

AMM

Bristol SU's Guide to the Annual
Members Meeting

The **Annual Members Meeting** (AMM) is Bristol
SU's biggest democratic event!

This is the perfect opportunity for each and every student to have their say on SU policy.

AMM is an important event, but we recognise that it may be complicated to get your head around at first.

So, here is a simple guide explaining what AMM is, how it works, and what to expect on the day.



Digital Voting

As part of our efforts to make our democratic events more accessible, and easier to take part in, we're using Digital voting!

This means that you'll be able to cast your vote on motions online.

This will be done using Slido – an interactive Q&A and polling platform for live and virtual meetings and events.

If you can't join the Student Council in person, we will be running the audio and video feed for the meeting through Teams.

You will then be able to vote using Slido. Those wishing to speak for or against a motion and any amendments must join the event in person.

However, voting will be done via Slido for everyone – whether you're joining online or in person.

We'll be running an audio and video feed from the AMM meeting through Teams. You can join through this [Online Student Council link](#).

You can then head over to Slido on your computer, or phone via this link:



- The Slido code is #AMM2024

Enter your University of Bristol email address (the one that looks like ab12345) and then check your email for a secure pin.

Input the pin into Slido and you're in! You can use the Q&A function to ask questions during the meeting or vote to support, oppose and abstain on motions once voting opens for each one.

Meeting Agenda

- Intro to AMM from the Chair (5 minutes)
- Officer Updates (20 minutes)
- Ratification of Previous AMM (10 minutes)

MOTION (policy lapse): Harm Reduction (10 minutes)

MOTION (policy lapse): Culture of Consent (10 minutes)

MOTION (policy lapse): Support Sex Workers (10 minutes)

MOTION: Liberating the Structure (15 minutes)

BREAK & PIZZA (15 minutes)

MOTION: Voter Registration (10 minutes)

MOTION: Restructuring the Bus Tickets Timeframe for Yearly Tickets (10 minutes)

MOTION: Include latino/a/x in data collection surveys (10 minutes)

MOTION: Campus space usage (10 minutes)

BREAK (10 minutes)

MOTION: Dental Care Subsidisation (10 minutes)

MOTION: Vehicle Rental Service (10 minutes)

- AOB

Ask the Officers



AMM is your chance to determine if your officers have implemented their manifestos and plans for change. You'll also be able to question their responses to reactive challenges this year.

Have their intentions created results? Are there other changes you would like to see? Let us know!



Izzy Russell: Student Living Officer

This role represents you in all areas related to living in Bristol, including your accommodation, health and wellbeing, finance, and interaction with the local community. As part of this, this Officer will work to make sure that you have access to good advice in these areas and are represented to student support services.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/student-living

Responsibilities include:

- Working for the SU and university buildings (including housing) to be sustainable and accessible.
- Fighting for student rights.
- Making sure that students' interests in health and well-being are represented within the University support services.
- Supporting and developing the Sustainability Network, Fundraising and Volunteering Network, Wellbeing Network, and other Networks as appropriate.

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMM:

“Do you have an example of when you have fought for student rights, especially in terms of accommodation?”





Adam Michael: Union Affairs Officer

This Officer represents you and your interaction with the SU. This involves making sure that our communication and services are effective, accessible, and relevant for everyone. This officer also works to represent the interests of all students to university executive management.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/union-affairs

Responsibilities include:

- Looking after democracy and representation in Bristol SU.
- Making sure that students are at the heart of Union decision-making.
- Responsible for how students interact with the Union, including effective communication channels and oversight for Union services such as those provided for societies, and volunteering & fundraising (RAG).
- Helping to chair and convene the SU Board of Trustees Finance, Risk and Governance Committee.
- Working to explore the development of student societies.

Example of what you could ask them at AMM:

“What have you done this year to increase the informal way SU officers receive feedback?”





Saranya Thambirajah: Equality, Liberation, and Access Officer

So that everyone is represented at our SU and Uni, this Officer works to make sure that all students, particularly underrepresented or marginalised groups, are represented on issues related to their experience at the University. This is so that these interests can then be addressed in the development of Union and University policies.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**: bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/equality-liberation-and-access

Responsibilities include:

- Working to ensure that Bristol is an inclusive, safe, and accessible university for all students.
- Giving a platform to the voices of students from marginalized backgrounds and identities.
- Working with networks and societies to centre student experiences in the SU and the university. For example, supporting and developing Women's, Black Students, BAME, LGBT+, Trans, Disabled Students, Multifaith, and Widening Participation Networks.
- Supporting students on issues relating to the Bristol SU Equality Policy and overseeing Bristol SU's equality objectives.
- Working with the Sport and Student Development and Union Affairs Officers to support campaigns, activities, and research into diverse student experiences to ensure any barriers to participation are removed.

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMM:

"What work have you done to champion the voice of students from marginalized backgrounds? Have they felt heard as a result?"





Pat Gibbs: Sport and Student Development Officer

It is important to develop the opportunities that you and your peers have, to make sure that you can engage in a variety of sports. For this reason, this Officer liaises with the University Centre for Sport, Exercise, and Health and oversee the organisation and promotion of sports clubs, the varsity series and sports participation activities.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**: bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/sport-and-student-development

Responsibilities include:

- Representing sports societies and student groups and their members who are represented throughout the university community, in the SU, and beyond.
- Ensuring that students have access to recreational sporting opportunities.
- Representing the interests of students on matters of personal development.
- Promoting the importance of co-curricular participation and skills development.
- Working with the Equality, Liberation and Access Officer and relevant Chairs of Networks to ensure that the Union's Equality Policy is upheld in all Member-led sporting activities and to ensure any barriers to participation are alleviated.

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMM:

“Have you created any sporting opportunities for individuals that normally face participation barriers? Did it work and have they continued to participate in activities they wouldn't have before?”





Nicole Antoine: Undergraduate Education Officer

This Officer represents your learning and teaching experiences if you are an undergraduate student. They will also make sure that you receive sufficient academic and welfare-related support. As well as this, they will lead and empower undergraduate Course and Faculty Reps so that their own interests are represented within the University Student Services. Check out the full officer description [here](#).

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/undergraduate-education

Responsibilities include:

- Representing undergraduate students on academic and welfare matters
- Ensuring that undergraduate students are represented at every level of Bristol SU and the University.
- Leading and empowering undergraduate academic elected representatives (Course and Faculty Reps).
- Working with the Postgraduate Education Officer to represent, empower and champion academic societies.
- Supporting and developing the Education Network and other Networks as appropriate.

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMM:

“How have you increased student awareness of important academic advice that is available to them?”





Timber Hill: Postgraduate Education Officer

This Officer works to represent you, if you are a postgraduate student, to the Uni and SU - especially in terms of research academic and welfare matters. This officer will make sure that all postgraduate students are represented at every level of the SU and university.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/postgraduate-education

Key responsibilities:

- Representing postgraduate taught and research students on academic and welfare matters
- Ensuring postgraduate students are represented at every level of the SU and university.
- Supporting the postgraduate student network to offer a variety of social environments to postgraduate students
- Helping to shape and inform regulations for Postgraduates within the university
- Shaping a more inclusive across the SU for postgraduate students

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMM:

“Have you conducted research into how the cost-of-living crisis affects Post Graduate Research? If so, what did you find and what will you be doing to help?”





Bakhtawar Javed: International Students Officer

This officer represents all aspects of the international student experience. They champion the inclusion of international Members (EU and non-EU) and campaign against discrimination and barriers within both the University and the Union that impact international students.

Check out what the current officer has been up to here:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/undergraduate-education

Key Responsibilities:

- Helping to represent the academic interests and beyond of all International Students
- Working to create better facilities and support provisions for international students
- Increasing the representation of international students across the SU/university
- Works with the Full-time Officers and the relevant Chairs of Networks to ensure that the interests of international Members are addressed in the development of Union and University policies.
- Works with the Sport and Student Development and Union Affairs Officers to ensure that Union and University activities, democracy, and facilities are accessible and engaging to international Members.

Example of a question someone may ask them at AMML:

“What have you done to make sure that international students have access to good advice and information on matters relating to their University experience?”



How does AMM actually work?



AMM is the perfect opportunity to get your voice heard directly and help set the agenda of the SU. You have the power to improve your university experience and vote on important SU policy!

But, as well as looking towards the future, this space will also offer you the chance to reflect and hold your current Full-time Officers to account.

AMM is also an opportunity to lapse a policy that is about to expire. The following motions are an SU policy lapse:

- MOTION (policy lapse): Harm Reduction
- MOTION (policy lapse): Culture of Consent
- MOTION (policy lapse): Support Sex Workers

Any items, or 'motions', that pass will become active SU policy for 3 years!



What is a motion?

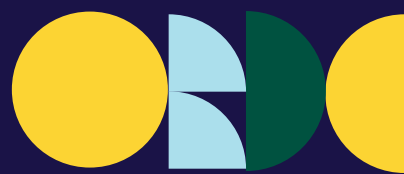
Sadly, we're not referring to the nightclub on this occasion.

At AMM, a motion is the formatted way that a student's idea comes to us. It will include a background explaining why they are sending it, a purpose to describe its intent, and any actions that give clear guidance on how we can enact the idea. The motion is then sent to Democratic Standards to be approved for AMM!

At the meeting, these actions will be displayed on a PowerPoint for each motion that is discussed.

While we are here, you may find it useful to check out the **following terms**:

- **Policy** – when a motion is passed by students, it becomes policy. This is in place for 3 years at the Students Union and can be renewed at the Annual Members Meeting.
- **Amendment** – a suggestion from another student to a student's motion, which can “amend” what exactly the motion may enact.
- **Chair** – the person at the front leading the meeting.
- **Democracy Desk** – a group of elected students, Democratic Standards Committee, who you can ask procedural questions to any time.



How is the meeting structured?

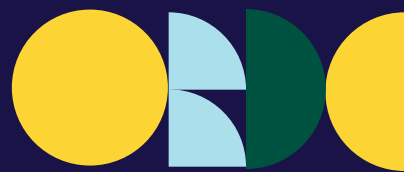


Firstly those who introduced the motion ideas get to speak to AMM attendees to propose and convince others to pass the motion.

Then the Chair will allow someone to speak against the motion if they don't agree with it.

If you didn't propose it, you will be able to ask any questions you have about the motion to its proposer, but mainly just to further clarify the idea – not to deliver an opposition speech against it! This is then rinsed and repeated until we need to hold a vote!

There might be a chance that the Chair thinks there needs to be another round of arguments. This is because sometimes an idea might be quite complex, so they want to make sure it's heard fairly.



Breaking a motion into parts

When you're looking at the actions displayed on the PowerPoint, you might notice some things that you want to happen – but not every action that is listed. If so, you can speak to the **Democracy Desk** before the vote has started, and ask for a motion to be broken into parts. The Chair will give you a minute before they move to a vote to give you time to speak to the Democracy Desk.

Here's an example:

The Motion: *“A Warmer University”*

The Actions:

- **Action 1:** To give everyone a free hat so they're warm in the winter
- **Action 2:** Make sure heating is on in all student study spaces during the day
- **Action 3:** To ensure university halls remained heated

You might think that two of the actions make sense but think **Action 1** is *a bit silly*.

So, you can approach the Democracy Desk so that everyone votes on each Action, not all of them grouped.



2024 AMM Motions



Liberating the Structure

Proposer: Adam Michael

Seconder: Saranya Thambirajah

Initiating Systematic Measures to Promote Student Voter Registration

Proposer: Joshua Man Yu Ng

Seconder: Izzy Russel

Reconstructing the Annual Student Bus Pass

Proposer: Byakatonda Marvine

Seconder: Kingsley Toulack



2024 AMM Motions

Include 'Latino/a/x' as an option in all future data collection related to Student Ethnic Background

Proposer: Keisy Lin Fong

Seconder: Tilly Foster

Campus Space Usage

Proposer: Nicole Antoine

Seconder: Timber Hill

Subsidised Dental Care Access for University of Bristol Students through UOB Dental School

Proposer: Byakatonda Marvine

Seconder: Kingsley Toulack

Accessible SU Car Rental for Student Events

Proposer: Jess Heaton

Seconder: Louis de Gale



Liberating the Structure

Proposer: Adam Michael Second: Saranya Thambirajah

Background

1. Bristol SU is embarking on a Representation Review. There are three major driving factors for this review

a. Procedural

A Representation Review was last conducted 7 years ago. The byelaws recommend that there should be a formal review of the structures every 3/4 years.

b. Student Opinion

Students have signified their want for a democracy review by passing a motion 'Improving Governance, Democracy and Membership Engagement' at the student council in June 2021, ratified in November 2021

c. Levels of Engagement

There is reported dwindling attendance and engagement, specifically since COVID, and a shift in how students interact with democracy.

2. Bristol Student Union aims to thoroughly review the democratic structures, student engagement mechanisms, and governance processes. The primary goal has been to foster a more inclusive, participatory, and effective/impactful collaborative democracy within the student body. This review commenced in September 2023 to create a programme of phased and sustainable democratic change.

3. Bristol Student Union undertook comprehensive and confidential research consisting of one-to-one interviews with Full-Time Officers (FTOs) and one-to-one interviews with staff members. Additionally, there was a priority to capture a detailed qualitative understanding of the students' experience and feelings within this space; consequently, there was a dedication to conduct 8 focus group discussions in conjunction with a survey. There was also an analysis of existing data. The primary objective of this extensive research was to illuminate the intricacies and challenges within the realms of liberation spaces, student concerns, and creating change.



4. The research found:

- a. **Barriers to Student Participation:** The main barriers preventing students from applying for elected positions are time constraints, lack of information, and financial challenges.
- b. **Network's Overarching Scope:** The network structure is perceived as falling short of its intended function, trying to fulfil too many functions simultaneously.
- c. **Demand for Diverse Interaction Methods:** Students need more varied interaction methods, including in-person and digital platforms.
- d. **Perception of SU as an Obstacle:** There is a perception among students that Bristol SU is an obstacle rather than an enabler, with students creating alternative speedier structures for campaigns.
- e. **Desire for Immediate Involvement of Decision-Makers:** Students express a need for more immediate involvement of decision-makers in addressing student concerns.
- f. **Impractical Quantity of Campaigns:** The current network structure is overextended with too many campaigns, resulting in unmanageable workloads and unfilled committee positions.
- g. **Confusion Around Network Roles:** Students are confused about the purpose and functionality of network roles.
- h. **Need for Financial Compensation for Student Leaders:** Students and staff have emphasised the need to compensate student leaders to enable more equitable access to these roles.
- i. **Overlap and Competition with Student Groups:** The networks' inclusivity of groups with shared interests creates overlaps and competition with other student-led groups.
- j. **Networks' Influence and Efficacy:** Students express a lack of influence and effectiveness of the network spaces.
- k. **Consistency and Relevance of Networks:** The success of networks is inconsistent, with some networks not having chairs until late in the academic year.
- l. **Need for Clear Strategic Direction for Networks:** There is a need for a consistent understanding of how networks fit into the broader strategic direction of the university or Union.



m. Limited engagement with Networks despite a strong passion for liberation issues. Despite students' strong passion for liberation issues, there is minimal engagement with the network structure, which is an identity-based group. Networks are not attracting those students who are passionate about issues, highlighting a disconnect between interest and how students want to participate actively in liberation issues.

n. Liberation Identities and language: Complexity surrounding liberation identities and their relevance to current students. The discussion around liberation identities is intricate and needs to be clarified with students at the heart of these conversations with humility. There were concerns about the need to protect specific liberation groups and identify where campaigns should span across networks and include allies. This raised whether identity politics within the network structure resonates with students.

o. Limited engagement with Networks despite a strong passion for liberation issues. Despite students' strong passion for liberation issues, there is minimal engagement with the network structure, which is an identity-based group. Networks are not attracting those students who are passionate about issues, highlighting a disconnect between interest and how students want to participate actively in liberation issues. Students want to be activists about issues but avoid joining a network.

p. Trust and anonymity: Students were hesitant and cautious about the motives of networks and democratic processes as they felt that the current approach to liberation campaigns is performative and that it 'feels like they're using you for diversity points, instead of... we care about your voice'. They felt listening exercises and representation roles were tokenistic and something for the Union to congratulate themselves on. Networks didn't create spaces for difficult conversations, and there was a sentiment that the Union wasn't a place for challenging conversations: 'They don't listen to people that disagree. will they listen to me?' For those students who were involved in giving feedback or discussing, Students felt they were putting themselves in an awkward position when trying to work on decolonising the curriculum in academic spaces.



5. Bristol SU's current Liberation and student campaigning spaces exist within a 'network' structure. This has been within the focus of the representation review, the scope of which is Academic Representation, Full-Time Officer structure, and Networks. It was unanimously found to be a priority for the organisation, based on student feedback and FTO insight. The overarching urgency to begin the change focusing on Liberation is due to a lack of consistent engagement with networks, the quality of network campaigns and liberation representation. This is detrimental to students' experience and Union staff members.

6. The intention of a network, as stated by the bylaws' 1. The Union will establish Networks to create a platform for Union Officers, Student Groups and individual students to work together to build student communities and create change through collective action. Networks are representative bodies and can lead campaigns, hold forums and draft policy.'. This is currently falling short of its intended function. It is ideal aspiration is for it to serve as a space for accountability, liberation representation, and student campaigns concerning issues directly impacting them. However, this overarching scope may suggest that it's attempting to fulfil too many functions simultaneously.



Purpose

1. This motion seeks AMM's approval to initiate systematic and phased changes in the current network structure. The SU recognises the pressing need for immediate adjustments, which this motion aims to start implementing. We also aim to lay the groundwork for a more robust overhaul of how our student campaigns and liberation representation work.

2. By securing AMM approval, we intend to embark over the next 12 months on a strategic and measured democratic change-making process to address the challenges and feedback students provided as part of the representation review. This motion serves as a crucial first step in making our liberation and campaigning framework more responsive, inclusive, and student-led.



3. The motion aims to develop new processes that make it easier for students to campaign less formally on issues important to the student population at the time. The SU aims to create more space and capacity for reactive work (i.e. Issues that arise or become important to students throughout the year), which students can get involved in on an ad-hoc basis. The motion aims to embed direct student decision-making within this.

4. Ultimately, the purpose of this motion is to enhance and elevate Bristol SU's commitment to liberation issues and how we campaign on them. We intend to make the roles and opportunities within Liberation more responsive, relevant and remunerated. Ensuring that the most marginalised communities are recognised, empowered and paid for their representative role.



Actions

Please click this document to see all Actions for this motion:



**Click here to see Full
Motion**



Our Voices Matter: Initiating Systematic Measures to Promote Student Voter Registration

Proposer: Joshua Man Yu Ng

Seconded: Izzy Russell

Background

There will be two major elections held in Bristol in 2024: The Bristol City Council Election and the General Election. Both upcoming elections this year are extremely important and competitive.

Considering that the number of UoB students and Staff accounted for nearly 10% of the overall population in Bristol (1), theoretically, our opinions should be reflected in election results. However, the sad fact is there is a very low registration rate and turnout rate among student voters in Bristol. Our voices are not being heard.

The following data explains the situation. It is estimated that the voter registration rate in Bristol is around 69%. However, the most updated statistics show that the student registration rate is only around 30-40% (2), and this includes registered electors who are no longer studying at the university. Central Bristol has recorded a decrease of 8978 voters since 2021, most of whom are students who moved out (3). At the same time, new voter registration rate is very low. Less than 10% (581 out of 8806) students staying in university accommodations are currently registered as voters (4). This resulted in wards with huge students populations but an incredible low voter registration rate (5).

This could be due to the following reasons:

- i) Students are not informed of the registration process, or refuse to register as they believe that their vote carries minimal impact.
- ii) Students are not informed that they can register to vote at multiple addresses, both in their hometown and in Bristol;
- iii) Some overseas students, such as EU citizens, Commonwealth citizens, students with special visas (e.g the BN(O) Visa from Hong Kong) and ethnic minorities are not aware that they are eligible to register as a voter.

The University has taken limited actions in relation to voting-related issues, especially when compared to other universities. For example, in University of Sheffield, students have the option to provide their personal details to the university to register as a new voter (6). These details are then securely transmitted to the City Council, which, upon verifying their eligibility, automatically adds the individual to the electoral register. This streamlined process ensures that students are conveniently and efficiently registered to vote.





Purpose

1. As one of the largest communities in Bristol, student voices should not be neglected in political practice. It is crucial to encourage candidates to attend to local issues that affect students' livelihood, such as rental crisis, transportation and safety issues. Besides, it is also an extremely effective way to voice our concerns in nationwide issues such as climate change, LGBTQ+ rights, cost-of-living crisis and more.
2. Voting is a good practice to maintain in a democratic country. Both the University and Student Union should work together and reduce the barriers for students to participate in socio-political issues.
3. Voting rights among overseas students should also be promoted. As a part of the community, their opinions should not be neglected.
4. As the City Council Election will take place in May 2024, time is running short. It would be ideal to launch promotional campaigns beforehand to effectively obtain the largest impact.



Action

1. The SU to lobby the university to establish an online opt-in enrolment system that allows university students to register as voters or modify their living address conveniently (7), and promote student voter registration in suitable platforms, such as in the accommodation portal or in welcoming letters.
2. The SU to officially endorse campaigns that promote and support voter registration.
3. The officer team to continue to develop inclusivity in voter registration campaigns and promote importance of voting before local and General Elections
4. The SU to actively approach various international student groups or societies that are willing to promote or are currently promoting voter registration among overseas students, such as students from EU nationals and students with a British National (Overseas) passport, to assist new voter registration in a uniform and systemized approach.
5. The SU to actively approach the Junior Common Room (JCR) committee to launch collaborative campaigns targeting students who are living in university accommodations to register to vote.
6. The SU to work with Student representatives (e.g. Course Reps and Faculty Reps) to keep students updated on voting-related campaigns and relevant information.





Sources and References

(1) According to Bristol Key Facts Report 2023, there are approximately 43,700 full-time students aged 18 and over living in City of Bristol, making up 9.2% of the total population.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/1840-bristol-key-facts-2022/file>

(2) According statistics from Bristol City Council, up till 11th January 2024, there are 9677 registered electors are classified as students voters in Bristol. 4616 students living in Halls of Residence, while 5,061 living in private student properties. These figures include students from UWE, students who moved out or graduated but without updating their voter registration address. Therefore, considering 30%-40% of them are international students, the expected voter registration rate in Bristol is not more than 27-36%.

(3) We had compared the data from voter statistics on 2021 May and 2023 December.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-and-mayor/voting-and-elections/election-results-2012-to-2023/local-councillor-elections-2021-turnout-and-results>

(4) The Electoral Data is conducted on 2023 December, where 163, 210 and 208 voters registered in student accommodation in North, West and East village respectively. These data does not include voters registered in Hillside Woodside, Campus Houses and Marlborough House.

(5) For example, according to 2021 Census, it is estimated that there are 18390 people living in Central Ward, in which at least one-third are students population, but there is only 8396 voters in 2023 Dec will registration rate of 45.6%. Other wards with much student population, such as Hotwells and Harbourside (60.86%), Cotham (64.07%), Clifton Down (63.73%) also recorded a voter registration rate lower than average.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/filters/58c857a1-e49b-46c0-b2a6-360ba00e3aab/dimensions>

(6) Register to vote in Sheffield

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/new-students/registration/home-students#register-to-vote-in-sheffield>

(7) For Instance, the Register Student To Vote guide provides very practical guide on helping students to register to vote without much obstacles

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6441491cef82d36317e9c0b3/t/64c90c329e5a875ba4058dd2/1690897477226/Auto-Enrolment-Guidance>



Restructuring the Annual Student Bus Pass (Aligning the academic year with student Bus Pass)

Proposer: Byakatonda Marvine

Second: Kingsley Toulack

Background

The current yearly bus ticket structure provided by First-Bus in collaboration with the University of Bristol spans from September to early June the following year. This framework, however, results in a three-month coverage gap during the summer, affecting students, particularly postgraduates and international students, who may need continuous access to transportation for academic commitments. Notably, most new students arrive in September, coinciding with the start of the academic year. This gap poses challenges for those engaged in summer research, dissertation work, or coursework extending into the non-covered period. The proposal seeks to rectify this issue by restructuring the time frame to cover the entire year, aligning with the academic calendar, and ensuring uninterrupted access to transportation services for all students.



Purpose

The purpose of this motion is to advance the education and welfare of Bristol students by addressing a crucial gap in the current yearly bus ticket structure. By restructuring the time frame to cover the entire year, we aim to ensure continuous and uninterrupted access to transportation services for all students, aligning with the academic calendar. This change will particularly benefit postgraduate and international students, as well as certain undergraduates, who may have academic commitments extending into the summer months. By promoting inclusivity and supporting students in their academic pursuits, this motion actively contributes to the welfare, education, and personal development of the Bristol student community.





Action

1. **Engage in Discussions with First-Bus:** Work collaboratively with SU Officers to initiate discussions by the university with First-Bus to propose and negotiate the restructuring of the yearly bus ticket time frame. This will involve presenting the rationale behind the proposed changes and seeking a commitment from First-Bus to implement the adjustment.
2. **Consult Relevant Stakeholders:** Conduct consultations with key stakeholders, including postgraduate and international student representatives, to gather feedback and insights on the proposed restructuring. Ensure that the perspectives of all affected student groups are considered in the negotiation process.
3. **Communicate with the University Administration:** Inform the University administration about the resolution and its underlying rationale. Seek support and collaboration in advocating for the restructuring of the yearly bus ticket time frame, emphasizing the positive impact on students' academic experiences and overall well-being.
4. **Inform and Involve the Student Body:** Communicate the resolution and its purpose to the wider student body through various channels, such as newsletters, social media, and campus events. Encourage students to provide feedback and support for the proposed changes, fostering a sense of collective advocacy.
5. **Monitor and Evaluate Implementation:** If negotiations with First-Bus are successful, work with SU Officers to monitor the implementation of the adjusted yearly bus ticket time frame. Gather feedback from students to ensure the changes effectively address the identified issues and make any necessary adjustments for continuous improvement.



Include 'Latino/a/x' as an option in all future data collection related to Student Ethnic Background.

Proposer: Keisy Lin Fong Seconder: Tilly Foster

Background

11. Underrepresentation:

The current university census lacks specific recognition of the Latino/a/x community, contributing to their underrepresentation in institutional data. Latin Americans, whilst a growing community, remain a minority ethnic group in the United Kingdom (UK), yet they are frequently excluded as an option in most censuses and data collection points. The Latin American Women's Rights Service suggests that there may be between 700,000 to a million residents identifying as Latino/a/x in the UK. Our current information from the University of Bristol Latino Society consists of 175 active members, highlighting the significant presence of this community. This oversight lacks a representative understanding of the student body, limiting the ability to address the unique needs and concerns of this demographic.

2. Inadequate Support for the Latino/a/x community:

The absence of statistical data on the Latin American community hampers their representation in policy formation and impedes the provision of adequate support. Including Latino/a/x in the University of Bristol Student Union ethnic background data collection not only reflects the demographic reality but also aligns the institution with broader inclusivity efforts in higher education, promoting diversity, and nurturing an environment that respects the unique identities within the student population.

Latin Americans in the UK: an increasingly visible population (slas.org.uk)
<https://www.slas.org.uk/post/latin-americans-in-the-uk-an-increasingly-visible-population>

3. Promoting Diversity and Inclusivity:

By incorporating Latino/a/x as an option in ethnic background data, we not only acknowledge the richness of our student body but also send a clear message about the value of diversity. This step contributes to a more inclusive campus culture, fostering understanding and appreciation among all students.





Purpose

1. To ensure Bristol SU is an effective representative channel for all members by recognizing and representing the diverse demographics within the student population enhances the SU's effectiveness in voicing the needs and concerns of all members, contributing to a more robust and inclusive student representation system.
2. To better support the personal development of Bristol students who identify as Latino/a/x; with access to robust statistical data on the Latino/a/x community at Bristol, more targeted support can be developed and offered to these Bristol students. This can not only be the stepping stone for the University of Bristol, but also to motivate other universities and institutions across the UK to offer a more inclusive space for diverse ethnic groups.



Action

1. To include 'Latino/a/x' as an option in all future data collection related to Student Ethnic Background. This includes questionnaires, census, or other related areas where Student Ethnic Background Data is collected. Work closely with university administration to facilitate the practical integration of Latino/a/x, including discussions on the appropriate terminology, data collection methods, and dissemination of information to ensure an implementation process that respects the cultural nuances and preferences but also offers an inclusive space for the Latino/a/x community.
2. Bristol SU to begin collecting information about the Latino/a/x experience.
3. To lobby the university to include 'Latino/a/x' as an option in all future data collection related to Student Ethnic Background.



Campus Space Usage

Proposer: Nicole Antoine Seconder: Timber Hill

Background

1. I have spent the the past year lobbying the university to extend the closing times of senate house to account for the demand and frequent usage of such a multidimensional building, which can account for not only the studying needs of students, but is a home for a vast majority of societies, as well as acting a safe space for socialising which provides warmth, safety, free WiFi, appliances and electricity. Senate house is 1 out of 3 of the most used building on campus, and after relentless meetings and emails the uni have temporarily agreed to extended the weekend closing time from 6pm to 10pm during the TB1 study period - However, this is not enough. This needs to be formalised to be a long term agreement and for both TB1 and TB2 assessment period from now onwards.

2. There are several different buildings on campus which occasionally are used for lectures, seminars and workshops during the day, Bristol students should be able to use these rooms as alternative study and societies spaces.



Purpose

1. There is already not sufficient access to spaces on campus and in the next couple of months the SU will be vacating the top floor of senate house, which further will lessen the access to already used spaces for students, clubs and societies.

2. We need to be resourceful and maximise the already available space on campus which is being unused to benefit the students here and now.





Action

1. The Bristol SU officer team to continue to lobby the university for concrete alternative spaces which Bristol students are able to book at use for their own use such as for studying, or for societies and clubs.
2. To ensure the SU put student spaces usage as a priority, working in partnership with the university to ensure that the current space on campus is being fully maximised for student usage. 3. The SU and the University work on an appropriate booking system which allows students to book room usage in an effective and easy way, which also allows accessible monitoring for all
4. The SU and Officers to lobby the university to ensure sufficient study and activity space is being considered in the development of the new campus Temple Quarter due to be opened officially in 3 years (if without delays).



Subsidized Dental Care Access for University of Bristol Students through UOB Dental School

Proposer: Byakatonda Marvine

Secunder: Kingsley Toulack

Background

Securing registration with an NHS dental practice in Bristol poses a significant challenge for students. Many struggle to locate accessible services, resorting to costly private practices. This financial strain exacerbates health care barriers for both domestic and international students. In response to these challenges, this proposal advocates for subsidized or NHS standard level dental care through the University Dental School. Prioritizing oral health aligns with the university's commitment to holistic student well-being, leveraging existing resources to relieve financial burdens and enhance overall health and academic success.

Purpose

To promote the welfare of Bristol students by addressing the challenges in accessing affordable dental care. This motion aligns with Bristol SU's charitable objects, specifically advancing education by ensuring students have access to essential health services. By advocating for subsidized dental care, we aim to relieve financial burdens on students, contributing to their overall well-being. This proposal underscores the SU's role as an effective representative channel, championing a crucial aspect of student life and reinforcing our commitment to holistic student development.

Action

1. Research and Budgetary Considerations: Conduct research, in collaboration with Bristol SU, to establish the required costs for implementing the program. Use this information during the lobbying process, providing a basis for budgetary considerations. This may involve estimating costs for subsidization, additional staffing requirements (if any), and potential revenue streams to offset expenses.

2. Lobby the University to establish a Partnership or Subsidization Program: The SU should Advocate for the University Dental School to collaborate with the NHS or establish a subsidization program to offer dental care services at reduced rates for University of Bristol students.



3. Communication and Awareness Campaign: If actions 1 and 2 are successfully completed, the SU should collaborate with the university to launch a comprehensive communication and awareness campaign. This should inform students about the availability of subsidized dental care services, detailing eligibility criteria, costs, and the benefits of regular dental check-ups.

4. Monitor and Evaluate: If previous actions are successfully completed, Bristol SU Officers to collaborate with the University to establish a monitoring and evaluation framework. Regularly assess the impact of subsidized dental care services on students' well-being, gather feedback, and adjust as needed to ensure the continued success of the program.



Accessible SU Car Rental for Student Events

Proposer: Jess Heaton Seconder: Louis de Gale

Background

The proposal for a Student Union-operated car rental service is grounded in a well-identified need within the Bristol student community. The university is renowned for its vibrant society culture, offering a breadth of extracurricular activities that are crucial for the holistic development of students. However, this richness of student life faces logistical challenges due to limited access to transportation. Many students, while licensed to drive, do not have vehicles at their disposal, which limits the scope of activities that societies can offer.

This motion is proposed by the Kitesurfing Society who has found that the existing external car rental service endorsed by the SU is not suitable for society events. Its advanced booking requirement and mandatory pre-registration of drivers do not align with the unpredictable attendance of activities, where confirmation often occurs shortly before the event. Furthermore, late returns from activities clash with the service's closing hours, forcing us to rent cars for longer durations than necessary, which significantly increases costs. This extra expense negates the discounts we offer for beginner lessons, hindering our goal of making these activities more accessible and inclusive.

Many societies require transport to their events and the introduction of a dedicated SU-operated car rental service would not only alleviate these issues by providing the needed flexibility and cost-efficiency but would also foster consistent participation in society-led events. This initiative promises to unlock the full potential of student societies, ensuring that transportation logistics cease to be a barrier to student engagement and activity planning.





Purpose

The intent of this motion is to enhance student engagement at Bristol University by establishing a Student Union-operated car rental service.

Enhance Welfare: Provide equitable access to transportation, ensuring that all students, regardless of personal vehicle ownership, can fully engage in society-led events and activities. This aligns with the SU's commitment to improving student wellbeing by removing logistical barriers and promoting broader participation.

Support Educational Advancement: Offer practical learning opportunities beyond the academic setting. The ability to travel for educational activities like field trips or sports lessons directly complements classroom learning.

Strengthen SU Representation: Act as a testament to the SU's responsiveness to student needs, demonstrating their role as an effective liaison between students' interests and practical solutions.

Flexibility: Societies can plan activities based on optimal conditions rather than the availability of a vehicle or rental service hours. Additionally, by offering a tailored cost structure that minimizes rental periods, this service aims to maintain affordability, keeping student expenses low and ensuring cost-effectiveness.

Promote Personal Development: The car rental service will not only facilitate diverse extracurricular engagement but also offer a platform for students to gain valuable management and operational skills by participating in the initiative's administration.

In essence, this motion will serve as a catalyst for personal growth, inclusivity, and enriched educational experiences, embodying the SU's vision for a supportive and dynamic student environment.





Action

1. Conduct a survey to ascertain the demand and potential usage patterns for the SU rental service.
2. Investigate (a) the feasibility of the SU maintaining a small fleet of vehicles (1 or 2 cars) for student society use and (b) the development of a cost model that ensures affordability for students while covering the expenses of the service.
3. Assess insurance, maintenance, and administrative requirements for vehicle management.
4. Explore a streamlined booking system that allows for last-minute reservations in response to unpredictable events such as weather changes.
5. Explore support or partnership opportunities with the external car rental service currently linked on the SU's website or one that can offer last minute bookings.





Bristol SU