

Current SU Policy Updates-Student Council 10/02/2021

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. **Grey background is complete** [New updates are in blue.](#)

Policy Number	Policy Title	Officer Responsible	Summary	Update (Updates since the last Student Council are in bold .)
2018-19_004	Societies in Open Days	VP Student Activities	This policy seeks 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 Network.	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. Societies (and sports clubs) are now invited to open days following a break due to covid but uptake is low.
2018-19_006	Single Use Plastic	President	This policy signed up the Students' Union to the Plastic Free Worcester initiative and for the organisation to work towards plastic free status.	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>Hangar no longer uses plastic straws or SUP glasses - reusable plastic glasses purchased.</p> <p>SU has a compost bin and Sustainability corner offering lots of advice</p> <p>Worcester Uni halls won the Coca-Cola Recycling League competition in 2018-19</p> <p>We have now conducted a review of single use plastic used within SU offices and are exploring ways to reduce in the SU Sustainability Committee.</p>
2018-19_009	Domestic Air Travel	President	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. Up to review at this Student Council
2018-19_010	Standardisation of Blackboard	VP Education	This mandated the Vice President Education to work with the University in order to standardise Blackboard pages.	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

				<p>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. The VP Education has continued work with the TEL team on this. Progress has been made with Blackboard Organisation course pages which the University are looking to make consistent.</p> <p>Up for review at this Student Council</p>
2018-19_011	SU Against Fit to Sit	VP Education	<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. 2020/21 the Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Academic Registrar have confirmed this is not something they are pursuing at the current time.</p> <p>Up for review at this Student Council</p>

2018-19_012	Bunching of deadlines and Multiple Assessments	VP Education	This mandated the Vice President Education to work with the University in order to remove multiple assignment deadlines falling on the same day.	<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. VPE has been working with Reps when issues have been raised.</p> <p>Up for review at this Student Council</p>
2019-20_001	UWIC Representation	President	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	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. There was no UWIC Student Council member in 2020-21. A representative has been elected for 2021-22.

				<p>UWIC is now due to close and we will need to remove UWIC representation from Student Council once closure is complete. We propose removing the policy</p>
2019-20_002	Climate Emergency	President	<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. President and Student Engagement Manager currently liaising with University Director of Sustainability on initial action plan to be completed by July 2022. Training delivered by Director of Sustainability on carbon neutrality to SU staff in December 2021.</p>
2019-20_003	Discounted Club Memberships for Placement Students	VP Student Activities	<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 onwards.</p>

2019-20_004	Fit to Study	VP Education	<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. The VPE has been informed that the Director of Student Life is currently working on a draft of the policy. VPE has requested that the SU is involved in the drafting of this policy before approval which was supported by the Deputy Vice Chancellor. Once we have a draft of the policy, we intend to bring it to the sub councils for comments.</p> <p>VP Education met with Director of Student Life to discuss progress in January 2022.</p> <p>A draft paper was submitted to LTSEC in March 2022. SU now awaiting a meeting with Director of Student Life to discuss suggestions made at LTSEC.</p>
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2020-21_001	Membership of Sub Councils	President	This mandates the SU to change Bye Law 4 to change the voting membership of Education Council to include Academic Society Chairs and Welfare and Inclusion Council to include Faith and Cultural Society Chairs.	This is now complete. The Bye Laws and Terms of Reference are updated and voting rights for new members have been implemented.
2020-21_002	Gender Neutral Toilets	President	This mandates the Union to lobby the University for specific Gender-Neutral Toilets on campus	Meeting held with representatives from the LGBTQ+ Network and SU with the University and agreement for a trial Gender Neutral Toilet in the Woodbury Building at St John's Campus was agreed. It was also agreed that new buildings would include Gender Neutral Toilet provision.
2020-21_003	Gender Neutral Pronouns	President	This mandates the Union to lobby the University too embed the use of pronouns across the University Community	IT have launched a project to make name changing easier on University systems. Policy has been shared with University. Welfare and Inclusion Council discussed the implementation of the policy on 11/10/21 and a working group has been formed to focus on this and the Gender-Neutral Toilets Policy.

				<p>Welfare and Inclusion Council discussed the implementation of the policy on 11/10/21 and a working group has been formed to focus on this and the Gender-Neutral Pronouns Policy.</p> <p>The Union will soon launch some promotional material on this issue for use on University screens and social media.</p>
2020-21_004	Menu Diversity	President	This asks the Union to lobby the University's catering providers to increase the diversity of food options available with a specific focus on religious and cultural diversity.	The President has reached out to Chartwells, and they attended Welfare and Inclusion Council in April 2021. President is continuing to liaise with Chartwells.
2020-21_005	Multifaith Rooms	President	This mandates the Union to lobby the University to ensure it has Multifaith rooms on all campuses that are available to students when they need them.	<p>President on working group to ensure that a facility is included in plans for Severn Campus.</p> <p>Increased promotion of City Campus space was conducted in April 2021. Agreed with University that space should no longer be routinely locked. Welfare and Inclusion Council discussed the implementation of the policy on</p>

				11/10/21 and agreed that promotion should be republished and discussed the need for a space at Jenny Lind or better promotion at Jenny Lind of the space in Charles Hastings.
2020-21_006	Sexual Violence, NDAs and Student Sex Workers	Vice President Student Activities	<p>This policy requires the SU to lobby the University to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - make sure students who experience sexual harassment, assault and/or violence feel comfortable and able to report it. - To Recognise the prevalence and diverse range of motivators for students engaging in sex work; as well as the support required to ensure they feel safe. - To lobby the University to review its policy on non-disclosure agreements. 	<p>Union is working with the University as they review their policies and we will update Council as appropriate.</p> <p>In January 2022, the Government supported an Office for Students <u>pledge</u> for universities to sign up to commit to not use NDAs for cases of sexual abuse. The Union is supporting the NUS Campaign on this issue and is in talks with the University.</p> <p>In January 2022 the President passed the oversight of this policy to the VP Student Activities. They have met with the Acting DPVC Students to discuss the University signing the pledge. The University submitted a paper to a sub-committee of the Board of Governors to approve signing the pledge with some amendments. The VPSA is awaiting</p>

				a meeting to discuss this with the Acting DPVC Students.
2020-21_007	TeamWorc Committee Name	VP Student Activities	This policy requires the Union to rename TeamWorc Committee to TeamWorc Council.	This policy has been completed and all governance documents have been updated. The first TeamWorc Council took place on 11 th October 2021.
2020-21_008	Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showman and Boater Pledge	President	This policy asks the Union to lobby the University to adopt the Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showman and Boater Pledge	<p>A meeting was held with the University's Director of Access and Inclusion in June 2021. University is considering whether to adopt.</p> <p>VP Student Activities and Student Engagement Manager met with 2 students interested in setting up a GRT society and how we can positively celebrate GRT history and ensure our governance and EDI policy is GRT inclusive in November 2021.</p> <p>We have contacted the students to arrange a follow up meeting are awaiting a reply.</p>
2020-21_009	Nightbus Revival (31/07/2023)	President	This policy requires the Union to lobby the University to reinstate the Nightbus service	Temporary Nightbus ran in Welcome Week 2021 and was used by a significant number of students. We are working with the University

			between the City Centre and St John's Campus.	<p>to identify sources for external funding.</p> <p>The President and Student Engagement Manager met with the Managing Director of First Bus (Midland) in January 2022 to discuss how we can work together to lobby the local authority for better bus services.</p> <p>This work is continuing First Bus who also met with the Vice Chancellor in late February.</p>
2021-22_001	Responsible Freebie Giveaways (31/07/2024)	President	The Students' Union has, in previous years, given out numerous plastic freebies. This policy requires 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.	<p>All but 1 SU freebie was sustainable at WW 2021. We are now implementing the policy with sustainable freebies ordered for the Housing Fair.</p> <p>SU gave away sustainable toilet roll at the Housing Fair.</p>
2021-22_002	EDI Training	President	The policy refers to University run EDI training and the lack of student involvement in the development of such training. It proposes that Networks,	SU has had initial discussion on this with Acting Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor Students.

			and Culture and Faith based societies be involved in the creation of these resources and that the Union work with the University to see how this can be achieved.	
2021-22_003	Accommodation for International Students with Families	President	This policy calls for the Union to lobby the University to offer accommodation solutions for students arriving in the UK with dependents.	SU has had initial discussion on this with University Estates and Facilities Department
2021-22_004	Restructure of Committee Roles for Sports Clubs and Societies	VPSA	This policy restructures the core committee roles based on consultation at Team Worc Committee	Committees for 2022-23 have been recruited with the new roles and documents updated. Bye Law changes to formalise the change will go to Student Council on 7 th April 2022. Training will be updated ready for September 2022.
2021-22_005	WSU supports the NUS Student Strike	President	The policy mandates the SU to support NUS' Student Strike and to encourage student participation on Wednesday 2 nd March 2022.	The Union supported the strike and took a coach of students down to London along with Oxford SU and Oxford Brookes SU.