

Student Council Motion Proposal

Your Policy Motion Title Goes Here: Domestic Air Travel

Policy Number:	2018-19_009	Policy Date	26.03.2019
Policy Proposer: (Include name and student number)	Shannon Bolton 16016037		
Policy Seconder: (Include name and student number)	Euan Morrison VP Education		

Summary:

Please give a summary of your policy motion here:

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).

Student Council Notes the Following Facts:

Please outline the facts as they stand:

Although planes reduce journey times and are often more convenient than other modes of transport, it is heavily polluting our environment. At current levels, air travel creates at least 6% of the UK's total carbon dioxide emissions. The department for Transport estimates that this could rise to a third of all emissions by 2050. Jet fuel produces about 10kg of CO₂ emissions per gallon burned and when compared to high-speed electric trains release 29 times more greenhouse gas emissions.

For travelling within Great Britain, domestic air travel is not necessary when alternative, less polluting options such as high-speed trains are available.

Student Council Holds the Viewpoint That:

Noting the facts above why is change needed? Insert in here what you want to change and why:

Reducing domestic air travel within Great Britain for Student Union business will mean that for travelling to conferences a train would be taken instead. Trains emit significantly less carbon per person than planes, so travelling by this method will have a better impact on our environment.

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

Please write in here what actions Student Council will undertake/mandate the Union to undertake, should this motion pass:

Should this motion pass we would be agreeing to ban domestic air travel within Great Britain and as a result taking the train will be the first choice for long distance travels for work. This will not be compulsory if the journey is over 400 miles (one way) and domestic air travel will be allowed if it is the most ecominally sound way of travel.

Student Council Motion Proposal

Your Policy Motion Title Goes Here: **Standardisation of Blackboard**

Policy Number:	2018-19_010	Policy Date	20/05/2019
Policy Proposer: (Include name and student number)	Nathan Marsh (17000785)		
Policy Seconder: (Include name and student number)	Lexi Porter (16011061)		

Summary:

For the Vice President Education to work with the University in order to standardise Blackboard pages.

Student Council Notes the Following Facts:

- The University currently uses Blackboard as its Virtual Learning Environment. (VLE)
- Students have raised their frustrations with the inconsistencies of its use across modules and courses via module evaluation reports, surveys, change week and through their course reps.
- The EU adopted the Web Accessibility Directive to foster better access to the websites and mobile applications underpinning public services – in particular by people with disabilities, and especially persons with vision or hearing impairments.
- The Web Accessibility Directive was transposed into UK law on the 23 September 2018 and has generated obligations for new websites from 2019, for pre-existing websites from 2020, and for all public sector apps from 2021.

Student Council Holds the Viewpoint That:

- The VLE should be setup in a way that is accessible and easy to find the relevant information.
- The VLE is an important part of the University experience and should be maintained to a high standard based on a common set of rules and principles.
- Pre-populated Blackboard templates that forces Course Leaders to upload and write certain text in a specific and standard structure would help this process.

- The University must act quickly in order to meet the requirements set out in the EU's Web Accessibility Directive.

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

To mandate the VP Education to lobby the University for standardised Blackboard pages.

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.

Student Council Motion Proposal

Your Policy Motion Title Goes Here: Deadlines and Multiple Assignments

Policy Number:	2018-19_012	Policy Date	20/05/19
Policy Proposer: (Include name and student number)	Lexi Porter (16011061)		
Policy Seconder: (Include name and student number)	Nathan Harold (17009004)		

Summary:

For the Vice President Education to work with the University in order to remove multiple assignment deadlines falling on the same day.

Student Council Notes the Following Facts:

The University does not currently review module assessment deadlines in line with another deadlines.

This practice can lead to assessment pile ups for students both joint and single honours.

Student Council Holds the Viewpoint That:

Assessment periods can be stressful times for students.

Multiple deadlines at the same time can have a detrimental effect on students and the quality of their work.

The University via the Course team and leaders should regulate and review all assessment deadlines to avoid build up.

Assessments should not be within 48 hours of each other without reasonable justification.

Exams should be when possible held during assessment weeks and not at the expense of a week of teaching.

The University should publish a series of principles based on student feedback that provide the course teams with guidance around assignment deadlines. These should be made accessible to students.

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

To mandate the VP Education to lobby the University to put in processes that prevents the build up of assignments.