

“LIBERATE THE CURRICULUM” POLICY

Title:	Liberate the Curriculum	Date of Student Council:	25 th April 2018
Proposer name:	Laura Douds		Vice President (Science & Technology)
Seconder name:	Luca Girardi		LGBT+ Students' Rep (Cambridge)

Union Notes:

1. LGB and trans issues are not likely to come up in students' curriculums, and LGB and trans students are less likely to say their history and experiences are represented in their courses. [1]
2. The Let's Be Honest report found that LGBT students are more likely to be stressed, and that social pressure and social isolation were disproportionately likely to contribute to this.
3. The Black Attainment Gap (or BME Attainment Gap) has been evidenced since at least 2007. Black students are up to 27.4% less likely to get a first class or 2:1 degree than white students. [2]
4. ARU is 17th-worst in the country for the BME attainment gap in first-class degrees with a gap of 22%. [3]
5. According to NUS, “One in 10 trans students never feel comfortable to speak up in class and almost one in four women do not feel comfortable to do so.” [4]

[1] <https://www.nus.org.uk/Global/lgbt-research.pdf>

[2] <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/liberation/black-students/equality-in-education/attainment-gap-2017>

[3] <https://wonkhe.com/blogs/analysis-universities-shame-black-attainment-gap/>

[4] <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/liber8-education/liberate-the-curriculum>

Union Believes:

1. That including appropriate people of every minority group within the curriculum can only be a good thing.
2. That tackling the curriculum issues we have regarding minority/liberation groups will be one way to reduce attainment gaps and drop-out rates.
3. That including more BME, LGBT+, female and disabled authors in the reading lists and in-class, students will subconsciously feel more supported and have a better sense of belonging.
4. That this should not be the only way we attempt to influence students within these groups to feel included and better their experience.

Union Resolves:

1. To lobby the university so that LGBT+, disabled, BME, and women's issues should be included in the curriculums where appropriate. This should be addressed in an intersectional way.
2. Lobby the university to include liberation in the new education strategy.

3. That the Union will continue to support appropriate other methods of helping students feel included, such as through history months, societies and other events, and will embed accessibility in the heart of everything it does.
4. Lobby and work with the university to close the attainment gaps that exist through both the curriculum **and** other means (**such as, but not necessarily** through working with the EDI group, student retention groups and access agreements).

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