


ARU STUDENTS' UNION Accessibility and Signage Policy

Title:	Accessibility and Signage Policy	Date of Student Council:	20 th April
Proposer name:	Mary Copsey	Role:	Vice President (Business and Law faculty)
Seconder name:	Emma Scriven	Role:	Disabled student rep

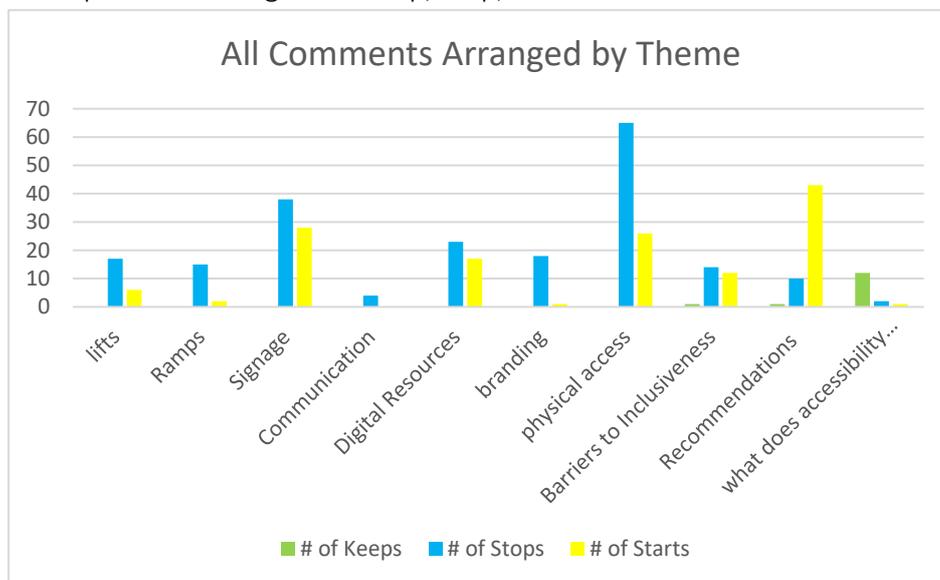
Union Notes:

1. The University states that one of their key value is community “We greatly value working collaboratively, supporting each other and helping everyone to achieve their potential” <https://aru.ac.uk/about-us/our-mission-and-values>. It is noted that students have stated that, having an accessible campus impacts their student experience and sense of belonging.
2. ARU Has an accessibility statement for their digital resources - <https://aru.ac.uk/accessibility-statement>
3. That currently many of the University buildings aren’t accessible for disabled people.
4. The Marconi suites in Chelmsford, Ruskin suites in the Ruskin building and Compass house Cambridge do not have 24/7 access which is leaving students at a disadvantage.
5. There is a lack of signage around campus with areas of unclear signage that requires urgent updating.
6. The Union has an inclusion fund which aim is to remove barriers to participation and engagement with Students’ Union activity for any students who may incur extra costs in order to take part: <https://www.angliastudent.com/advice/inclusivity/fund/>
7. The university’s Disability support service offers support for student reasonable adjustments
8. It is currently unclear who’s responsibility it is to maintain all physical access and signage maintenance
9. The university is legally required to meet the minimum requirements of accessibility.
10. ARU’s Access Audit is 19 years out of date (completed in 2001) and urgently needs to be renewed.

Throughout Trimester 1 in 2019/20 a student consultation was held as part of the ARU Accessible Campaign on both Cambridge and Chelmsford campus to bring forth the student voice and outline any accessibility themes that negatively impact our student body. The comments below quote current student experience at ARU:

- **Comment 1:** “Classrooms are difficult to access and spacing between desks is often insufficient”
- **Comment 2:** “Living on campus as a disabled student is not accessible, especially on weekends if I have to go shopping and only door that is open is Helmore”
- **Comment 3:** “The ramp outside Mumford/Ruskin building which lead to SU is too long and steep. I struggle to wheel myself up that ramp. A few students that have helped me up the ramp, have complained on how hard it is push me up the ramp. The struggle is not only with me but with other fairly able students”
- **Comment 4:** “Small lifts are limiting student access”
- **Comment 5:** “it is challenging finding buildings and classrooms around campus because there is no signage”

The graph below outlines student feedback from the report created from the ARUaccessible campaign data. The themes from the report are arranged via keep, stop, and start.



Union Believes:

1. Every student and staff member should have 24/7 access across all university buildings.
2. That all Student Union and University spaces should be fully accessible to all disabled people.
3. We believe that the university should allocate more disabled parking for students
4. All lifts, ramps, handrails, buildings, lectures/classrooms, disabled parking and disabled toilets should be clearly signposted and made accessible for everyone.
5. The university should have clear and accessible signage should be available across all campuses.
6. No student should not be left at a disadvantage at weekends due to limited access on campus.

Union Resolves:

1. To lobby the university to provide clear and accurate signage.
2. To campaign for ARU to publicise their accessibility policies and make them easily locatable
3. To commit to creating an Accessibility Statement.
4. To commit to creating an SU Pledge to ensure we are transparent with our student body around accessibility.
5. To lobby the University to carry out an access audit and monitor that the recommendations of this positively impact students.
6. To lobby for 24/7 access to buildings for students
7. To include accessibility training for all volunteer roles throughout the union including, reps, volunteers and society members.
8. To campaign Estates and Facilities to create university regulations which ensure that all university owned buildings have accessible facilities in every building.
9. To campaign for all lifts, ramps, handrails, buildings, lectures/classrooms, disabled parking and disabled toilets to meet health and safety requirements in order to be accessible for everyone.