



BRISTOL SU
the best student life

The Richmond Building
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www.bristolsu.org.uk

Student Council
29th of October 2015

Motion Name: Commitment to BME welfare and attainment

Background:

1. The ethnicity attainment gap is a national crisis, with BME students 20% less likely to achieve a first or upper second-class degree compared to their white counterparts, despite having entered with the same A-level grades.
2. The UoB is particularly unrepresentative of BME students. Only 10.7% of UoB home students are BME, compared with the national UK average of 20.6%. In the graduating year of 2015, only 51 final year graduates were Black.
3. According to research conducted, BME students of UoB are less likely to agree that their feedback on their course is listened to and valued compared to their white counterparts, whereas nationally BME students are significantly more likely to report this.
4. According to NUS liberate the curriculum research 34% of Black students feel unable to bring their perspectives as Black students to their lectures/seminars.
5. BME students at Bristol are significantly less likely to agree that assessment arrangements and marking have been fair compared to their white counterparts.
6. According to the UoB Equality and Diversity review, BME students are four times more likely to obtain a third in the university degree than their white counterparts.
7. The UoB transparency of student satisfaction percentages for marginalised, unrepresented groups at Bristol is unsatisfactory.
8. There is a lack of sufficient research into the issues resulting in the BME attainment gap and how it affects BME students of intersectioning identities and liberation groups (i.e. Women, LGBTQ, Disabled)
9. Focusing only on access to education fails to address the issues affecting student retention.
10. Statistical data on BME International students satisfaction, retention and attainment is absent and insufficient.

Purpose:

If the motion is successful, what do you want to achieve? What's your vision for the future?

1. Bristol SU recognises that the attainment gap is systematic of many issues relating to racism within education, including but not limited to the Eurocentricity of the curriculum, experiences of overt and covert racism and microaggressions within institutions, lack of diversity within student body and faculty, poor pastoral care towards BME students, lack of student support services and other institutional and systematic failures within the academy on a national level.
2. With UoB having one of the lowest numbers of BME students of any Russell Group University (16th out of 24), it is imperative that Bristol SU and UoB act to dismantle the structural inequalities faced by BME students.

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3. Deficit models in addressing the attainment gap, which problematizes BME students are both problematic and ineffective.
4. When articulating and developing solutions to the attainment gap, issues should be centred around structural failures in dealing with racism and highlight the responsibility of institutions to proactively address it, not problematise BME students.
5. Commitment to BME students' welfare, representation and attainment should be at the focus of Bristol SU in accordance with its core values of equality and diversity.

Action:

How are we going to make your vision happen?

1. Bristol SU recognises that the BME attainment gap, both in Bristol and nationally is a result of institutional and structural inequalities in the academia.
2. Bristol SU commits to the welfare, representation, retention and attainment of BME students, with BME students leading on the means and mechanisms to achieve this.
2. Lobby the UoB to sign up to the race equality charter
3. Establish a BME Student Staff Network
4. Create and implement an 'Equality and Diversity Audit' in each faculty in order to monitor BME attainment and Satisfaction results.
5. Create a clear, transparent review on BME student engagement with Bristol SU and review on BME students' experience with the union.
6. Create a pastoral support service for BME students and staff.
7. Train course-reps in curriculum diversity

Proposed by:

Your first and last name: Noha Abu El Magd and Hannah Dualeh

Seconder first and last name: Laura Ho

Seconder student number: Postgraduate Students Officer

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