

Policy Motion (Network)

Passed by Welfare and Inclusion Council 26/04/2021

Passed by Student Council: 29/04/2021

WSU Policy Number: 2020-21_009

Policy Proposal-Night Bus Revival

Proposing Students Name:	Lucy Robson
Student Number:	20001226
Seconding Students Name	Tahseen Zaynab Yusuf, Lucy Barugh
Student Number:	19013844, 20009314
Facts: What is the issue you're trying to address? What do we already know about this issue?	
<p>We would like the SU to lobby the University to restart the Night Bus scheme. The Night Bus was a successful scheme in the academic year 2019/20 and provided transport for hundreds of students between St John's Campus and City.</p>	
Impacts: How does this issue affect students, and in what way? Is it negative?	
<p>Many students travel between St John's Campus and the City for various reasons – below we have outlined specific student situations:</p> <p>Commuters: Students who have lectures which finish in the evening do not feel safe walking from St Johns to the city centre and will therefore get picked up in a car. The Commuter's Students Network supports this policy</p> <p>Women students: The tragic death of Sarah Everard has once again highlighted the issue of Women's safety on the streets. Many Women students have come forward to share their stories and express their fears of walking home alone. The Women's Network support this policy.</p> <p>Sustainability: In addition to making students feel safer, the night bus will aid in reducing the University's carbon footprint. The feeling of safety will contribute to better student wellbeing. The night bus aligns with the University's commitment to the SDG Accord by contributing to SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 16 – Climate Action. The night bus will reduce the University's scope 3 carbon emissions; the latest data from the University (2018-19) suggests staff and student commuting emissions have increased by 43% in the past year due to car use. The night bus will boost the University's People and Planet University League score on carbon reduction which is currently 20%. The Sustainability Network support this policy.</p>	

Enabling all students to engage: It will also serve to increase student engagement with evening activities and socials. Some international students are unable to engage with many activities in the evening due to cultural boundaries. The International Students' Network supports this policy.

Students with disabilities: This service would be beneficial for many students with disabilities – particular those with physical disabilities. Members of the disabled students' network have experienced being approached by members of the public whilst travelling back to St John's not on transport. The provision of the night bus would help prevent this. The Disabled Students' Network supports this policy.

There has recently been a plaque placed on Sabrina Bridge in memory of Tom Jones who sadly died after falling into the river when walking home after a night out with friends in Worcester.

The Night Bus was provided for a number of reasons including limiting the footfall of students close to the riverside late in the evening. We appreciate the support of campaigns such as Home and Dry – however, we believe this risk is still present for many students and provision of the bus service would help ensure students safety.

The service was needed before – we understand the break in regards to COVID-19 – however, following society opening back up very little has changed; the service is needed now.

Reacts: What would you like the Students' Union to do to address the issue? How do we need to take it forward?

- SU to lobby the University to restart the scheme. Work with students and Networks to find a viable way to start the scheme.
- Finding out when the evening lectures end will help to establish a timetable.
- Survey students to gather data on: how much they would pay, why they would use the service, what may stop them using it etc. As well as additional information such as how we could promote the bus effectively and how much students would pay to ensure the service is financially viable and sustainable.

The Night Bus was needed in 2019/20 and is still needed now. The SU should investigate and lobby the University to ensure that the Night Bus is reinstated – not just for the academic year 2021/22 but for the foreseeable future – student safety will always matter.