



## **Annual Members Meeting** **23/02/2017**

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**Motion Name:** Make it policy to have specific accessibility information for events available upfront

**Background:**

1. Currently, at University, many events do not include any accessibility information. When they do, the tendency is to have a one-liner saying "please let us know if you have any accessibility requirements", putting the onus on disabled students and potential attendees themselves to request access information.
2. This creates extra admin tasks for disabled students, who are already at a disadvantage in their studies in many aspects.
3. While some requirements do necessitate prior warning, much information can be simply made available upfront, avoiding the necessity for students to disclose and creating less admin for everyone.

Relevant writing about the issue include:

- <https://phdisabled.wordpress.com/2014/10/30/event-organizers-give-access-information-up-front-please/>
- <https://phdisabled.wordpress.com/2016/02/11/on-the-death-of-disabled-access-information-in-philosophical-events/>
- <https://naomijacobs.wordpress.com/2015/06/18/neuroqueering-academia-conference-accessibility-pt-1-neurodiversity/>
- <https://ohmyfrenchness.co.uk/en/home/accessibility-conferences/>

(disclaimer: this one was written by me)

**Purpose:**

1. The purpose of this idea is to make it easier for students who have access needs to know beforehand whether they will be able to attend an event. Access does not simply include whether wheelchair users will be able to get into the room, and I would like to see a University where people who organise events - any kind of event

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HAVE to think to themselves: what can I do to make this event more accessible?  
What is already in place?

2. This request is on the back of a current event at UCL, where a Judith Butler lecture was held in an inaccessible venue:

<https://butlighthouse.wordpress.com/2017/02/11/why-we-have-to-fight-for-access-to-theory-judith-butler-and-the-ucl-lecture/>

**Action:**

1. For Bristol SU to work with the Disabled Students Network and the University's 'Getting things Changed' project group (a group of disabled students at the University looking at improvements for disabled students) to create an Accessibility Checklist for events. This checklist would encourage best practice to ensure events are accessible. It would encourage event organisers to consider the accessibility of the event prior, improve any accessibility issues if possible and then to ensure people know how accessible the event is.
2. For Bristol SU to follow this checklist and encourage student groups to use it too.
3. For Bristol SU to lobby the University to also use this checklist.

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