



## **Executive Committee**

**11<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

### **Update on implementation of policy**

**Prepared by:** Sarah Haider, Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire)

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Distributed to:** Executive Committee

This paper provides an overview of current live policy. The Executive Committee are asked to provide an update on progress.

#### **Policy 1: Close Inactive Clubs and Societies Accounts**

**Responsible:** Sarah Haider, Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire)

##### **Union Resolves:**

1. To advertise the Clubs and Societies that have been inactive for up to 2 years on the Union website to give students the opportunity to restart these Clubs and Societies.

**Update:** No progress

2. To close the accounts of Clubs and Societies that have been inactive for 3 years or more, on the basis that no students have shown an interest to restart them.

**Update:** Completed

3. To add the funds of the inactive accounts to the Clubs and Societies Grant pot, so that all Clubs and Societies have equal access to this extra funding.

**Update:** Completed

#### **Policy 2: Introduction of a Mature Students' Rep**

**Responsible:** Grace Anderson, Academic Officer

**Update:** The amendment to Bye Law 11 to include a Mature Students' Rep was not approved by the Student Council

### **Policy 3: ATOS-MAXIMUS Off Campus**

**Responsible: Sammi Whitaker, President; Alice Goodheart, Disabled Students' Rep (Chelmsford) and Lauren Fidler, Environmental & Community Rep (Cambridge)**

#### **Union Resolves:**

1. That the union should work with NUS Disabled Students Campaign to campaign against ATOS/MAXIMUS, and the DWP where relevant.

**Update: No progress**

2. That the union should not enter into any partnership with ATOS/MAXIMUS whether that be them delivering accredited courses or recruiting employers at our University, in such a case the Students' Union will encourage and lobby the university to not invite them onto campus.

**Update: No progress**

3. That the union should encourage the University to condemn ATOS/MAXIMUS and the DWP for their harmful role in disability assessment.

**Update: N/A as of yet**

4. That the union should stand in solidarity with local groups that oppose the DWP/ATOS/MAXIMUS for their continual harm of using benefit sanctions for minor reasons, and forcing at risk groups of people, whether disabled or non-disabled, to rely on hardship payments or food banks.

**Update: Completed**

### **Policy 4: Specific Trans Student Reps**

**Responsible: Sarah Haider, Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire) and Leigh Rooney, Experience Officer (Essex)**

**Update: The position(s) were added to Bye Law 11 however no student stood in the last election**

### **Policy 5: Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment**

**Responsible: Grace Anderson, Academic Officer; Sarah Haider, Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire); Torrie Martin, Welfare Campaigns Rep (Cambridge); Emma Houghton, Welfare Campaigns Rep (Chelmsford) and Stewart Watson, Sports Club Rep (Cambridge)**

#### **Union Resolves:**

1. For Anglia Ruskin Students' Union to actively adopt the zero tolerance to sexual harassment policy.
2. For the union and students to work together to create a plan of action and how to effectively put into place.
3. To seek guidance from NUS Women's Campaign.

4. To adopt the NUS definition of sexual harassment in the zero tolerance campaign.

Update: Work still do be done – but Anglia Ruskin Students' Union do not tolerate sexual harassment in any of its events and/or activities

#### **Policy 6: What a 'Bloody' Joke**

**Responsible: Sammi Whitaker, President; Mille Smith, Women's Rep (Cambridge) and Michelle Rogers, Women's Rep (Chelmsford)**

##### **Union Resolves:**

1. To help with students who may be struggling to buy sanitary products we should do all we can to lower their costs in our SU shop.
2. We should sell sanitary products in our SU shop for the same price that the shop buys them in for. Therefore reducing the cost as much as possible without the SU shop losing any money.

Update: The Students' Union sell sanitary products not for profit and we are considering (this is ongoing) providing free sanitary products for students

#### **Policy 7: Support the Living Wage**

**Responsible: Grace Anderson, Academic Officer; Sarah Haider, Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire) and Sammi Whitaker, President**

##### **Union Resolves:**

1. The SU should pay their student staff the living wage for their work, and in conjunction with this, the SU should work with students on a campaign to ask the university to pay their staff the living wage, as this is an issue that effects everyone.

Update: This had to go to the Board of Trustees due to its financial impact – however it was approved and will be implemented by 2017 but a campaign has not yet taken place to lobby the university to pay all of their staff the living wage

#### **Policy 8: Changing the Structure of Loan Payments**

**Responsible: Sarah Haider, Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire) and Leigh Rooney, Experience Officer (Essex)**

##### **Union Resolves:**

1. For the Union to campaign for the provision of more flexible loan payments. This may include monthly (over 12 months), monthly (term-time only) and termly options for payment. This should include the opportunity for students to alter their payment schedule with each annual re-application.

Update: No progress

2. To also provide guidance in the form of (e.g.) workshops / talks / leaflets on money management and budgeting for students - in particular during freshers.

**Update: No progress**

3. To submit a policy to NUS National Conference to consult with students regarding increased flexibility in the loan payment schedule; to Lobby Student Finance England as above, and if implementation of a new system is successful, to work with Student Finance England to provide students with guidance in selecting payment options.

**Update: The policy was taken to National Conference and was approved, a further follow up is required**

### **Policy 10: No Platform Policy**

**Responsible: Sammi Whitaker, President**

#### **Union Resolves:**

1. Not to allow any group or individual who is proscribed by the relevant United Kingdom Terrorism Acts to enter union premises or speak at a union event\*.
2. Not to allow any group or individual who has a conviction for any offence in relation to United Kingdom anti-discrimination legislation to enter union premises or speak at a union event.

\* The current list of proscribed organisations can be located at the below link (as at February 2015)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/397683/Proscription-20150123.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397683/Proscription-20150123.pdf)

**Update: All external speakers have to go through our External Speaker Policy which is interlinked with the No Platform Policy**

### **Policy 11: Introducing Audio Recordings for Lectures With Little or No Visual Aids**

**Responsible: Grace Anderson, Academic Officer; Sarah Haider, Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire) and Lauren Fidler, Environmental & Community Rep (Cambridge)**

#### **Union Resolves:**

1. Actively encourage university staff, where necessary, to make recordings of lectures available.
2. To speak to Course Reps on various courses to find out if this is already taking place, and where there is a need for it.
3. To support Course Reps in getting this implemented on their courses.

4. For the Students' Union to regularly feedback on progress of this being implemented.

Update: No progress

### **Policy 12: Gender Neutral Toilet**

**Responsible: Sarah Haider, Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire) and Leigh Rooney, Experience Officer (Essex)**

#### **Union Resolves:**

1. To petition Estates and Facilities to create a policy to enforce that all university owned buildings have GNTs in each building.

Update: Ongoing

2. To request that all Executive Officers of the Student Union actively encourage Estates and Facilities to develop GNTs for future building developments, and to encourage Estates and Facilities to change currently built toilets to be converted to GNTs.

Update: The future development of campus(es) are planned to have GNTs, however no progress to change anything currently

3. To actively review, amend and change policy for future developments that use gendered signage, such as the changing room facilities for the gym.

Update: The future development of campus(es) are planned to have GNTs, however no progress to change anything currently

4. To have a main point of contact within the Student's Union to answer any concerns about GNTs from students, media requests, or members of the public.

Update: There is currently an LGBT+ Students' Rep in Cambridge and Leigh Rooney, Experience Officer (Essex) is the point of contact in Chelmsford, however all full-time officers are available as required

### **Policy 13: Where my Rent went? (Lower Accommodation costs)**

**Responsible: Sarah Haider, Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire); Sophie May, Communications Officer; Nanci Tareco, International Rep (Cambridge) and Precious Nwanze, International Rep (Chelmsford)**

#### **Union Resolves:**

1. To run a campaign to look into support for International students seeking accommodation.
2. To work with the local councils on ensuing Admin fees & other fees related to accommodation are all fair and legal within the Private Rented sector.

**Policy 14: Up your grants**

**Responsible: Sarah Haider, Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire) and Leigh Rooney, Experience Officer (Essex)**

**Union Resolves:**

1. To increase the grant pots by 20% each per year for both Cambridgeshire & Chelmsford campuses.
2. That this increase becomes part of the newly reform Clubs and Societies Bye-Law (currently Bye-Law 5)
3. For this money to be sought from Union budgets that do not relate to Clubs and Societies activities and Extra-curricular student experience.
4. To lobby the University to continue to fund off campus facility hire.