

Student Council Motion Proposal

Responsible Freebie Giveaways Policy

Policy Number:	2021-22_001	Policy Date	25/10/2021 (expires 31/07/2024)
Policy Proposer: (Include name and student number)	Lucy Robson (Chair of the Sustainability Network 2020-21)		
Policy Seconder: (Include name and student number)	Meg Price (President 2020-21)		

Summary:

The Students' Union has, in previous years, given out numerous plastic freebies. This policy motion proposes that the SU should look to limit the amount of waste produced through giveaways, stop giving away any single use items and regularly review how giveaways can be more sustainable.

Student Council Notes the Following Facts:

- There is currently no giveaway/freebie policy at the Students' Union.
- Each year (in particular during Welcome Week) hundreds of plastic freebies are given out – many of which end up as waste.
- During the academic year 2020/21, the prevalence of COVID-19 meant that freebies had to be individually wrapped in plastic – this was undesirable from a sustainability point of view and should therefore be reviewed moving forwards. However, Welcome Week was flyer free and this is something which should be considered moving forwards.
- Moving towards more sustainable giveaways such as tote bags and reusable mugs would help reduce waste – however, these may still lead to unwanted waste.

Student Council Holds the Viewpoint That:

- The waste hierarchy (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_hierarchy) shows that prevention and minimisation of waste are the most desirable ways of protecting the environment in this scenario.
- Sustainability, in particular reducing waste, is important to the student body and should therefore be considered when making decisions about freebies provided by the SU and their student groups.

Student Council Resolves to Take the Following Action(s):

- To ensure the SU's sustainability committee, in consultation with the Sustainability Network, reviews freebie giveaways annually (including those by Student Groups) prior to the start of the academic year.
- That any decisions on giveaways should be clearly communicated to student groups and the wider student body prior to Welcome Weekend.
- To ensure the following is reviewed before each freebie is purchased:
 - o How long the freebie can be used for by students (ban single use freebies with the exception of contraception and period poverty projects)
 - o Material and source of the material
 - o Air miles used in supply chain and/or delivery
 - o Ability for freebie to be recycled
- To commit to a flyer free Welcome Weekend from the academic year 2022/23 onwards.