

1688 It's Time to make the Sports Association a Reality

Passed 5 March 15

Proposer: Yinbo Yu, Activities and Opportunities Officer

Secunder: Ella Gilbert, Boxing Club

Union Notes

1. That this year the Union has been working with the University on how to develop sport in the future

Union Believes

1. That many of the changes the Union has introduced this year to Sport have been accompanied by insufficient consultation
2. That many Sports Clubs feel that they do not have enough control over Sports matters
3. That the people who pay for a SAM card do not have enough influence over where their money is spent and over Union Sports provision in general
4. For things like student media and our work for postgrads we have been discussing setting up new autonomous structures within the union umbrella overall that allow much more direct student influence over things that affect that activity.
5. The "Sports Association" at the moment is just a card- but it could do more
6. That in any structure it's really important that we keep the union council link- ultimately Union Council decides on how we spend the profit from the LCR and Sports Clubs should have a say in that as course reps and societies do.

Union Resolves

1. To resolve in principle to make the "Sports Association" that is implied by the SAM card an actual thing.
2. To develop the constitutional changes necessary in collaboration with Sports Clubs in the next few weeks to make it a reality and to form a working group to that end.
3. That any structure should elect its own committee to handle and lead on sport within the union.
4. That any structure should meet regularly as a body to feedback and discuss big issues
5. That any structure should be delegated authority within the union to decide on things like membership on website, handover period etc.

1689 Ending Unfair Assessments

Passed 5 March 15

Proposer: Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

Seconder: Theodore Antoniou-Phillips (Non-Portfolio Officer)

Union notes:

1. Currently, especially in the Humanities faculty, many autumn semester modules are assessed by examination in the summer
2. This issue is frequently brought up in student surveys and consultations, such as 'What If..' and the National Student Survey, as a matter of unfairness
3. The University is committed to reducing the number of exams under the New Academic Model, from a six week exam period to a four week exam period
4. That the number of exams has been reduced for the exam period in summer 2015
5. That nonetheless progress has been limited and the University has postponed its ambition of a four week exam period to the exam period 2016
6. Course tests have often been used to replace exams when exams have been cut
7. That course tests are far less regulated than exams

Union believes:

1. It is vital for the Student's Union to support students and campaign on educational issues that matter to them, as and when such issues are raised
2. Exams have only limited value in assessing students
3. A continued reduction in the number of exams that students are set is desirable
4. All assessments that students are set should have clear educational merit
5. Assessing students in the summer on content they learnt and discussed in the autumn does not demonstrate any such merit
6. Course tests should not be used to bypass regulatory frameworks and replace exams, to continue to assess students in the same stale way whilst meeting University commitments around the number of exams
7. A key role of the Student's Union should be to protect students during assessment
8. Course tests, being much less regulated than exams, are open to unfair practises, to the detriment of our members

Union resolves:

1. To continue to support a reduction in the number of exams that students are set
2. To work with the University to ensure there is an end to summer exams for autumn semester modules by the exam period 2016
3. To at the same time campaign to protect existing University commitments that benefit our members, on exam timetables and the number of exams students can be set on one day
4. To monitor the number of University course tests to ensure there is no dramatic rise as the number of exams is reduced
5. To present a paper to the University suggesting activities benefitting our members that could take place in the extra two weeks gained in the academic year

1690 It's time for Student Union to adopt sponsored status to employ international students after graduating

Passed 5 March 15

Proposed: Yinbo Yu, Activities and Opportunities Officer

Seconded: Stela Glakousaki, International Student Officer

Union Notes:

1. International students, amongst other migrants, are facing more and more difficulties due to the anti-immigration rhetoric of the political establishment.
2. With the government scrapping the Post-Study Work visa in 2012, which allowed International students to work freely in the UK for two years after graduating, it has become almost impossible for these students to find jobs and gain experience after finishing their degrees.
3. The new immigration bill has made it clear that the situation is only getting worse.
4. These difficulties include, but are not limited to, high visa processing fees, complications with living in privately rented accommodation due to the lack of UK based guarantors, lack of Post-Study Work visa, having to pay for access to the NHS before entering the country, being constantly monitored by institutions and the Home Office and many more.
5. There are not enough provisions in place to give International students the opportunity to gain work experience in the UK after finishing their studies.
6. Union of UEA Students currently does not hold a Tier 2 licence to recruit skilled workers.
7. Currently only 4 unions throughout the UK have the ability to sponsor non-UK/EU students and migrants to work in their union: Coventry, UEL Westminster and UAL.
8. There are misconceptions regarding how obtaining this sponsorship requires organisations to go through the Resident Labour Market Test (RLMT), which would lead to slower and more complicated recruitment processes.
[\(https://www.ukcisa.org/International-Students/The-next-stage/Working-after-your-studies/Employment-Tier-2/Resident-Labour-Market-Test-and-exemptions/\)](https://www.ukcisa.org/International-Students/The-next-stage/Working-after-your-studies/Employment-Tier-2/Resident-Labour-Market-Test-and-exemptions/)

Union Believes:

1. Staff profile of the union is not representative of the student body as it is not allowed or recruit and sponsor non-UK/EU applicants.
2. Like home student, international students have expectations and hopes of working in the UK after their studies.
3. As a Student Union, we have a responsibility to support all our members to the best of our ability, regardless of their background and nationality.
4. By obtaining a Tier2/Tier5 sponsorship from the UKVI, our Union would have the ability to recruit international students and other migrants.
5. This sponsorship would make our Union a more fair and accessible employer and would ensure that everyone would have a right to apply for jobs at the union, regardless of nationality and immigration status.
6. Actions from Student Union to promote equality of opportunity to jobs for international students can lead more equality of opportunity within our members.

Union Resolves:

1. The union should look into Tier 2 and Tier 5 sponsorships and choose the more appropriate option.
2. Obtain the desired sponsorship which would cost £536 for organisations with less than 50 employees and with a turnover of less than £6.5m.
3. Actively advertise positions that become available at the SU to the international student body by clearly stating if a non-UK/EU individual is recruited, they will be sponsored to remain in the UK.
4. A member of the Union's senior management team should be delegated to take the aforementioned steps and report the progress to the relevant officer/Management Committee/Council/Trustee Board.
5. To ask HR Sub-Committee to undertake the following changes to its human resources policies and practices, reporting the outcome to the relevant officer/Management Committee/Council/Trustee Board
 - a. To include nationality in UUEAS' equality monitoring systems to allow for more evidence-based policies promoting equality of opportunity to UUEAS jobs.
 - b. To remove the visa requirement section of UUEAS job application from the view for those short-listing candidates to protect nationality as a protected characteristic under equality law.
 - c. To undertake a review of UUEAS jobs to identify which are eligible for Tier 5 or Tier 2 visas and to state on job postings if the job advert qualifies for a Tier 2 or Tier 5 visa.
6. Encourage other unions in the region to implement the same policy to broaden the options for international students.

1691 Scrap NHS Fees for International Students

Passed 5 March 15

Proposer: Styliani (Stela) Glakousaki, International Student Officer

Seconder: Yinbo Yu, Activities and Opportunities Officer

Union Notes:

1. The immigration Act of 2014 introduced, along with other things, NHS fees for migrants. As it stands now, International students should have to pay £150 to have access to NHS. A discounted fee, from £200. Again, as it stands now, students will have to pay when they apply for their visas.
2. It has not yet been clarified if current students that re-apply for visas, or apply for extensions whether they will have to pay the fee or not.
3. The motion to 'Scrap the NHS fees' was passed in the NUS International Conference.

Union Beliefs:

1. The NHS fees introduced with the Immigration Act of 2014 should not be pushed on International students.
2. No International student should have to pay the NHS fees. In particular, current International students as they decided to study in this country under different conditions.
3. The Universities recruiting International students, under their Internalisation strategy should take the responsibility to provide healthcare to their students.
4. Students are less likely to need access to healthcare on a recurrent basis and not likely to abuse the healthcare system.
5. All students within any University and College should have equal access to healthcare and other services to have equal access to a successful education.
6. If all universities and colleges came together to create a Health insurance scheme, it would be cheaper than the current NHS charge for International students.

Union Resolves:

1. To campaign for the University to provide free healthcare to International students until the NHS fees are removed completely either through:
 - a. Paying the fees for NHS, initially
 - b. Or to create a Health insurance scheme for International students created in partnership with other UK Universities and colleges, in which if a healthcare emergency exists then students have direct access to healthcare.
2. To work together with University to scrap the NHS fees for International students to ensure the equality within the University, by and keep promoting the diversity within their University.
3. To campaign to make the University to input in their Internalisation strategy that they will make sure that comprehensive healthcare will be equally accessible for all their students and provide it too!

1693 Why is there no 'no gluten'?

Passed 5 March 15

Proposer: Vraj Patel (PHA UG Other YR)

Secunder: Holly Staynor (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer)

Union Notes

1. That many people who keep a gluten-free diet do so out of necessity rather than choice.
2. Though there are a few small gluten-free snacks available across campus, there is almost nothing substantial.
3. Some days, there is only one gluten-free option in Zest.
4. There are only a couple of gluten-free sandwiches/wraps available in The Shop.

Union Believes

1. That every catering outlet on campus should seek to provide a range of products for all dietary needs wherever possible.

Union Resolves

1. To mandate the Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer to investigate providing more gluten-free options in union outlets.
2. To mandate the Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer to lobby the university to provide more gluten free products in their catering outlets.
3. To educate students about the importance of making gluten free products available.

