support student during the start of the course. This will allow student to resolve their concern's and issues effectively since the support team is from the same department.
- Transitioning students especially first years needs to have one -to-one session to minimise the stress and anxiety levels of starting university life. More support should be provided by members of staff for student in final year of their degree. This is critical stage where things go wrong.
- The union needs to promote mental health and well-being awareness for students, this can be done by having different activities every week to relieve stress. This will help student join different activities and make new friends.
- The union needs to make student aware of readily available resources provided at the university, this could mean that student rep or student assembly members would have to compile different resources and facilities into a map system or mini guide handouts that could help students achieve their potentials.
- The union should hire more students who could volunteer to help other student to settle in and give them guidance on the course or subject area.

References : <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22823093/>

---

**Proposed by: Natasha Gonsalves**

**Signature:**

**Seconded by: Sayanti Pal**

**Signature:**

## Motion

**Title: Update the Women's Officer position to be more inclusive**

**To: Student Assembly**

**Meeting: 02**

**From: Daisy Partridge (Women's Officer)**

**Date: 07/01/22**

---

### **This Union Notes**

1. Many other Universities have taken the route of starting with 'women's officer' and then developing this into a role around 'gender equality'
2. The focus of these newly named officers is to include ALL genders
3. Multiple studies have found transgender and gender-nonconforming students report higher rates of harassment and sexual assault than their counterparts
4. Many students who do not identify as female, but face the same bias, abuse and prejudice must be supported by this officer e.g. safety on campus, period poverty, sex education

### **This Union Believes**

1. A more inclusive name leads to a more inclusive approach towards the liberation
2. Protects all those who have been subject to gender-based discrimination
3. A more 'gender' orientated role will aim to celebrate the beautiful spectrum that is gender and social identity
4. It shouldn't be about equality, because this is often not possible. This role should be about equity and inclusion of our diverse student body

### **This Union Resolves**

1. Update officer role descriptions to emphasise the importance of being passionate about solving the gender-based discrimination facing women (including trans-women), gender non-conforming students and other students within the gender spectrum.

#### **To modify the bylaws to be consistent with:**

1. Replace all references with Women's Officer role to the Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Officer
  2. Allow anyone to be eligible to nominate themselves
  3. Allow all members of the Union to vote for candidates
  4. The role of the Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer will be responsible for:
    - a. Support and promote gender equity for all students
    - b. Tackle gender and sexual discrimination, including inappropriate behaviour
    - c. Working with the LGBT officer to make the University and Union a more inclusive environment for trans and gender-nonconforming students and staff.
- 

**Proposed by: Daisy Partridge (Women's Officer)**

**Seconded by: Sean Cullen 1307293**