

# Annual Members Meeting 19.02.26

## Papers Pack

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# Agenda

Item	Owner	Timing
Welcome	Chair - LA	5 min (17:05)
Intro to Student Council	Chair	10 min (17:15)
Approval of previous minutes & ratification of December Council	Chair	5 min (17:20)
Affiliations	Trustees	10 min (17:30)
FTO Updates	Full-Time Officers	30 min (18:00)
<b>Policy Renewals</b>		
Supporting Trans & Non-Binary Students and Campaigning for Gender Justice	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (18:10)
Muslim Prayer Room	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (18:20)
Sanctuary Scholarship Legal Fund	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (18:30)
<b>BREAK – 15 mins</b>		
<b>Motions</b>		
Raising Awareness for gambling harms on campus	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (19:00)
Cuts to Medical Leave for Part-Time PhD Students funded by UoB Scholarship	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (19:10)
Regulate the use of Generative AI in Bristol SU in order to safeguard students and their futures	Motion Proposer, Chair	10 min (19:20)
<b>AOB</b>	Chair	10 min (19:30)
<b>END / PIZZA</b>		
NUS Referendum	Chair	
<b>GUILLOTINE</b> – hard stop in case the meeting overruns. Nothing further will be discussed after this point. We will still aim to finish the meeting by 19:30.		<b>20:00</b>

# Approval of previous minutes & Ratification of December Student Council:

- [Student Council 11.12.2025](#)

## Affiliations

The Union is required to publish an annual report stating all affiliations with external organisations, including those that we have not made payments to but are still affiliated with.

The external organisations listed below are all the organisations that the SU has chosen to affiliate with. All sporting affiliations are with the relevant sporting groups.

<b>Affiliated Organisation</b>	<b>Subscriptions/fees paid this year</b>
Archery GB	£380
Avon Squash & Racketball	£315
Avonmouth Old Boys	£2,000
Avon County Hockey Association	£45
The Bristol & District chess league	£170
Beaufort Polo Club	£450
Bristol Blades	£1,782
British Mountaineering Council BMC	£5,124
British Uni Lifesaving Clubs'	£98
British Rowing	£1,180
British Universities Sailing Association	£230
707 Class Association	£30
North Devon Wake Park	£600
Dhanush Karan-British Student Korfball Assoc	£100
English Lacrosse Association	£403
England Hockey Ltd	£2,937
English Korfball Association	£421
England Touch Association	£200
England Squash Ltd	£665
National Futsal League C.I.C	£99
UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE	£50
WEST HOCKEY LTD	£290
Hudl UK Limited	£1,328

Inter Varsity Dance Association	£40
Isabella Penny	£109
Kings Ski Club	£870
Living Wage Foundation	£544
Propertymark	£295
National Futsal league	£140
England lacrosse	£95
West Hockey	£40
British Orienteering	£25
National Student Television Association	£50
Nightline Association	£52
NUS Affiliation Subscription	£37,590
NUS Media	£385
NUS Charitable Services	£682
Phab Ltd	£25
Power Sport UK	£600
Royal Southern Yacht Club Ltd	£460
Basketball England	£154
Gwent Cross Country League	£15
South West Korfball Association	£95
Southern Universities Trampoline League	£160
Student Scout and Guide Organization	£108
Student Windsurfing Association	£178
The Student Radio Association	£75
Surfing England	£200
The Jiu Jitsu Foundation	£330
Unibrass Foundation	£50
University Gymnastics cup	£50
University Darts UK	£40

## Full-Time Officer Updates

You can access the updates from the Full-Time Officer team here:

- [FTO Updates for AMM 19.02.2026](#)

# Policy Renewal 1: Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Students and Campaigning for Gender Justice

**Proposer:** Jamie Jewkes

**Seconded:** Tobi Gates

## **Background:**

1. Transgender people in the UK face constant discrimination, marginalisation, and material disadvantage, reinforced by the media and the government placing them at the centre of a vicious culture war.
2. According to TransActual's Trans lives survey 2021, 99% of trans people have experienced transphobia on social media, 85% of trans women reported being subject to transphobic street harassment (71% for trans men, and 73% for non-binary people), and 98% of trans people described transition-related healthcare available on the NHS as not completely adequate.
3. According to Stonewall's 2018 university report, 60% of trans students have been the target of negative comments or conduct from other students, and 36% faced negative comments or conduct from university staff.
4. The current government's lack of action in response to the Supreme Court ruling in April, and their action to put into place an indefinite ban on puberty blockers represent a further regression in the rights of trans people.
5. Transgender people in the UK have very limited access to appropriate gender affirming healthcare, greatly impacting on their quality of life and ability to live openly.
6. The SU's current active policy to support trans students is subject to lapse, and is out of date given recent political developments, such as the Supreme Court ruling.
7. Trans students at Bristol have been campaigning for better support, most notably in relation to healthcare for many years. Progress has been made, but more needs to be done.
8. Our understanding of the experiences of many Trans students at Bristol, is that they often do not register with or utilise the Student Health Service as they do not routinely offer shared care for gender affirming healthcare for students. This means students are forced to pay out of pocket for care that should be free.

**Purpose:**

1. To promote the welfare of students who are transgender or non-binary.
2. To ensure the SU is clear in its stance on gender justice and works as an active ally to the transgender community.
3. To further and support the SU's core value of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.
4. To support the national fight for transgender rights and oppose the marginalisation of a minority group.

**Actions:**

1. The SU, led by the ELA Officer and the University of Bristol Trans Students' Society, to renew and promote the gender justice strategy.
2. The SU to ensure that trans students and representatives are involved in all processes related to the SU's campaigns for trans people.
3. The SU to lobby the Student Health Service to provide gender affirming care for trans students, notably including lobbying for the provision of shared care agreements.
4. The SU to work with and build relationships with external trans community organisations in Bristol.
5. The SU to support harm reduction measures in regards to trans students that cannot access gender-affirming healthcare through the NHS.
6. The SU to work with the University of Bristol Trans Students' Society and other external trans community organisations to signpost to, and advocate for, free blood testing for students who are self-medicating hormone replacement therapy.
7. The SU to work with the University of Bristol Trans Students' Society and the Bristol trans community to improve on campus access to organisations who provide free needles, syringes, and sharps bins for students who are self-medicating hormone replacement therapy.
8. The SU to lobby the university to review how hardship funding is assessed for trans students who are self-funding their transition due to NHS waiting lists.

9. The SU to lobby the university to provide more gender neutral toilets and facilities across campus.
10. The SU to advocate for EHRC guidance to meet the needs of our trans students, supporting students and full-time officers to directly challenge guidance that falls short of this
11. Bristol to operate in accordance with the requirements of Safe Space Bristol and to explore applying for the Safe Space UK accreditation scheme
12. The SU to lobby the University to increase the Gender Expression Fund, allowing for students to apply for more than £100.
13. The Sport and Student Development Officer to continue to develop gender inclusivity in sport, and continue lobbying the University to provide gender neutral facilities at Coombe Dingle, the Indoor Sports Centre, and the Swimming Pool.

## Policy Renewal 2: Muslim Prayer Room

**Proposer:** Ahmed Omer

**Seconder:** Ahmed Nagar

**Background:**

- Prayer is an obligation for all Muslims. There are five daily prayers, meaning Muslim students on campus require accessible and adequate prayer spaces that can be used easily and conveniently accessed multiple times each day.
- 1,989 students have declared Islam as their faith (University records, 2024/25), with an estimated 800+ students and staff actively using the prayer spaces.
- Currently, there are two permanent allocated prayer spaces for Muslim prayer use. However, these do not meet the needs of the Muslim student population (specifically in reference to capacity):
  - Space 1 - Woodland Road Prayer Room: accommodates 5-8 individuals at one time.
  - Space 2 - Senate House Prayer Room: accommodates ~ 30 individuals.
- During peak prayer times, these spaces overflow, forcing students to wait outside. Access is also limited by Senate House opening times, restricting access to one of the two permanent prayer facilities designated for Muslim students, which require ongoing access beyond set opening times.

- Jumu'ah (Friday) prayer is an obligatory, time-sensitive prayer for men (with women encouraged to attend) and is held in the afternoon, often clashing with lectures and teaching sessions. As there are no mosques within the immediate vicinity of campus, students rely on ISOC-hosted Friday prayers on campus, highlighting the essential role of ISOC prayer spaces in enabling students to fulfil their religious obligations.
- Currently, Jumu'ah prayer is held in the Hawthorns Basement (SU basement): A shared space with multiple uses throughout the week. The venue has not been adapted or configured for use as a prayer space and lacks appropriate layout adjustments, making it suboptimal as the primary Friday prayer venue. This has led to a range of issues, including (but not limited to):
  - Firstly, capacity is a recurring issue, with the space unable to accommodate weekly attendees in a single Friday prayer; this necessitates holding two prayers, placing logistical pressure on the ISOC committee (who are students themselves) and weakening the sense of community among attendees. This arrangement is not preferred and reflects the lack of a permanent solution, which this motion seeks to address.
    - Islamically, this arrangement is not preferred and highlights the need for a permanent solution, which this motion seeks to deliver.
  - Most importantly, with the two Jummah segments (to ensure safe numbers within the Hawthorns building) there has been a consistent turning away of Muslim students at the door due to capacity limits. This action is directly preventing Muslim students from practicing their faith; putting their religious observance in jeopardy. Proving counter intuitive to the values promoted by the University. This motion seeks to combat this, ensuring the inclusivity, and the upholding of the right to practise faith.
  - Secondly, the space was unused for many years prior to reinstatement, meaning bathroom facilities are outdated and poorly maintained. Ablution (wudu) is required before prayer; however:
    - A. There are no wudu facilities in the current space.
    - B. The condition of the existing bathrooms contributes to stress and inconvenience, undermining the purpose of Friday prayer.
  - Thirdly, the use of a single shared entrance for men and women before separating into designated areas has caused discomfort for a number of female attendees.
  - Fourthly, the floor plan and lack of spatial adjustments make it difficult to establish an appropriate prayer layout. Fixed furniture restricts mandatory directional positioning, while hard floors and thin prayer mats reduce comfort and in some cases cause physical pain.



- These requests are basic necessities for Muslim students and directly impact their university experience and sense of support. This issue has persisted for several years and, with a growing Muslim student population, requires a permanent solution and an end to all the listed issues in full.

*To note, Comparable universities have addressed similar needs; this motion provides the support needed to do so institutionally*

**Purpose:**

- The purpose of this motion is to promote the welfare and wellbeing of Muslim students at our University by campaigning for a prayer space that has adequate capacity, facilities, safety, accessibility, and convenience. This ensures that issues which hinder Muslim students' obligatory prayers and negatively impact their wellbeing (due to neglect) are actioned, and that a streamlined solution is reached through SU support.
- This motion will also advance the education of Bristol students, as they will no longer have to choose between prayer and teaching, creating a more positive academic experience. By improving wellbeing and representation, a supportive environment is cultivated, positively impacting educational performance and academic commitment.
- This space, being large enough to accommodate the Muslim population, will positively contribute to personal development, as other relevant activities could also be held in the same space, e.g. iftars (breaking fast meals), Qur'an reflections, understanding and learning sessions, weekly educational sessions, and discussion circles that foster critical thinking, positive emotions, and all-round learning, all of which contribute to improved academic performance and commitment.
- Finally, it will ensure Bristol SU is an effective representative channel for its members by improving the overall experience of Muslim students as a liberation group through supporting their needs and causes.

**Actions:**

1. Bristol SU to fully support the efforts of the University of Bristol Islamic Society to obtain a larger prayer room that meets the needs of Muslim students at the University to practise their faith; including:
  - a. supporting the gathering of accurate statistics for research, lobbying and advocacy;
  - b. advocating for the campaign productively in spaces where change can be lobbied for or streamlined, with or without the presence of ISOC and the Prayer Room campaign fraction;
  - c. where possible, ensuring ISOC and its prayer room campaign fraction representatives are included in meetings and discussions where prayer space advocacy can take place.

# Policy Renewal 3: Sanctuary Scholarship Legal Fund

**Proposer:** Jessie Yeung

**Seconded:** Natasha Worthington Zapata

**Background:**

1. University of Bristol is a University of Sanctuary and runs a Sanctuary Scholarship program. Our Sanctuary Scholarship students come from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Republic of Congo, Yemen, Ukraine and more. They've been forcibly displaced from their home countries and many have been separated from their family and friends. Those with asylum-seeking status are unable to work or access student funding, which makes Democratic higher education financially impossible without the scholarship. In addition to the financial difficulties that they are facing, some of them are at the risk of receiving Study Bans or other immigration limitation too.
2. In most cases, the Sanctuary Scholarship disqualifies students from applying for legal aid, which requires the individual to meet the following criteria:
  - a. A person should not have a disposable income exceeding £733 per month.
  - b. They cannot have a gross income exceeding £2657 per month.
  - c. They cannot have assets exceeding £8000.

This puts the scholars in a uniquely vulnerable position.

*"With no access to employment and limited access to welfare benefits, this means that the only means students have in challenging the study bans is either to spend the scholarship money which is provided to pay for rent, books and food, or to raise money via external fund raising."* - Katie Bales (Lecturer in law at the University of Bristol, a trustee of the City of Sanctuary charity and a founding member of the Sanctuary Scholarship Working Group at the University)

3. In 2018, two of our sanctuary scholars received study bans a week before exams. If they did sit them, this action would be considered a breach of their 'bail conditions' which could potentially result in a fine, or criminal proceedings, including up to six months imprisonment. They were forced to rely on a Go Fund Me page to collect funds to appeal this decision, an experience that was extremely stressful and dramatically affected their ability to study. This is highlighted in the following quote:

- *“I am a Sanctuary Scholar at the University of Bristol, undertaking the first year of my undergraduate. The study ban was placed on me a few days before I was due to sit my first exam. As a result, I was not allowed to study or sit my exams. If I had breached this condition, it would have been classified as a criminal offence which could result in criminal proceedings, a fine and/or six-month imprisonment. I am devastated and shattered that I wasn’t able to sit the exams I worked so hard towards. In order to challenge the study ban, I needed to be able to pay the legal costs. Because I have a scholarship, I could not access legal aid but this money should be spent on books, accommodation, transport and student living. I cannot afford to spend this money on legal fees and complete my studies.”* - Sanctuary Scholar at Bristol who experienced a study ban.
  - *“A study ban is one of the most horrifying experience for anyone who has desire for education. It makes one feel neglected, not wanted, lost of hope and dreams which of course can cause emotional and psychological effect.”* - Another Sanctuary Scholar at Bristol who experienced a study ban
4. There were also multiple cases when students faced costs due to ongoing asylum claims. These costs caused huge amounts of stress to the individuals which affected their ability to focus on their studies. Failure to pay these costs and get proper legal advice could also have led to their appeal getting rejected, making them appeal-rights exhausted and liable for a study ban, terminating their schooling altogether. Additionally, this uncertainty can have extremely negative effects on a student’s mental health.
- *“I am a sanctuary scholar and an asylum seeker in my second year at the university. Last year, one of my appeals was dismissed and I was told to get an expert statement to help my case to be carried forward. The expert statement would have cost me £1000 and I had no means of obtaining that amount. The University suggested that I might be eligible to claim a short-term loan from the finance department, but being in such a volatile position as I am in right now, made me realise that I can not take a loan that I may not be able to pay back if the wind changed its course. To elaborate on that, had I received a study ban because of my appeal being dismissed, I would have had to suspend my studies, not receive the scholarship instalment and hence not being able to repay the loan. Fortunately, I was able to find a case-specific loophole and that is only because of my case being linked to my family who are also asylum seekers living in the UK. Therefore, I no longer needed the expert statement, however, someone in a similar position might have found that expert statement crucial in order to continue receiving the right to study.”* - Sanctuary Scholar at Bristol

5. In 2019, a motion passed so the SU legal aid fund was set up to support those students. Having a fund specifically to support legal fees would have helped in all of the above cases:

- *“In terms of the fund, that seems like a great idea. It is certainly very nerve wracking for students to embark on legal cases when there is a possibility of costs orders being made against them, and not knowing exactly how much it will cost. In terms of scholarship recipients, the issue arises that as they have been in receipt of the scholarship, they are often not eligible for legal aid.”* - Helen Baron, solicitor for Duncan Lewis
- *“Not knowing if I wouldn’t have the money to pay the lawyers for their legal service was tormenting. It felt like having one problem at that given time wasn’t enough, but then seeing the uncertainty; in terms of money for the services I had already used, felt awful. I had amazing people supporting me along the way but having some surety of getting that money at that time would have saved me from a lot of stress and would have helped me concentrate on the situation at hand.”* - Sanctuary Scholar at Bristol who experienced a Study Ban
- *“A legal fund would help consolidate the right of our Sanctuary Scholars to study at Bristol. It’s essential in ensuring they receive the legal representation they deserve to have an uninterrupted university experience - it would help alleviate both the mental and financial burden of legal costs.”* - Jason Palmer (Previous ‘Equality, Liberation and Access Officer’ and trustee board member)

6. Last year (2025), we received a claim and it has brought the fund down to a critical amount. We predict with the existing amount of money left in there, we would only be able to support one more claim.

**Purpose:**

1. Continue to provide financial support to Sanctuary Scholars who don’t qualify for legal aid for any legal costs that they incur relating to their Immigration Status. This could be related to:
  - Study bans
  - Solicitors in ongoing asylum claims

- Expert witness statements
  - Translators
  - Court Hearings
2. Ensuring equality and accessibility for Sanctuary Scholars at our university, bringing it in line with the experience of other students at Bristol.
  3. Provide Sanctuary Scholars the security they need in their studies to reach their full potential.
  4. Alleviate the financial and emotional pressure of legal costs, which has adverse effects on the Sanctuary Scholars, to allow them to reach their full academic potential at Bristol.
  5. Re-evaluate the criteria of the Legal Aid fund with various stakeholder, and prioritize those with lived experience of being a sanctuary scholar.

***Actions:***

1. The SU will commit to fully supporting any fundraising event or efforts for the fund. This includes working in partnership with Amnesty, STAR and any other interested societies.
2. Donors can put money into the fund at any time.
3. To withdraw money from the fund, law firms representing Sanctuary Scholars will invoice the fund directly.
4. Specific procedure on how the money will be allocated and how the fund will operate not mentioned in this motion will be decided on in meetings between the SU, STAR, Amnesty, the Sanctuary Scholars and any other interested parties.

# Motion 1: Raising Awareness for Gambling Harms on Campus

**Proposer:** Jake Spencer

**Seconded:** Ruby Chatfield

## **Background:**

Gambling participation among students and young people has become an emerging wellbeing issue nationally. Research charities such as YGAM and GamCare has shown that students are particularly vulnerable due to financial insecurities, social influences and the rapid growth of online and mobile gambling platforms. Recent studies indicate that around one in four students have gambled in the past year, with some reporting negative impacts on their finances, mental health and academic performance.

Within the university context, gambling is often overlooked as a wellbeing or welfare concern compared to issues like alcohol consumption or academic stress. While the University of Bristol's wellbeing services and the SU already promote responsible choices around alcohol and drugs, there are currently no specific initiatives addressing gambling-related risks or available support. This creates a gap in awareness and early intervention.

## **Purpose:**

This motion seeks to ensure that gambling harm is recognised as part of the wider student wellbeing agenda. Passing this motion would help foster an open, stigma-free conversation about gambling, equip students with accurate information and make support services more visible and accessible. The goal is not to condemn gambling but to promote education, harm reduction and wellbeing.

By passing this motion, the SU would:

- Take a proactive approach to identify and reduce gambling-related harm among students.
- Help students manage risks before they become serious wellbeing or financial issues.
- Strengthen collaboration with leading harm prevention organisations.
- Demonstrate the SU's commitment to inclusive, evidence-based wellbeing initiatives and reflect the full reality of student life today.

## **Actions:**

1. The Students' Union to formally recognise gambling harm as a student wellbeing and welfare issue.

2. The SU to explore partnering with charities such as YGAM, GamCare, ARA Recovery for All and Gamblers Anonymous to deliver workshops, training sessions and information on gambling awareness and harm reduction.
3. The SU to work with the University's wellbeing service to include gambling-related support information in wellbeing materials, fresher's week communications and the SU website
4. The SU to explore working alongside societies, both academic and non-academic, to increase awareness, provide resources and offer points of contact.
5. The SU to collaborate with the motion proposer to campaign on this issue.

## Motion 2: Reverse Medical Leave Cuts for Part-Time PhD Students Funded by UoB Scholarship

**Proposer:** Katherine Nelms

**Seconded:** Cal Bloodworth and Charlotte Conway

### **Background:**

**From October 2025, the University of Bristol implemented a new “Medical Leave” policy regarding paid leave for postgraduate research students. This policy:**

- Combines standard sick leave with leave related to protected characteristics under a single umbrella term, “medical leave”.
- Reduces entitlement for protected characteristic leave to zero beyond standard sick leave.
- Significantly reduces the total medical leave entitlement for part-time students.
- Applies these reductions retrospectively, deducting previously taken leave from the new lesser allowance.

Under this policy, **the total days of paid medical leave entitlement has been reduced, proportional to rate of study, e.g.:**

- Full-time (1.0 FTE) students are entitled to a maximum of **260 days of medical leave over a 4-year** programme.
- Part-time (0.5 FTE) students are entitled to **130 days of medical leave over an 8-year** programme, despite working the same total number of hours across their degree.

The University has not directly informed part-time students that their entitlement has been reduced, instead describing the changes as “*enhanced entitlements*”.

### **Medical leave under this policy includes:**

- **Sick leave**
- **Pregnancy-related illness**

- **Antenatal appointments**
- **Fertility treatment**
- **Disability related illness** (including chronic illness)
- **Disability-related appointments**
- **Gender reassignment** (where medically advised)

Access to paid medical leave requires verified medical evidence and is only granted where there is genuine medical need.

### **Impact and harm**

This policy:

- Provides **less medical leave to part-time students than full-time students**, particularly those whose protected characteristics necessitate their mode of study.
- Disproportionately harms disabled and chronically ill students, who are more likely to study part-time and require the majority of their medical leave throughout their degree.
- Encourages part-time students to withdraw from their studies rather than providing equal support, with the UKRI <sup>1</sup> stating that if a part-time student requires the same medical leave as a full-time student, “*continuation of the studentship is unlikely to be in the student’s interest*”.
- Creates additional barriers to changing study mode:
  - Students moving from part-time to full-time may be refused due to insufficient medical leave budget.
  - Students moving from full-time to part-time due to health changes may immediately exhaust their remaining medical leave for the rest of their (now longer) degree.

### **Purpose:**

This motion is focused on the reduction of total paid medical leave for part-time PhD students, as this is unequal treatment based solely on mode of study, and will **disproportionately impact disabled and chronically ill students**. We have gathered support and feedback on these concerns with a petition, which has received over 170 signatures (as of 30/01/26), showing this is a pressing matter to the community.

We call on the SU to support the reversal of this highly unpopular and discriminatory policy. **The purpose of this motion is to raise awareness for and to remedy the unequitable nature of UoB’s new medical leave policy in relation to part-time students.**

Chronically ill and/or disabled students are more likely to be part-time AND need their full allotment of paid medical leave. While part-time status itself is not a protected characteristic, many students are part-time precisely because of a protected characteristic, such as disability. Furthermore, medical leave is now defined as containing disability-related illness, whereas previously entitlements for leave relating



to a protected characteristic, such as disability, were in addition to standard sick leave. In practice, **students who will be most impacted by this policy change are those who are part time with protected characteristics.** Finally, as this change was adopted retrospectively, anyone part-time who has already used their total number of days per their new allotment according to their part time rate is now out of medical leave for the remainder of their PhD.

Part-time study has long been a vital pathway to broadening access to higher education. Yet this policy change penalises those who take this route, many of whom do so because of health, caring, or financial responsibilities. By stripping away essential medical leave for part-time students, this policy disadvantages students who are already more vulnerable. It sends a harmful message: that those who need to study at a slower pace don't belong in academia.

By rejecting the inequitable aspects of the UKRI's new policy, the University has the opportunity to set a precedent in support of fairness and inclusion, ensuring that all students, regardless of mode of study, receive equal baseline medical leave entitlements.

#### **Actions:**

1. To mandate the SU to work with UCU and PGR Students to lobby the University of Bristol to give 260 full days of medical leave across a PhD regardless of mode of study.

2. To mandate the SU to work with UCU and PGR Students to lobby UKRI to revise their new policy across the sector

3. To mandate the SU and Postgraduate Education Officer to explore robust and suitable mitigation measures in conjunction with UCU and PGR Students, including but not limited to:

1. A reversal of the retroactive application of the new policy
2. Improved communication to Part-Time PGRs about their medical leave allowance
3. Development of a formal, written policy for supporting individuals with exceptional circumstances. The policy must be **transparent, EDI-assessed, and accountable**, clearly specifying:
  - **Who** is responsible for implementing the policy
  - **At what stage the policy** is applied (e.g., providing proactive support for predictable and documented needs, such as chronic illnesses, rather than waiting until individuals run out of entitlement)
  - **The criteria** for assessing exceptional circumstances and determining appropriate support.

#### **MOTION APPENDIX - links**

1. Supporting document: [Stop-the-cuts-to-medical-leave-for-part-time-students.pdf](#)
2. Petition: [Stop the Cuts to Medical Leave for Part-Time UoB and UKRI PhD Students](#)
3. UKRI policy: [Policy Statement: Review of the UKRI Standard Terms and Conditions of Training Grant](#)
4. UoB policy: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/students/documents/absence-payments-postgraduate-research-students.docx>

## Motion 3: Regulate the use of generative AI in Bristol SU in order to safeguard students and their futures

**Proposer:** Holly Cooper

**Seconded:** Beth Raymond

### **Background**

1. Generative AI (GenAI) is artificial intelligence designed to produce output, especially text or images, typically by applying machine learning techniques to large collections of data. This includes large language models (LLMs) such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and image generators such as Stable Diffusion or Google's Nano Banana Pro.
2. The use of GenAI in a variety of areas has proven to have largely negative impacts on its users and society as a whole.
3. Recent studies have shown that frequent use of and confidence in GenAI reduces critical thinking and problem-solving ability [1], and that frequent LLM users show a reduction in neural, linguistic, and behavioural cognitive ability [2]. Therefore, by discouraging the use of GenAI for these purposes, Bristol SU would show its commitment to the prevention of this atrophy amongst Bristol SU members. Using GenAI for creative purposes damages the livelihoods of those in the creative industry, while stealing from the same artists to train models [3]. Recent findings showed 68% of respondents from creative industries reported that job security had either diminished or greatly diminished due to GenAI [4]. Bristol SU contains 45+ societies focused on the creative arts, and a large number of SU members also study arts degrees, meaning there are countless members that may be interested in a career in the creative industries. Therefore, by discouraging the use of GenAI for these purposes, Bristol SU would demonstrate commitment to the protection of the interests of students looking for careers in the arts.

4. GenAI is sometimes used in an attempt to improve a person's wellbeing, such as using LLMs as a replacement for or addition to therapy, counselling or psychiatric treatment. This has been shown to be entirely inappropriate and unsafe [5], and in 2025 ChatGPT even allegedly contributed to the death by suicide of a teenage boy [6]. This is particularly pressing for Bristol SU, as in 2025 some members attempted to affiliate a student group whose focus would have been the use of GenAI for wellbeing support. While this group was not allowed to affiliate, the support this proposed group gained demonstrates that students are already considering GenAI an appropriate tool for wellbeing support. Discouraging the use of GenAI for these purposes would ensure Bristol SU could continue to promote the welfare of and safeguard its members.
5. GenAI has a wide-reaching negative effect on the environment. This includes vast energy usage which is predicted to double by 2030 [7], the withdrawal and consumption of huge volumes of water for cooling that threatens local water supplies [8], and negative impacts from mining critical minerals [9]. The University of Bristol was the first UK university to declare a climate emergency [10], and Bristol SU says that sustainability underpins every aspect of its work [11]. The SU therefore should continue to lead the way on sustainability by taking a critical stance on GenAI due to its massive environmental impact.

### ***Purpose***

1. Our motion aims to show that our Students' Union is committed to supporting students' wellbeing, personal development, and career prospects when widespread GenAI use threatens them.
2. The motion aims to send the message that Bristol SU will do all it can to reduce its own contributions to the climate crisis from GenAI use, as well as set a precedent for other organisations and Student Unions to do the same.
3. This motion focuses on creating robust AI guidelines that ensure the above, including clarifying for members what unethical use of AI looks like.
4. The motion also aims to suggest ways the SU can support societies and students in finding ethical alternatives to GenAI that keep students safe, support students interested in the creative industries, allow students to continue to develop their own skills, and prevent excessive contributions to the climate crisis.

### ***Actions***

1. For the Students' Union Trustee Board to consider the creation and dissemination of guidance on the ethical use of GenAI, giving specific consideration to prohibiting the use of GenAI as a wellbeing or mental health tool.
  - a. For the Student's Union to support student groups in finding alternatives to GenAI for the above use cases. This could include the following initiatives:
  - b. Through the Society Forum, explore the possibility of creating a skills network where societies can find creative students from other disciplines to help with promotional materials.
  - c. Continue to ensure that committees know where to signpost students to real wellbeing support.
  - d. Work with the SU's marketing team to signpost students to resources that provide guidance on promotional writing and design, research, and ideas generation.
2. To mandate all relevant Full Time Officers - particularly the Education Officers - and Student Representative Assembly to facilitate discussion, and research to capture the student position on the use of AI and GenAI across the University of Bristol. Ensuring a wide range of student voices are considered and heard. This should include but not be limited to the use of GenAI in learning, teaching and assessment, use of AI in student-facing services and uses of AI in wider student life. This discussion and research should be agile on ongoing.
3. To mandate the Full-Time Officer team and the SU to explore whether the University could be involved in funding and supporting delivery of Action 2, and to, regardless, ensure that Action 2 feeds into the position taken by Student Union officers in negotiations with the University over the use of AI and GenAI, especially with regards to teaching and assessment

#### **MOTION APPENDIX - Sources**

1. [https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/wpcontent/uploads/2025/01/lee\\_2025\\_ai\\_critical\\_thinking\\_survey.pdf](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/wpcontent/uploads/2025/01/lee_2025_ai_critical_thinking_survey.pdf)
2. <https://www.media.mit.edu/publications/your-brain-on-chatgpt/>
3. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2023/08/08/is-generative-aistealing-from-artists/>
4. <https://www.ifow.org/publications/good-work-creative-industries>

5. <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3715275.3732039>
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgerwp7rdlvo>
7. <https://www.iea.org/reports/energy-and-ai>
8. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2304.03271>
9. <https://www.sfa-oxford.com/knowledge-and-insights/critical-minerals-in-lowcarbon-and-future-technologies/critical-minerals-in-artificial-intelligence/>
10. <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2019/april/climate-emergency-.html>
11. <https://www.bristolsu.org.uk/sustainability>

## Appendix A: Minutes from Student Council 11.12.2025

Item	Owner	Timing
Welcome	Chair - LA	5 min (17:05)
Intro to Student Council	Chair	10 min (17:15)
Approval of previous minutes	Chair	5 min (17:20)
FTO Updates	Full-Time Officers	25 min (17:45)
<b>Motions</b>		
Mission Mandir – Bristol Hindu Prayer Room	Motion Proposer, Chair	20 min (18:05)
<b>BREAK – 10 mins</b>		
<b>Motions (cont'd)</b>		
Move Democratic Standards Committee elections into Teaching Block 2	Motion Proposer, Chair	20 min (18:30)
<b>AOB</b>		
Expression of dissatisfaction: Bristol SU Trustee Board Override Student Council decision	Proposer, Chair	20 min (18:50)
Any Other Business	Chair	10 min (19:00)
<b>END / PIZZA</b>		
<b>GUILLOTINE</b> – hard stop in case the meeting overruns. Nothing further will be discussed after this point. We will still aim to finish the meeting by 19:00.		<b>19:30</b>

### Welcome & Intro to Student Council

- Introduction from the chair
- Safety information
- Please maintain a respectful debate, and adhere to the code of conduct
- Microphone etiquette

- Democratic Standards Committee available for questions, requests, or procedural questions
  - Student asked about quoracy, Louis confirmed that attendance is being monitored.
- Chair explained voting process
- Order of the motions has been set by DSC, and according to the voting on the ideas board
- DSC has set a guillotine to the meeting at 7:30 – we will still aim to finish by 7pm.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

- No concerns with previous minutes raised.

### **FTO Updates**

Union Affairs Officer, Katie's updates put on screen – contact her via email, or raise your question and leave your email so she can respond. Her update read:

- 🦷 Unfortunately, I cannot be at Student Council because I am getting surgery to have my wisdom teeth removed (after being on the NHS waiting list for 3 years!). If you have any questions about my updates – please do email me and I will get back to you when I can.
- I've created an external spaces list – to make finding an activity space for groups easier. From pubs to theatres, the Student Activity Space Finder is now live on the website, see it here: <https://www.bristolsu.org.uk/student-groups/student-activity-space-finder>

You can browse venues, see how to book them and update info if something changes. And if your group finds a new spot that works well, add it to the list - so other groups can benefit.

**\*\***And no businesses pay to be included, and the SU doesn't earn anything from it.

- Signage for the Bristol SU Basement has been installed to make finding the new space I secured easier. You can see it opposite Senate on Woodland Road.
- Society Forums at the start of TB2 (end of Jan), look out for an email from me for dates! In this, I will ask for feedback/edits on the draft society representation structure I'm currently working on, to have societies be able to escalate issues, work together to solve problems and be represented in our byelaws. If you are wanting to know or get involved beyond attending Society Forums, please reach out to me :)

- You can use empty teaching spaces as study spaces – I worked with university to keep these rooms open, so you can use them for silent or group study. See the list and what is available here: <https://www.bris.ac.uk/where-is-my/find/free-room/table>
- I'm also working with the university to increase bookable society spaces, and you can keep up to date with any progress here: [Bristol SU | UEB Agreement](#)

#### Postgraduate Education Officer, Sharan's Updates

- Met with sustainability team, confirmed she can put on a climate fresk workshop. Event for students to think about sustainability in their own lives and with regard to their academics.
- Building postgraduate community and connecting people from different cohorts.
- Focus groups to research how the careers service supports PGR students.
- Financial Assistance Fund is an emergency fund for students in hardship - short term support. She has got the university to increase the amounts granted in each tier.
- Foundational work on disability initiatives. Eg postgraduate research disability forum, university disability work that Linlu is also working on – Sharan has been feeding in PGR experience input to this.
- Events: Postgrad Pints events – have run several of these, and planning more plus a range of other postgraduate events.
- Postgraduate Research study space: this is a key concern, that Sharan has been raising with campus division.

#### Equality, Liberation and Access Officer, Linlu's Updates

- Fostering consent culture. Conducted a focus group with the SU Research and Insight team – looking to create better training on consent. Also looking to put on events during SHAG week.
- Working with Russel Group SU unions on 16 days of action regarding gender based violence. Students can scan QR code on screen to fill out the survey on this.
- Campus accessibility – a map which you can use to find accessibility information around campus.
- The university has signed the Disabled Student Commitment, which concerns improving the experiences of disabled students. Looking to co-create these plans and will compensate those involved.

#### Undergraduate Education Officer, Mia's Updates



- Letter writing campaign regarding government plans to align tuition with teaching quality. Unfortunately, this has gone to the budget now. This creates further inequality. The government is running a consultation on this, students getting involved in this to inform future plans on this.
- Assessment feedback and engagement fellows – this project is embedded on an institutional level so it will continue to run and involve student voice in this.
- Update from last student council – the joint honours motion passed. Looking for examples of good practice regarding joint honours students experience.

#### Sport and Student Development Officer, Ella's Updates

- Movember closed – thanks for everyone who was involved in fundraising. At Bristol University we raised over £43k!
- Hosted two club captain forums, shaping Derby Day.
- Injury support group still making positive impact, open to new members.
- Working with SEH on student access to sports
- Attended BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) meeting in Derby

#### Lucy's Updates

- Laundry: on top of 15k funding secured last year, which is about to be distributed, Lucy has pushed the university to make a commitment to capping prices at £3.80.
- Working on changing the affordability and quality of halls accommodation, aiming to close the gap between the cheaper and more expensive accommodation options, so that there isn't such a jump.
- Exam buses to Coombe Dingle – we are running these again after students fed back that it was useful.
- Increasing number of sensory rooms, including getting one at Langford. Great feedback from the Student Community Organiser forum Siân ran on this.
- Working with the university to embed accessibility focus in the university's strategy

#### International Student Officer, Jessie's Updates

- Hosted international students week – distributed lots of free food! And karaoke and global food fair. Another karaoke will run in refreshers!
- Went to parliament to platform international student voice. Talked about anti-migrant narrative, international student levy, and how much international students being here improve the financial situation for every U citizen.
- Sanctuary students work – have increased funding and support.
- Russell Group SU meeting regarding the government budget – lobbying against anti-migrant narrative.

- Budget and white paper have brought up lots of issues that impact international students; starting letter writing campaign to Bristol MPs to ask for support for international students
- Mumbai enterprise campus – looking to support this project.

#### Questions for Officers

- Q: Trustees overrode last student council decision – on what grounds did you make this decision?
- A: Lucy: Can't remember the specifics of the articles on this decision, but you're welcome to email so that I can give you the appropriate level of detail in response to your question.
- Q: Sensory rooms – as someone who uses them, issue with it being occupied by people studying or holding meetings in there – are there plans to address this?
- A: Lucy – yes, plans are underway to solve this. The issue is lack of spaces on campus more generally – first thing is to increase number of sensory rooms. This takes time, so we are also trying to identify other quiet rooms that can be used. Second, rooms should not be being used in this way – we are increasing signage, we are open to feedback so will put further work and thought into this. We won't police the room as it's an important space to be open, but we will keep reiterating the purpose and importance of these rooms being available. Aiming to get it written into university strategy long term that there will be further sensory rooms available.
- Q: what's causing delay in getting the laundry money to students? Will it only be new accommodation that has the £3.80 cap?
- A: Lucy: Yes, unfortunately the cap is only on new accommodation. But the university is moving away from lots of the existing accommodations so it's a gradual move away from the leased properties with the more expensive laundry options. Some leases are until 2030, but it's on leases that are up for renewal where the cap is being introduced.
  - Q: (follow up) why is the money delayed getting out to students though?
  - A: administration by the university has been holding this up, but it is in progress.
- Q: you're doing some amazing and relevant work, but I feel there's an information barrier – it's hard to find out what you guys are working on. How can wider students be better informed about your work?
- A: Mia: Fortnightly officer updates by email – each time a different officer heads that email. This is a quick summary of the updates, but if you click on these through to the website, you can access more detailed updates and track our

progress. If you have any feedback on how to make it more relevant and accessible, please email us or share that here.

- A: Jessie: you can also keep up with our work on Instagram, talk to the SCOs, and come into the office to speak to us.
- A: Lucy: Campaigns page coming soon on the website for more info on students campaigns which will also include officer work.
- Q: How do you need help with the Mumbai campus work?
- A: Jessie: initial stage of engagement on this, looking to organise focus groups to research experiences of students who have studied in India – we'll be calling out for this, or you can email.
- Q: new accommodation – is this for first years?
- A: Lucy: Yes, a lot of accommodation is advertised to new undergraduates.
- Q: [follow up] if there'll be more first year accommodation, how will this impact 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> year private accommodation? Any work on making this more affordable?
- A: Lucy: the university does civic engagement work in the city, which includes strategy regarding private accommodation. The cost coming down in our halls does have a small impact on this. I also attend Bristol fair rent campaign who are working on this. SU Lettings are seeing private beds not being taken up and therefore prices coming down. Also Renters Rights bill should impact. Bristol city rent commission are also working on living rent.
- Q: will the rent work be only on new halls?
- A: Lucy: all halls! Looking to improve affordability across all accommodation, or at least to reduce the gaps between prices.
- Q: Bristol Future Research Leaders project on housing and transport – does this relate to your work?
- A: Sharan: the SU has been working hard on a project that will have a lasting impact, this year we are working with Housing Matters (housing advice service in Easton).

Chair notes that we are not quorate, so any decisions made in this meeting will be ratified at the next democratic meeting, Annual Members Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Motions**

### **Mission Mandir – Bristol Hindu Prayer Room**

Speech for: The speaker introduced themselves as the Vice President of the Hindu Society. Representing not just the society, but rather to represent all Hindu students on campus.

Asking attendees to vote in favour, not simply as a small step to create a new room, but to progress towards fairness and wellbeing, and towards the university's inclusion statement. Hindus are the third largest faith group on campus, growing with a 62% relative increase. Nationally the Hindu student population is also rising. Not enough universities have proper provision for students of Hindu faith. There's no locally available prayer space for Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist or Jain students – the nearest is a 45 minute walk away in Clifton – this is simply too far away. Our SU is part of NUS – in 2019 NUS passed a motion for equal access to provisions for non-Abrahamic faiths. Muslim students have dedicated prayer space, Christians have lots of access to churches and faith space locally. Voting yes is in favour of the SU and university to commit to the provisions that the university's EDI statement describes. Requirements of the room are not currently met by multi-faith spaces, so Hindus on campus are compromising. Asking not for special treatment but equal treatment.

Nobody wishes to speak against the motion.

## Questions

Q: I'm involved with the multifaith chaplaincy. The chaplaincy is looking for more involvement and input from Hindu students, and wanting to appoint a Hindu chaplain. Are you working with the multifaith chaplaincy?

A: we've spoken to the head of the multifaith chaplaincy, he's supported this motion. We've also spoken to the recently appointed Hindu chaplain who also supports.

Q: No prayer space for a range of faiths (eg Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists etc) - are there plans to address this?

A: Looked at examples from other universities, such as King's College London where there are spaces open for all of these faiths. We are also hoping to create a space that is open for all of these faiths.

Q: [one of the Student Community Organisers spoke] The Student Community Organisers are in support of this. Do you have an idea of where you'd want the space located, and how much funding do you think it will require?

A: We don't know where exactly, but we are hoping to work with estates department to find an appropriate space. Not looking to construct a new space, but to use an unused space. Funding: we think at the max £1-2k, which pales in comparison to the university's overall spending. Mumbai campus – they're putting money into a campus in a Hindu majority city, so should be able to support their Hindu students who are here.

Q: regarding organisation and logistics – if it's a space to be used by students of different religions. Who will handle the organisation of this space, especially if it's being used by 4 different groups. And should it be named Hindu space if it's catering to other groups as well?

A: a good question – we could name it differently according to the needs of the groups using it, to encompass all of the faiths using it. Hindu soc is a big society, and there are Sikh and Buddhist societies – we could involve all relevant societies in organisation of the room. Chaplains at the multifaith chaplaincy could also assist with this.

Nobody wants to speak against the motion.

Vote on whether to have an anonymous vote: we will not vote anonymously.

Vote on the motion: Motion passed. (1 abstained, 0 against, rest of the room in favour).

Chair reminds the room that as we are not quorate, we will need to approve these votes at Annual Members Meeting.

### **Move Democratic Standards Committee elections into Teaching Block 2**

Speech for: Democratic Standards Committee (DSC) look after the democratic standards of our democratic meetings. The SU holds Term 1 elections and Term 2 elections – there's a much bigger promotional push on the Term 2 elections, as it's in education law that we must notify students of these elections. Want to move the election for these roles into term 2 so that they can be trained earlier and they can be trained with the rest of the representative roles. Would also mean we can move our democratic meetings earlier in the year to better suit student schedules.

Speech against: This motion has some good and bad points. I had submitted an amendment which was rejected as DSC didn't understand what it was trying to achieve. Only 3 members are here today, we need better engagement. We should have a referendum on DSC. The motion is badly worded, there are parts mentioned in the actions and not the purpose, which is poor practice. Action 4 is wordy, removes ability of DSC to vote in these meetings, which they already don't do by convention. The motion puts DSC members in a separate section of the byelaws to other similar roles. Mandatory members of student council (Full-Time Officers (FTOs), Student Community Organisers (SCOs)); this motion creates a new section which would make DSC the only mandatory members that the Union Affairs officer can influence. Worried that DSC will want to keep in Union Affairs officer's good books, which could influence their decisions.

Questions:

No questions on the motion.

Speech for:

Comment on DSC being unable to figure out the amendment – I think we are united on the positive impacts of the motion. Apologies on the writing of the motion. I didn't cover some things in my proposing speech, but the information is available in the motion, I aimed to just highlight key points.

Speech against:

We've not heard a reason for point 4 – the purpose is not clear on the impact of the motion and the actions. I will probably vote in favour of the motion because it does more good than harm, but I think the motion is not good practice.

Speech for:

DSC members are unpaid – they're separated from SCOs and FTOs in the byelaws to allow them to be paid in future. The union affairs officer wouldn't have control over DSC, but the motion would allow the Union Affairs officer to campaign for them to be paid in future.

Against: the motion isn't about DSC being paid – this is misdirection. Having them in the same place in the byelaws should be consistent. The byelaws do not mention payment.

Vote on whether to vote anonymously: Not voting anonymously

Vote on the motion: Motion passed. (3 against, 5 abstained, rest of the room in favour).

## **Any Other Business**

### **Expression of dissatisfaction: Bristol SU Trustee Board override Student Council decision**

Chair: we received a motion of censure regarding the Trustee Board overturning Student Council's decision from the last meeting. DSC agreed the motion of censure was not appropriate, as it is usually used in response to inappropriate conduct. DSC will now focus on how students can raise dissatisfaction. We've decided to make space in this meeting, to allow students to debate, and the vote will be on whether students are dissatisfied, the outcome of which will be published on the website.

Chair confirms that Ned (Speaker for this item) didn't propose this.

Speech for expression of dissatisfaction: It hurts that we couldn't have the censure motion, and I've complained externally about this. This is our space to express dissent. I would assume we will hear about how the trustees are allowed to take this decision. The issue is whether student council should be allowed to debate a motion when we know it will be

overturned by trustees. Vetoing the motion was them telling us that they would close the issue; that Student Council's opinion has been rejected. The overturning of decisions should be for issues of emergency. We gave our time to represent students and it's inappropriate if the trustees decide in advance to overturn these decisions. Frustration that trustees can't remember the articles that governed their decisions. Asked that student council be allowed to discuss it further.

Speech against: I'm open to feedback – there being no space for dissent is disproved by your speech. The original decisions regarding the removal of associate membership happened as a result of student requests to take action against sexual misconduct complaints. The decision was made to protect the safety of students in societies. There's no format which would allow trustees to make decisions without proper consideration of safeguarding. The decision was made at a strategic level to ensure this safeguarding. The motion at student council was brought to introduce the changes to the byelaws to enable changes going forward, after associate membership was already abolished.

Speech for:

Completely understand concerns Lucy raised, but don't think the answer to these concerns was to remove associate membership. Incidents of complaints against associate members were lower than against students. Societies have long-term relationships with associate members, I think it would be better to do this through other processes.

Speech against:

Decision regarding associate membership was made by the SU – whether we were happy or not, it was scrapped. The motion at Student Council was around putting in more support for societies after this decision was made. It would only have benefitted societies. Moved the SU closer to its charitable aims – to support students, not those who've already graduated. The Women's Hockey club raised concerns – you (speaker against) don't know what their concerns were, and therefore can't say that the move to abolish associate membership doesn't address these.

Speech for:

This isn't about ladies hockey society, or removing associate membership. This is about the overturning of the vote at student council. Overriding the motion was about suppressing dissent. The decision will change if we continue to register our dissent and apply pressure.

Speech against:

[Lucy, Student Living Officer] This is taking a lot of time. There will always be a difference of opinion. If you ask me as a student my opinion it would be different to my opinion as a trustee. This motion is about dissatisfaction regarding overturning student council decision.

Speech for:

The decision on associate membership has been made. There are 6 people here today who feel one way, there were 74 at Student Council who felt another. There will be a chance to campaign on this during TB2 elections, and apply pressure. SUs are built on applying pressure to make change. Associate membership should continue to be a topic on the agenda. I'm frustrated that the motion of censure was not allowed. The motion is about trustees overwriting student council decision. The point of the motion is to express your dissatisfaction with the trustees overturning the decision.

Speech against: the message to take away, is that you can come to speak to Lucy, or contact her to discuss more. The decision wasn't taken lightly. 11 of the 16 trustee members are elected. You're welcome to continue scrutinising this system.

Vote on whether to vote anonymously: we will not vote anonymously

Vote on whether you agree that you're dissatisfied with the actions of the trustee board in this instance: vote in favour, motion passes.

### **Any Other Business**

N/A

## Appendix C: Democratic Terms & definitions

**Motion:** A formal proposal from a student that calls on the SU to take certain actions. This is typically:

- A statement or a belief for the SU to support
- Long-term work that needs to be enshrined in our policies
- If passed, will become enshrined in our policies

**Policy:** What happens to a motion after it passes. These are active for 3 years and direct the work of our Full-Time Officers.



**Democratic Standards Committee (DSC):** A group of five elected students plus the Chair of Student Council and the Union Affairs Officer. They ensure that our structures and democracy are accessible, fair and productive for all students. Their powers are:

- Discussing and allocating Ideas that come through the Ideas Board
- Setting the Agenda for democratic meetings
- Agreeing the wording of referenda
- Approving Election Rules
- Making procedural decisions during democratic meetings
- Advise and explain procedure to students during democratic meetings

If you have a question or want to raise a Procedural Action, you can go speak to them! They'll be set up from 4:30pm, so if you arrive early they'll have plenty of time to hear you out.

**Student Representatives Assembly (SRA):** a committee made up of Full-Time Officers, Student Community Organisers, Faculty Reps, Student Trustees and DSC members, chaired by the Chair of Student Council. During their meetings they:

- Scrutinise the actions of the Full-Time Officer team
- Develop and action student ideas sent to SRA
- Follow up on policy passed at democratic meetings
- Share Academic Experience among Faculty Reps and Education Officers
- Bid for funds to build collaborative campaigns

**Speech For:** 3 minute speech In Favour of the Motion

**Speech Against:** 3 minute speech Opposing a motion

**Statement For:** 1 minute speech In favour of a motion, delivered during the floor debate

**Statement Against:** 1 minute speech Opposing a motion, delivered during the floor debate

**Amendment:** A suggested edit of a motion, submitted in advance of the meeting during the amendment window.

**Guillotine:** A hard stop to the meeting in the event it overruns. This does not mean that the meeting will automatically finish late; rather, it's to ensure *that in the event it does overrun*, we have a hard deadline after which any items left will be postponed to the next meeting.

## Appendix D: Procedural Actions

These are actions available to you during a democratic meeting that are laid out in the byelaws; suggestions you can make to DSC if you're not happy with a motion being voted on in its current form or at this particular meeting. You can suggest the following options:

- **Call for a formal referendum**
  - You can suggest this if you think the motion:
    - should be enshrined in our policies for longer than 3 years
    - covers an important issue that all students should be allowed to vote on
    - is a yes/no issue
  - If DSC approves your suggestion, a vote will be held on whether to turn the motion into a referendum
  - If the vote passes, the motion will not get voted on in the current meeting and will instead be turned into a referendum.
  - If the vote fails, the motion will be voted on as normal.
- **Postpone the motion to the next democratic meeting**
  - You can suggest this if, for example, it would be more appropriate to discuss the motion at AMM rather than Student Council or vice versa.
  - If DSC approves your suggestion, a vote will be held on whether to postpone the motion
  - If the vote passes, the motion will not get voted on in the current meeting and will instead be added to the Agenda of the next democratic meeting.
  - If the vote fails, the motion will be voted on as normal.
- **Vote on a motion in parts**
  - You can suggest this if you agree with **only some** of the actions of the motion

- You will need to decide **how** you want to divide the motion, i.e. Part 1: actions 1 & 2, Part 2: action 3
- If DSC approves your suggestion, a vote will be held on whether to split the motion into parts
- If the vote passes, each part of the motion will be voted on separately – they might still all pass, they might not.
- If the vote fails, the motion will be voted on as normal.
- **Vote on an amendment in parts**
  - You can suggest this if there has been an amendment submitted, and you agree with **only some** of the amendment
    - You will need to decide **how** you want to divide the amendment, i.e. Part 1: actions 1 & 2, Part 2: action 3
  - If DSC approves your suggestion, a vote will be held on whether to split the amendment into parts
  - If the vote passes, each part of the amendment will be voted on separately – they might still all pass, they might not.
  - If the vote fails, the amendment will be voted on as normal.

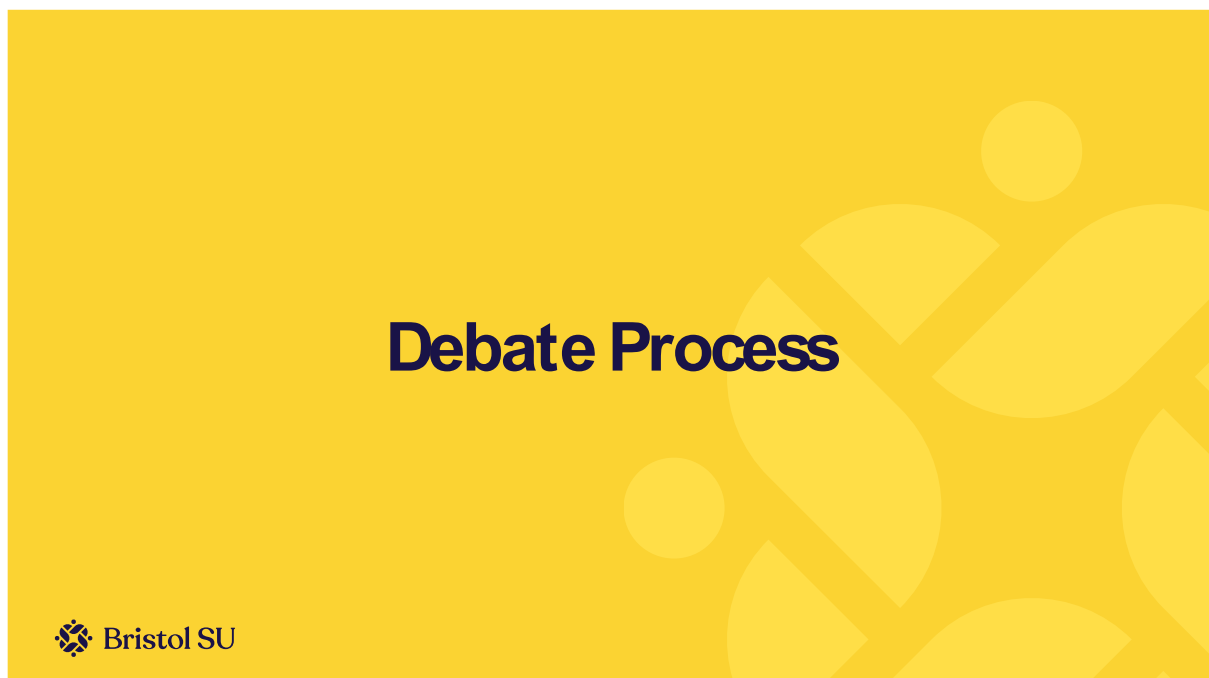
You can go speak to DSC at any point during the meeting, but if you already know ahead of time that you'll want to raise a Procedural Action, we suggest arriving a bit earlier and speaking to DSC while the sign-in process is ongoing. If you do choose to speak to DSC during the meeting, please try to speak quietly so as to not disrupt the meeting.

## Appendix E: Debate Process

1. Motion proposer gives a 3 minute speech for their motion
2. The Chair will call for a Speech Against. They will have 3 minutes.
3. The audience has a chance to ask practical questions on the content of the motion. This is not a chance to debate the validity of the motion: it is strictly a space for you to clarify on the contents of the motion. After you raise your hand and the Chair calls on you, wait for a member of staff to bring you a microphone so you can ask your question.

4. If you want to make a statement For or Against a motion, please use this time to make your way to the front rows. Sit on the For side if you wish to make a statement in support of the motion, and on the Against side if you wish to make a statement opposing the motion.
5. If no one wishes to speak against the motion, we will move directly to voting after questions. If someone does, the Speech Against concludes the first round of debate and kicks off the floor debate.
  - i. The Chair will call on the first person in the queue in the For side to come give their 1 minute statement
  - ii. The Chair will call on the first person in the queue in the Against side to come give their 1 minute statement
  - iii. Rinse and Repeat until everyone has spoken, or, if the debate seems to keep going, until the Chair calls for a second round of 3 minute speeches, which will conclude the debate.
6. The Chair will call for a vote. You will vote by raising your voting card.

**Double click below ↓ to open the Debate Process Animation**





# **Annual Members Meeting**

**19.02.2026**

**17:00 – 19:30**

**G42 Powell Lecture  
Theatre, Physics Building**