

Student Council Motion Proposal

Your Policy Motion Title Goes Here: SU Against Fit to Sit

Policy Number:	2018-19_011	Policy Date	20/05/19
Policy Proposer: (Include name and student number)	Evie Poole (16009373)		
Policy Seconder: (Include name and student number)	Vicky Reynolds (08009141)		

Summary:

Worcester Students' Union to oppose any future attempts of the University of Worcester to implement a fit to sit policy.

Student Council Notes the Following Facts:

- 'Fit to sit' policies are policies which state that, when a student sits an exam or submits a piece of coursework, they are declaring themselves fit to do so.
- 'Fit' in this context normally means that the student is feeling well and functioning normally. It therefore covers both health-related conditions as well as other personal circumstances.
- A 'fit to sit' policy normally means that if students sit an exam or submit a piece of coursework, they cannot later claim that there were mitigating or extenuating circumstances affecting their performance.
- 'Fit to Sit' policies have become increasingly popular across many types of institutions across the UK. Institutions might find these policies attractive for a number of reasons. For example, they may believe it will reduce the number of mitigating/extenuating circumstances requests and thus the amount of work for institutions, or that their current policies are too easily abused by students unhappy with their performance for reasons other than mitigating/extenuating circumstances.

Student Council Holds the Viewpoint That:

- 'Fit to sit' policies can have an adverse effect on many students, especially those with mental health difficulties. They also create a high-risk scenario for students experiencing mitigating or extenuating circumstances, which is not compatible with an inclusive approach to assessment and is bad for student welfare.
- There are a number of issues with 'fit to sit' policies and how they affect students:
 - 1) Students may find it difficult to accurately assess their own fitness to sit an exam. This may be a bigger concern for students with mental health difficulties but could also occur if an incident influencing a student's fitness happens immediately before an exam and they have not had time to fully consider the incident's likely effect on their performance.
 - 2) For much of students' previous educational experiences, they have been in a culture which encourages them to sit exams even if they are not feeling completely fit. Therefore, they may be unlikely to even consider not sitting an exam, regardless of their fitness to do so. Students may also feel that sitting their exam or submitting coursework on time shows dedication to the course and may be reluctant not to do so.
 - 3) In most cases, if a student does not sit an exam due to not feeling fit for it, and their subsequent mitigating or extenuating circumstances are not accepted, they will receive a mark of zero in their attempt at the exam. This makes deciding whether one is fit to sit a high-risk situation, which is not compatible with an inclusive approach to assessment and can lead to high stress levels for students.

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

The VP Education, School Reps and other elected officers to oppose any future attempts of the University of Worcester to implement a fit to sit policy.