



The Big Debate Briefing

Joining Information:

Date of Event:	30 th January 2018
Event Title	“Why does prevent divide opinion, come and have your say?”
Start/Finish:	17:00 / 19.00
Event Location:	The Metro Bar and Kitchen The University of Bedfordshire The Campus Centre University Square Luton, LU1 3JU
WIFI Arrangements:	Users will with an Eduroam account will be able to log in directly to the WIFI. For those without an Eduroam account guest WIFI is available following registration.
Arrival Arrangements:	Internal guests can report direct at the venue from 16.30 onwards. External Guests: Please report to the reception located on the ground of the campus centre building and sign in as a visitor.

Getting To The Venue:

Directions to the Luton Campus including campus maps can be found online at:
<https://www.beds.ac.uk/about-us/campuses/luton>

Structure of The Debate:

The debate will be structured as follows:

1. Opening remarks from each panel member to last no more than five minutes which should outline their views in relation to the present agenda.
2. The panel will then have a chance to question each other and challenge any remarks from the opening statements.
3. Questions will then be opened to the floor for contributions, remarks and questions that can be directed at single or all panellists.
4. To close the event each panellist will deliver their closing remarks which should last no more than five minutes per panellists.
5. The debate will be chaired by the President of the Students' Union who will take a neutral stance on the topic being debated.

Equal Opportunities Statement:

Guests should familiarise themselves with the following equal opportunities statement and ensure they uphold it during the debate at all times:

Beds SU firmly believes:

- That the Beds SU exists to provide for and represent its members
- That no person should be discriminated against on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, health, sex and sexual orientation, religion or belief (including lack of), race, ethnicity and nationality.
- No form of discrimination will be tolerated.
- It is the duty of Beds SU to actively campaign to prevent discriminatory attitudes and actions within the Students' Union.
- The students and staff should be treated based on personality, respectfulness, merit, ability and potential.

Freedom of Speech Policy:

Guests should familiarise themselves with the following freedom of speech policy and ensure they uphold it during the debate at all times:

The Union Notes:

- The 1984 Education Act places responsibility on Universities to ensure freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students and employees of the establishment and for visiting speakers.
- The present duty places responsibility on the University to ensure it has systems in place for assessing and mitigating risks around external speakers and events on campus, while maintaining the existing duty to promote freedom of speech.

- The University and the Union provide numerous opportunities to engage in active debate and expression of views as part of the curriculum, extra curriculum, co-curricular and public policy events.
- The Unions strategic plan includes a priority of ensuring the Union delivers opportunities that are shaped by students, offer personal development and ensure a collaborative. All three of these priorities can be aided through open discussion and debate.
- The Universities Strategic plan includes a priority to Work in partnership with our students to incorporate the student voice at every level of decision-making within the university, register students to vote, ensure a diversity of students engage in leadership roles and student societies and support a culture of free and open debate.

The Union Believes:

- Freedom of speech is an important part of an educational journey and should be preserved.
- Inclusion in discussion and debate is a highly valuable educational tool and can help with understanding and broadening horizons.
- Freedom of speech should not be confused with discrimination and hate crime which will under no circumstances be tolerated by the Union.
- A partnership approach with joint initiatives alongside the University is the best approach to ensure quality opportunities to express freedom of speech on campus.
- Discussion and debate surrounding citizenship should be embedded in the curriculum including assignments as a mandatory element of each course.

The Union Resolves:

- To run a minimum of three Big SU debates on an annual academic basis in partnership with the University.
- To ensure adequate support and resource is provided for student groups based around the principle of freedom of speech and discussion/debate.
- To ensure external speakers are only denied as a last result when conditions cannot be put in place to ensure the prevention of hate crime, radicalisation or discrimination.
- To impact analyse any existing Beds SU policies and procedures that may inhibited or prevent open discussion and debate on campus.

- To work directly with the University to ensure discussion and debate surrounding citizenship is embedded in the curriculum including assignments as a mandatory element of each course.