



LEEDS BECKETT STUDENTS' UNION

making students' lives better

POL-2016-17-009

Proposed: Kelly-anne Watson

Seconded: Meg Robinson

Passed: December 2016

Expiry Date: October 2019

STUDENT REPRESENTATION IN THE COMMUNITY

This Union Notes

1. The Students' Union's vision is to 'Make Students' Lives Better'
2. Many of the factors that affect students' lives, both positively and negatively, occur in the communities where they live and not just on campus – including issues such as crime and safety, social justice, transport, housing, the environment, arts and culture.
3. There is currently no designated responsibility for communities representation on the Student Council.
4. Much of the Students' Unions community work is currently led and supported by the Student Volunteering team, but has no clearly defined officer support.
5. The Student Volunteering team is developing a network of Community Rep volunteers in residential areas with high student populations.

This Union Believes

1. The Students' Union should be seeking to increase the presence of its elected representatives at key community events and meetings, such as those organised by Leeds City Council, Residents' Associations, or West Yorkshire Police.
2. That particular areas of the Students' Union's work benefit from when they are well supported by elected officers.
3. Students feeling more integrated in represented in the communities where they live will have a wider positive impact on their wellbeing.
4. That establishing a network of key contacts in the wider community, including MPs, Councillors and others with decision-making powers, will open doors to extra funding opportunities, increase our influence over decisions, and make it easier to respond quickly to issues raised in student communities.

This Union Resolves

1. To create the position of 'Communities Representative' to sit on the Student Council, with full membership rights (see appendix 1), and to be elected by cross-campus ballot.
2. To change the current role title of 'VP Welfare' to 'VP Welfare and Community'
3. Within the current Byelaws of Leeds Beckett Students' Union, related to the VP Welfare role description, to replace:

5.4.5 attend relevant meetings within the University/Leeds area to promote the best interests of the membership with regards to this portfolio

with the following three points:

- Work closely with the volunteering and community team to encourage students to be more active within the community both within the university and local area.
- Work closely with the campus police officer to ensure collaboration on projects, campaigns, and issues.
- Represent students at meetings with local residents, Leeds City Council, police, landlords on issues such as housing, student safety and environmental.

Appendix 1 – Communities Representative Role Description

- To work alongside the VP Welfare/VP Welfare and Community on projects and campaigns related to crime and safety, social justice, housing, transport, the environment, arts and culture.
- To maintain regular contact with the network of volunteer Community Reps to ensure that ideas and issues raised are acted on appropriately.
- To bring forward policies to Student Council relating to issues that students are facing in their communities.