

Current SU Policy Updates-Student Council 30/11/2020

Definition of Policy: An idea that student/s, submit to Student Council, which they believe will improve the student experience. Once passed by Student Council, policies are binding for three years so the Union must ensure they are progressed during that time, often by working with the University to effect a change somewhere.

Policy Title	Summary	Update (Updates since the last Student Council are in bold .)
1. Inclusive Title for Representative of BAME students	This policy sets out to rename the Ethnic Minority Officer to the Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Officer (BAME Officer).	Done and name was used following consultations for the Governance Review for the new BAME Network. Council should note that the BAME Network is currently reviewing their name.
2. Dedicated Parking for Motorcycles	This policy mandated the SU to lobby the University for dedicated motorcycle parking and lockers for helmets.	New bays located in front of Evesham halls and Edward Elgar Additional lockers to secure helmets not achieved
3. Supporting Improvement in Mental Health Services for PGR (Postgraduate Research) Students	This mandate the SU to support the University's bid for funding from the HEFCE Catalyst fund to support the improvement in mental health services for postgraduate research (PGR) students at the University of Worcester	The funding was not granted but the SU committed to working on this issue. Academic and Welfare Advisor has made very good inroads to this and attended Task and Finish Group in Research School looking at MH support for PGR Students. We are about to launch new Help and Advice webpages for PGR students including information on MH. Much closer collaborative generally between SU and Research School and PGR Forum Standard wording gone into PGR academic documents about help and support available in SU We are also working with the PGR network to create more opportunities for students to meet and interact including the introduction of physical and virtual writing workshops.

4. Peoples Vote	Worcester Students' Union to align with NUS and to support the campaign for a 'People's Vote and a final say on Brexit'.	This was supported by the SU and students enabled to attend 3 PV marches in London. Brexit has now happened
5. Shuttle bus between City Campus and St Johns Campus	We wish for the student council to lobby the university to provide a shuttlebus service between city campus and St Johns Campus in the evenings when lectures are scheduled.	No progress made. Night bus ran for Semester 1 of 2019/2020 but shelved by University due to cost. Discussions ongoing in next steps
6. PGR Network	This policy enables the University of Worcester Postgraduate Research (PGR) Network to affiliate to the Students' Union. It proposes that during the governance review period it runs as a pilot project subject to the bye-laws for societies with some exceptions	<p>The Postgraduate Network has been running as part of the SU since the policy was passed. Following the implementation of the Governance Review it has expanded to include postgraduate taught students and is fully integrated into our structures. Memberships are available on the SU website but challenges remain regarding student sign up to the network. Event attendance has improved with SU support but is still lower than the committee would like. The SU is continuing to work with the committee to strengthen the network and is trialling Microsoft Teams as a communication tool for the network.</p> <p>There is now a new committee for the Network and the SU is in the process of arranging a meeting with them. This was delayed when the Student Networks and Volunteering Assistant was furloughed.</p>
7. Societies in Open Days	This policy seeks to rally the university to include community-based societies within the University Open Day programme. Community-based societies would include but not be limited to, the African and Caribbean Society, LGBTQ+ Society, Student Minds Society, and the Student Parent	This is now normally offered out to societies with variable engagement – difficult to mandate societies to take part in Open Days but they are encouraged to do so in 2019/2020 by gaining TeamWorc points. It is currently suspended due to COVID-19

	Network.	
8. LGBT and Officer Name	This renamed the LGBT Officer as the LGBTQ+ Officer.	Done and the new network is now LGBTQ+ Network.
9. Single Use Plastic	This policy signed up the Students' Union to the Plastic Free Worcester initiative and for the organisation to work towards plastic free status.	<p>Ongoing – Discussions continue with E&F and Aramark on eradication, wherever possible, or single use plastic (other alternatives being investigated but some have an even higher carbon footprint than SUP). Water urns now provided in 53.3 as a result of lobbying.</p> <p>Hangar no longer uses plastic straws or SUP glasses – reusable plastic glasses purchased.</p> <p>Plastic cutlery in canteen?</p> <p>Plastic bags still being used in shop – to be addressed</p> <p>SU has a compost bin and Sustainability corner offering lots of advice</p> <p>Plans to lobby Uni for a 'recycling corner' on campus so it not disparate</p> <p>Worcester Uni halls won the Coca-Cola Recycling League competition</p> <p>We are still to undertake a review of single use plastic used within SU offices. This was discussed at the October meeting of the SU Sustainability Committee and staff members have been actioned to begin the audit.</p>
10. Domestic Air Travel	This policy motion is to reduce domestic air travel within Great Britain for Student Union business e.g. conferences, if the journey is under 400 miles (one way).	Done and in place

<p>11. Standardisation of Blackboard</p>	<p>This mandated the Vice President Education to work with the University in order to standardise Blackboard pages.</p>	<p>Ongoing - There is now a standard template upon the new creation of a Blackboard space (https://staffweb.worc.ac.uk/mediainteractive/Web/Pages/BaselineStandards/index.html). It has been discussed in University committees about the inclusive value of standardising Blackboard (in particular for general information e.g. Academic Integrity) however there is still an element of freedom at a Course level. Lecturers still vary how content is displayed for teaching reasons. The VP Education is continuing to focus on this and will ensure that academic reps and councillors will be involved in future consultations.</p>
<p>12. SU Against Fit to Sit</p>	<p>Worcester Students' Union to oppose any future attempts of the University of Worcester to implement a fit to sit policy. A fit to sit policy would change the mitigating circumstance procedure. For example if a student was ill and sat an exam they would not be able to claim mitigating circumstance because by turning up for the exam they had declared themselves well enough to take the exam.</p>	<p>Still SU Policy – VPE in 2018/19 managed to persuade the University to shelve the policy (following research into practice nationally) for the foreseeable future. Representations made at several committee meetings and concerns raised directly with Deputy Vice Chancellor.</p>
<p>13. Bunching of deadlines and Multiple Assessments</p>	<p>This mandated the Vice President Education to work with the University in order to remove multiple assignment deadlines falling on the same day.</p>	<p>As part of the Change Week 2019 follow up process this issue was raised with the University. The University has, as a result, updated its guidance for course leaders who are now required to have oversight of assessment deadlines across their course. It should be noted that the University has made it clear that complete avoidance of bunching of deadlines is not possible. The issue was raised again by students in Change Week 2020.</p>

<p>14. UWIC Representation</p>	<p>This policy would enable the Students' Union to have a UWIC Representative on Student Council during the consultation and transition period following the outcomes of the governance review</p>	<p>This was completed and a UWIC representative was in place up until the governance review implementation. UWIC now has a permanent representative on Student Council although this is currently vacant due to the later start of the UWIC academic year.</p> <p>COVID-19 has delayed the election of the UWIC representative to Student Council. The Student Engagement Team is working with UWIC to get someone in place.</p>
<p>15. Climate Emergency</p>	<p>Under this policy the SU declared a climate emergency and committed to working towards being carbon neutral by 2030</p>	<p>Policy has been assigned to the SUs Sustainability Committee to consider. Initial discussions took place on 12th October 2020.</p>
<p>16. Discounted Club Memberships for Placement Students</p>	<p>This policy provides students who undertake significant placement hours within their courses with a discounted sports club membership of 25% to make the offering more accessible to these students.</p>	<p>Complete and implemented for 2020-21.</p>
<p>17. Fit to Study</p>	<p>This mandate the VP Education to lobby for a Fitness to Study Policy. A Fitness to Study policy would protect the welfare of a student and the community they live in and allow others to raise cause for concern. Clear processes and procedures would allow both staff and students to raise concerns</p>	<p>Ongoing-VP Education has discussed this policy in the University's Academic Regulations and Governance Committee and has also met the Academic Registrar. The University is now exploring the implementation of the policy and we will ensure Student Council is kept up to date.</p>