

1362 Postgraduate Community and Social Provision Passed 13 March 2013

Proposer: John Taylor (Postgraduate Officer)

Seconder: Josh Bowker (Academic Officer)

Union Notes:

1. Recent figures from The Survey (2013) show that a low percentage of Postgraduate Research students (PGR) and Taught Masters (PGT) students feel that the LCR club nights and gigs are of importance to them¹.
2. The only social facility provided centrally specifically for Postgraduate students (PGR+PGT) is the Graduates' Bar in Union House.
3. Specific Postgraduate study facilities are provided in the Library.
4. The PGR Executive team are currently looking into providing more social spaces, specifically for PGR students.
5. UUEAS sabbatical officers rarely have experience of Postgraduate life.
6. In December 2011 there were 2496 PGT, 1047 PGR and 9971 Undergraduates: Postgraduates form 26% of UEA's student population.
7. The annual grant given to the Graduate Students' Association is currently £5869 (£1.66 per Postgraduate per year).

Union Believes:

1. PGT and PGR students have largely different requirements for social provision than those currently provided by UUEAS.
2. Postgraduates often move their entire lives to Norwich in order to study here, and consideration should be given to their social welfare as well as their academic provision.
3. When taken out of the academic framework, looking purely at a social level, PGT and PGR students have much in common with each other.
4. The social community of all Postgraduate students is enriched by encouraging as much interaction between PGR and PGT students from all faculties as possible.
5. PGR-specific social spaces at Faculty or School level, while important, will fragment the Postgraduate community, and so centrally provided facilities should be given equal importance to ensure the community thrives.
6. When choosing how to spend money on social provision for Postgraduates, full consultation should be carried out with students before decisions are made, to ensure what is proposed is actually what students want.
7. The structure of UEA's budgetary system should not dictate the social provision for Postgraduates.
8. The current Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) question 22 is a leading question regarding social space, with restrictive options that may skew results².

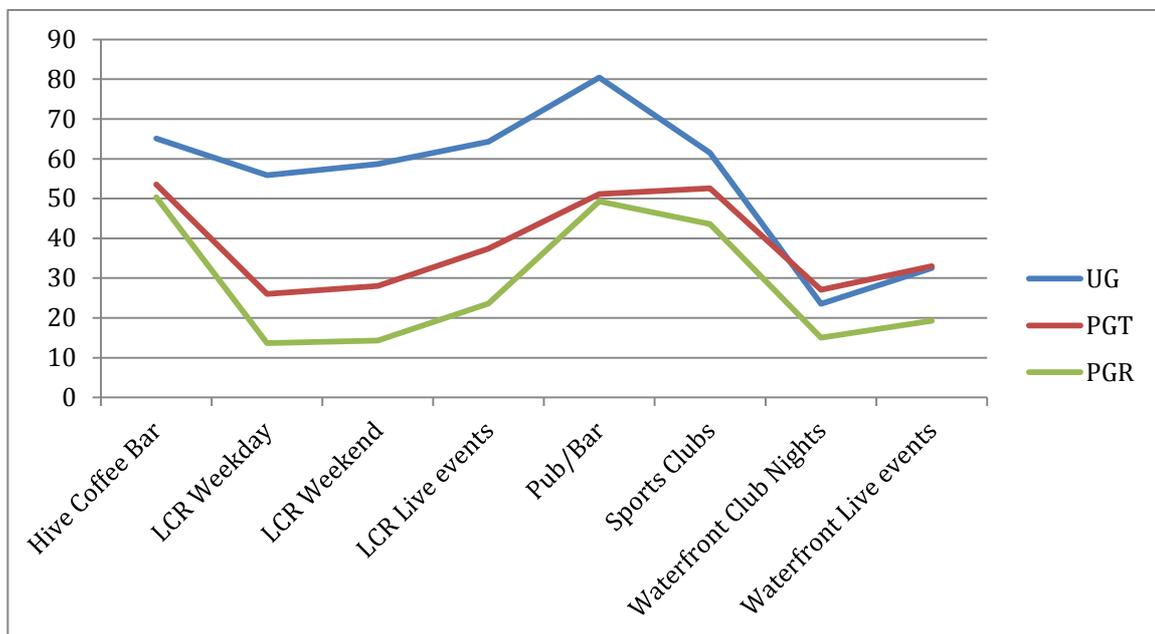
Union Resolves:

1. To lobby the University to increase the grant given to the Graduate Students' Association to allow it to provide a more suitable social programme for Postgraduates.

2. To mandate the Communities and Welfare officer to write to the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise to demand that student views are taken into account when spending money on social spaces.
3. To mandate the Academic Officer to write to the Survey Office and PGR Office to ask that Question 22 of the PRES survey not be used to decide University policy due to its leading nature.
4. To lobby the University to consider Postgraduates as a whole when providing social spaces or programmes, and to encourage social integration rather than segregation.

[1] The Survey:

Percentage of respondents who indicated that these social facilities were 'very important' or 'somewhat important' to them.



[2] Question 22 of PRES Survey:

22. Social space provision for research students.

The following questions pertain to the provision for social spaces for research students. Please tick all that apply for each question below.

	School common room for postgraduate research students only	School common room for students and staff	Faculty common room for postgraduate research students only	Faculty common room for students and staff	University common room for postgraduate research students only	Café facilities for postgraduate students	Graduate bar in the Students Union building	None of these facilities	Other (please specify)
a. Which of the following do you have access to?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/>
b. Which of the following do you use regularly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/>
c. Which of the following would you use regularly if it were provided?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/>