

POLICY FILE

1. “ENVIRONMENT: ACHIEVEMENT, AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT”

This Union Believes

1. Anthropogenic climate change and environmental degradation pose two of the most serious threats to the survival of the human species.
2. Continual and durable environmental improvement of its procedures and practices, including reduction in our CO2 emissions, is necessary to meet the challenge of becoming an environmentally sustainable institution.
3. Student and staff involvement is vital in improving its environmental credentials.
4. It has a responsibility to promote and develop environmental awareness among its membership.

This Union resolves

1. To ensure that it complies with up-to-date environmental legislation relevant to the Union’s operations.
2. To inform staff of its environmental policies and codes of practice through their training and induction.
3. To hold an annual event, such as that of GO Green Week, every year to raise environmental awareness among its membership.

Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement

Secoded by Saad Butt (SRO LAW)

2. “ENVIRONMENT: COMMERCIAL SERVICES”

This Union believes

1. Stocking and promoting environmentally-friendly products helps students make environmentally-friendly choices
2. That plastic bag pollution is a threat to our ecosystems, natural habitats and wildlife as well as constituting the most visible form of litter.

This Union seeks

1. To increase the stock levels of environmentally sound products in its retail outlets as they are made available through NUS Services Ltd.

This Union Advises

2. To minimise the use of unnecessary packaging in the products it sells.

Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement

Seconded by Calum Holden (SRO SCHS)

3. “ENVIRONMENT: ENERGY”

This Union believes

1. Energy consumption and wastage is one of its most significant environmental impacts.

This Union Resolves

1. Promote energy efficient use within the Union building by encouraging staff and students to switch off unnecessary lighting and electrical equipment via staff induction, posters and bulletins.
2. To seek the advice of the University Environment Manager and Energy Manager in the planning of all future refurbishments.
3. To avoid the purchase of wasteful electrical appliances, including patio heaters and fan heaters.
4. To continue in the NUS Sound Impact Awards and dedicate at least one Sabbatical Officer to progression of this scheme
5. To monitor, where possible, its energy consumption in order to set annual targets for reduction.

Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement

Seconded by Vaibhav Negi (SRO SEMS)

4. “ENVIRONMENT: LOBBYING FOR CHANGE”

This Union believes:

1. That the Higher Education sector is a significant consumer and provider of goods, services and energy and has a responsibility to reduce its environmental impacts.
2. That the purchase of biodiesel from unregulated sources has seriously damaging global environmental and social impacts including

deforestation, habitat destruction, increased CO2 emissions, grain price rises and eviction of indigenous peoples.

3. To work with the University to develop complementary environmental improvement strategies.

This Union Resolves

1. To lobby the University to continually improve its environmental credentials by improved recycling provision, reduction in energy consumption and maximised purchase of renewable energy consumption.

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Seconded by Saad Butt (SRO LAW)*

5. “ENVIRONMENT: SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT”

This Union Believes

1. That decisions about purchases of goods for consumption should take into account their relative environmental costs as well as their price
2. That the University directly benefits from the Union’s purchase of energy-efficient equipment via a reduction in their energy bills

This Union Resolves

1. To prioritise energy efficiency and assess whole-life energy costs when purchasing new electrical or lighting equipment
2. To preferentially purchase environmentally-friendly products including recycled paper recycled stationary.

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Seconded by Gemma Meredith (SRO ARTS)*

6. “ENVIRONMENT: WASTE AND RECYCLING”

This Union Believes

1. That the reduction, reuse and recycling of products and materials reduces environmentally harmful levels of consumption.

This Union Resolves

1. To provide free water in the Students' Union to all students and lobby the University to provide free water in the main eating outlets around campus.
2. To monitor the purchase of paper, stationary and office consumables and seek to reduce unnecessary purchases.
3. To actively reduce the amount of paper waste it produces by encouraging staff and students to use duplex-copying, reuse scrap paper and by discouraging unnecessary printing.
4. To maximise the amount of waste paper, card, plastic and metal which it recycles by providing appropriate and convenient recycling facilities.
5. To provide at least paper recycling facilities on all Students' Union premises on University campuses.
6. This Union Resolves to minimise waste from its activities by donating unwanted items such as IT equipment, furniture, paint and clothing to charity as allowed under regulations.

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Seconded by: Imran Ali (Social Sciences SRO)*

7. "EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES"

This Union Believes

1. That all individuals should have an equal chance to become involved in all aspects of the Students' Union.
2. That discrimination, direct or indirect, is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

This Union Resolves

1. That its members should not be barred from taking full part in any of its activities on any grounds other than competence.

This Union Resolves that it and its associated and affiliated student groups should be welcoming of all students and not discriminate on grounds of:

- ethnic group
- nationality
- political
- religious beliefs

- trade union activity
- gender
- gender orientation
- sexuality
- marital or partnership status
- family commitments; including pregnancy
- age
- disability
- medical condition including HIV status and mental health
- appearance
- social or financial status
- criminal convictions (as allowed by law)

This Union Resolves

1. To treat any acts of discrimination as a disciplinary offence.
2. To oppose all forms of bigotry and discrimination, and to support minority and female students in their fight for equal rights.
3. To promote Equal Opportunities as a democratic, representative and campaigning body, and as an employer and provider of services.

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
 Seconded by Imran Ali (SRO Social Sciences)*

8. “ETHICAL PRODUCTS”

This Union Believes that the products that both our commercial services and the University and its contractors sell should reflect the ethical beliefs of students.

This Union Advises

1. to seek alternatives to products that have been tested on animals.
2. to not stock pornography due to the offence that such material may cause some of its members, particularly female and religious students.
3. to take into account religious practices as best as possible when considering stock so to better respect the religious sensibilities of its members.
4. stock vegetarian products to better respect the choice of those of its members who choose not eat meat or all animal based products.

5. to stock recycled paper to better conserve forests and woods.
6. to ensure that within its bars to provide soft drinks promotions and that free water is provided.

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Seconded by Gemma Meredith (SRO ARTS)*

9. "EVENTS"

This Union Believes

1. That its events (including activities) should be ethical and non-degrading to its members.
2. That its events should inclusive and not exclude any of its members.
3. That its events should be run with a consideration of social responsibility.
4. That its events and those of its associated and affiliated student groups should not exclude those who do not wish to consume alcoholic drinks.

This Union Further Believes

1. That initiation events based around new or existing members performing tasks to gain credibility within the group are degrading and a barrier to participation; particularly when it includes the consumption of alcohol or parading of nudity.

This Union Resolves

2. That none of its events should harm animals.
3. That whenever alcohol is offered, as a prize or as part of an event, Student Groups must ensure that a non-alcoholic option is also available and offered to recipients.
4. That Student Groups should organise events not solely based on the availability of alcohol.
5. That Student Groups must not encourage members to drink more alcohol than they desire.

6. That Student groups must highlight socially responsible drinking on publicity material and not advertise binge drinking.
7. That all reasonable efforts should be made to ensure that disabled students are not excluded from events it or its associated and affiliated groups run.

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Seconded by Calum Holden (SRO SCHS)*

10. "FAIRTRADE STATUS"

This Union notes:

1. That the Fair Trade Steering Group is a requirement for City University London to achieve and maintain fair trade status, as awarded by the Fair-trade Foundation.
2. That the current membership of the Fair Trade Steering Group consists of representatives from a wide cross section from the University including the President and Vice President Education and Membership Engagement of the Students' Union.
3. The Fair Trade Steering Committee meets at least once a term.
4. City University London is very close to fulfilling the requirements to achieve fair trade status.

This Union believes:

1. That fair trade is a movement that is having a positive impact on the lives of workers in the third world now.
2. That students care about poverty and the rights of workers in the third world.
3. This Union believes Fairtrade products are produced and sold in a way that better respects the rights and dignity of the producer.
4. This Union believes that the increased sale of Fairtrade products will have a beneficial effect on many developing countries and the people within them.

This Union resolves:

1. That future SU Executives ensure the continued existence of the Fair Trade Steering Group to make sure that fair trade status is achieved (and maintained).
2. That the Steering Group continue to meet at LEAST once a term to review progress.
3. That the SU representatives continue to sit on the Steering Group and feedback as well as work together with the University in matters concerning Fair Trade.
4. That promoting and raising awareness should be implemented and included in the remit of SROs, and the on going campaign be a shared agenda for FTOs and SROs.

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Secoded by Saad Butt (SRO LAW)*

11. “RESPECTING RELIGION”

This Union Believes

1. That its members have the right to practice any religion or none during their stay at university.
2. That the religious sensibilities of its members should be respected.

This Union Resolves

1. To adopt the University’s value statement (see Appendix) as the standard for appropriate conduct for Union Officers, Societies and individual Students
2. To educate people about religion and the role it plays in many peoples’ lives.
3. To campaign against any imposition of religious (including atheist) views on people.
4. To support Union Societies by providing facilities for the positive promotion of their beliefs.
5. To prohibit Societies from promoting their faith by negatively criticising other faiths or the legal practices and choices of individuals.
6. Lobby the University to use its discretion when exams/in class assessment fall on major religious festivals.

7. To lobby the University to ensure that students who are fasting or have other religious dietary requirements are properly provided for.
8. To lobby for a multi-faith prayer room for the use of all University members.

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Seconded by Vaibhav Negi (SRO SEMS)*

12. "ANTI RACISM"

The Union notes

1. The increase of racist incidents, support for the far right and hostility towards asylum seekers more generally
2. We recognise the impact and potential threat this has on City University London students. Therefore this Union resolves to create an atmosphere free from discrimination, harassment and intimidation.

This Union Resolves

1. To campaign locally and nationally with the Student and National Assemblies Against Racism and the NUS Black Students campaign to mobilise students against racism.

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Seconded by Gemma Meredith (SRO ARTS)*

13. "STUDENT ACTIVITIES"

This Union Believes

1. That student activities such as sports, societies and volunteering bring many benefits to the individuals taking part and the university as a whole.
2. That all students should have the opportunity to take part in student activities, regardless of their course.

This Union Resolves

1. To lobby for increased funding for all student activities, so that the quality of student activities and the provision for them can be increased.
2. To lobby the University to keep Wednesday afternoons free for all students to take part in Student Activities.

3. To lobby the University to ensure that it does not reduce the space available for student activities; particularly bookable rooms for Societies and playing fields for Clubs.

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Secoded by Saad Butt (SRO LAW)*

14. “STUDENT HEALTH”

This Union believes

1. That the health of its members is of paramount importance and it should work to enhance it.
2. It should make its members aware of any dangers associated with some common health related activities.

This Union Resolves

1. To make students aware of how smoking can damage their health.
2. To raise awareness of the issues surrounding mental illness, offer support for those who suffer mental illness and provide advice to all its members about how they can best maintain a high level of mental health.
3. To raise awareness of the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and offer its full support to any student who contracts the disease.
4. To raise awareness on Sexual Health issues through, something like, but not limited to the NUS S.H.A.G Campaign

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Secoded by Calum Holden (SRO SCHS)*

15 “EDUCATION FUNDING”

This Union believes:

1. Student debt averages over £20,000. Students pay over £3,000 fees and soaring rents, forcing us into part-time jobs, however university facilities remain under-funded.
2. Black, LGBT and Women graduates are disproportionately burdened with debt due to pay discrimination.
3. Poorer students are discouraged from attending university.

4. Attempts to make students pay more are likely – some politicians call for £10,000 annual fees.
5. Higher Education contributes billions to Britain’s economy.
6. By altering spending priorities, the government could increase investment in universities, ending fees and debt.

This Union resolves:

1. To actively campaign against the rising of fees, debts and marketisation
2. To actively campaign against proposals to lift the cap on top-up fees by calling upon MPs and vice-chancellors/ principals to voice their concerns about increased fees.
3. To ensure that as many students as possible are aware of what the new system means, and mobilise the student body to campaign against it.
4. To work with trade unions and other partner organisations to secure support for the campaign

*Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Seconded by Imran Ali (SRO Social Sciences)*

16 “REPRESENTATIVES POLICY”

This Union notes:

1. Currently at City University London, reps are administered and supported at a school level, and invitations in school level committees has improved over the last year.
2. The Students’ Union and University have worked together on the recently approved paper “student contribution to learning”
3. Representatives are essential for effective communication within the School, as well as sharing ideas on academic issues on a wider basis.
4. Better student representation can also help Schools meet the requirements of the University’s procedures for quality assurance and enhancement.

This Union believes:

- Communication and feedback between reps, both within Schools and at an institutional level, will facilitate a positive dissemination of information, allowing the Schools to remain in control of individual staff-student liaisons, whilst allowing reps to develop student representation on a wider level.

- The Students' Union should play a central role in the course reps scheme. Working with the University to promote student rep positions when vacant and also informing when positions are filled and by whom.
- These representatives benefit the institution as well as providing a support framework for students.
- That in order for Representatives to be able to communicate effectively with lectures, administrative and management staff they should meet as early as reasonably practical.

This Union Resolves:

- The Students' Union continue to work with the University in raising the profile and awareness of all student Representatives, from Programme level through to School level Reps and Full Time Officers.
- The Students Union continually campaign for the University to abide by procedures and rules passed in the “Student Contribution to learning Paper”
- The Students Union will support students representatives on school level committees and provide them with branded clothing or other materials to promote their role on campus.
- The Union should play a key role in the support of Reps and the communication both to and from representatives
- To work with academics and administrative staff that support course rep systems within schools will need to be encouraged to explain to students the improvements in the systems, and the extra resources available through the Union, such as the website, training, support and advice.
- To continue to provide a comprehensive training scheme, highlighting the important role each individual rep will play, as well as the role of the reps on a wider scale throughout the institution, both on staff-student panels, and as elected committee members. This training, to be provided at the start of the academic year.

- That the Students Union Website will support the role of reps by having areas through which student representatives can communicate easily and effectively with each other, with the Students' Union, and with the Students they are representing.
- To organise and host a networking event such as, but not limited to, "Representation Day", which allows all elected reps to meet one another as well as senior members of staff from their school/Department/Course be arranged as soon after all elections as possible.

Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement

Seconded by Saad Butt (SRO LAW)

17 "HUNGRY FOR FEEDBACK!"

This Union believes:

1. Students put in a lot of effort in exams, and usually, exams carry a substantial amount of weight to overall grades.
2. Currently, there is little provision for students to get feedback on exams and know where they went wrong or how to improve.
3. That this issue of exam feedback is supported by NUS and has been raised at the University's Academic Practice Programmes and Standard Committee (APPSC) by current Sabbatical Officers in the past year. This has resulted in a working group being set up to work out a policy on exam feedback.
4. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) states that students have a legal right to view any comments examiners make on exam papers (this is on the comments and not the actual paper).
5. That this method can be quite pointless for students, as comments with no paper has little significance to a student understanding how to improve.

This Union Resolves:

1. To continue working with the University on gaining students adequate feedback from exams in a way which ensures:
 2. Feedback provided to students is useful in assisting learning
 3. Impact on staff workloads is minimised
 4. Most efficient methods of assisting students in exam performance
 - 5.
 6. To ensure the a policy is put in place which ensures students that fail or significantly underperform gain some sort of feedback, ideally, individual, if not written, or in groups.

To dedicate one member of the Full Time Officers to this working group at all time, (currently being Vice President Education & Membership Engagement)

Proposed by Khaleda Boshir VP Education & Membership Engagement
Seconded by Vaibhav Negi