



**STUDENT
COUNCIL
IDEAS INFO PACK**

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INTRODUCTION

The Student Council Meeting is the highest decision-making body at The SU. Three times a year, 20 students are elected to attend. 10 from Societies Conference, 5 from Sport Conference and 5 from Reps Committee. They are there to think about and discuss matters relating to The SU on behalf of the wider student population.

Ideas that come to the meeting are conditional passes and won't be worked on until they have been scrutinised. Unless they are vetoed at the meeting, they will pass and be worked on the same as a 1st.

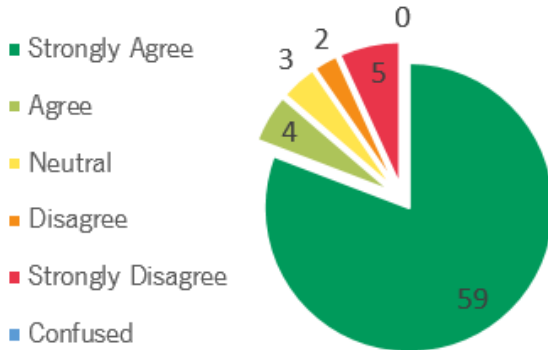
It takes two-thirds of the meeting (13 members) to veto a 2:1 and 50%+1 (11 members) to veto a 2:2.

Meetings are run as facilitated group discussions. Everybody has the opportunity to share their thoughts and all opinions are respected even if not agreed with.

Members at the meeting have a responsibility to make decisions based on what would be in the best interest of students. Sometimes these won't be easy decisions to make, this is why the meeting is important.

Improve The Quality & Quantity Of Halal Food Around Campus

Improve the quality & quantity of Halal food around campus.



RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:73

SCORE:15

MEAN AVERAGE:4.51

SCORE:15

MAJORITY:86.3

SCORE:25

TOTAL:55

2:2

Idea Holders Extra Information

One zone including with the SU need to understand that Halal food is a necessity on campus than just a choice, 50-100 sandwiches and one meal offered in one zone per day is not enough for a community of 2000 Muslim students on campus. There are private caterers around Bristol we should look into

to improve our quality of food and reduce both the SU and students expense.

It is a struggle for every Muslim student and we need to change this for the better going forward.

The SU Should Provide Out of Hours Pastoral Care for Students

THE SU SHOULD PROVIDE "OUT-OF-HOURS"
PASTORAL CARE FOR STUDENTS

RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:61

SCORE:15

MEAN AVERAGE:4.74

SCORE:15

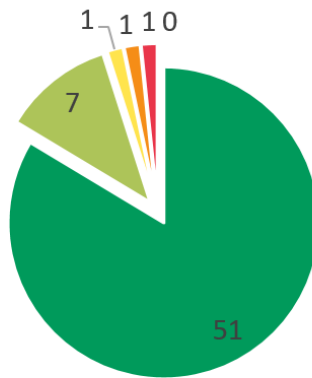
MAJORITY:95.1

SCORE:25

TOTAL:55

2:2

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Confused



Idea Holders Extra Information

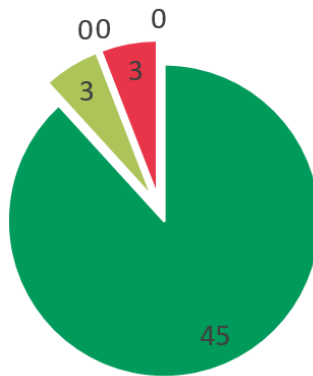
Currently, all available health and well-being support from UWE closes at 5pm. If students are feeling overwhelmed, alone or depressed outside of the 9-5 working day there is almost no support available from the university or the SU. In light of the three recent tragedies at UoB I believe it is more important than ever for this support to be provided.

This could be provided through a peer-run scheme such as Nightline. The provision of support on a peer-to-peer basis offers a chance to speak to people in similar situations to you on an anonymous basis; this could be key to encouraging people who may not feel comfortable using other services to seek help.

Say No To Increased Fees

SAY NO TO INCREASED FEES

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Confused



RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:51

SCORE:15

MEAN AVERAGE:4.71

SCORE:15

MAJORITY:94.1

SCORE:25

TOTAL:55

2:2

Idea Holders Extra Information

Student fees are set to rise again under the proposed changes to Higher Education. On average, students in England already pay the highest tuition in the world. A further increase in fees will mean that fewer people will be able to afford to go to University.

The SU must commit to actively support any efforts or campaigns by the National Union of Students to prevent an increase in University fees.

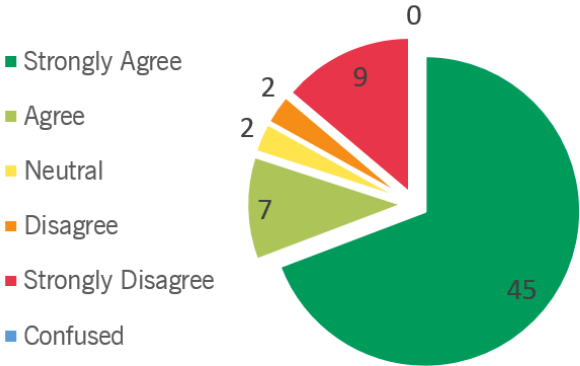
They must actively encourage all members of the union to participate in all actions against any increase.

This should include not filling in the NSS, as well as other actions which would prevent an effective use of the Teaching Excellence Framework, as this is set to be used in determining how much a university can charge.

As part of their promotional strategy the SU will reward members for participating in these vital actions through a prize draw or similar reward scheme.

Condemn And Refuse To Comply With The Prevent Agenda

THE SU TO PUBLICLY CONDEMN AND REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH THE PREVENT AGENDA, WHILE LOBBYING UWE TO BE OPEN IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT WITH IT



RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:65
SCORE:15
MEAN AVERAGE:4.18
SCORE:10
MAJORITY:80
SCORE:25
TOTAL:50
2:2

Idea Holders Extra Information

Prevent is a programme which unfairly targets Muslim students and treats them as suspects based on racial profiling. This creates a highly unfair and insecure environment for Muslims despite them being guilty of nothing.

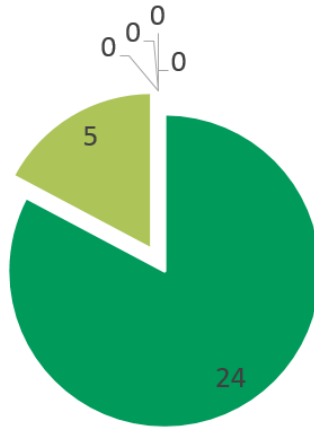
We would recommend that :

1. Elected officers of this Union do not engage with the Prevent strategy or implement any of the proposals of the Act to which they are not legally bound, and to boycott it as far as legally possible.
2. To SU release a statement expressing its opposition to Prevent and the CTS Act for being racist and a threat to academic freedom and civil liberties.
3. The SU work with campus trade unions including UCU on combating the Prevent strategy and its implementation on campus.
4. The SU educate students on the dangers of the CTS Act and the Prevent strategy.
5. The SU lobby the University to be more open and transparent about how they are engaging with Prevent and other similar initiatives.

Hot Water Points Around Campus For Pot Noodle/Tea/Coffee

HOT WATER POINTS AROUND CAMPUS FOR POT NOODLE/TEA/COFFEE

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Confused



RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:29

SCORE:10

MEAN AVERAGE:4.83

SCORE:20

MAJORITY:100

SCORE:25

TOTAL:55

2:2

Idea Holders Extra Information

None

EXECUTIVE PASSES

The Executive are elected by the wider student body and have been given a mandate to make important decisions about The SU as a result. Because of this, they have the ability to automatically pass Student Ideas as long as they can be carried out without opposition or detriment to other students.

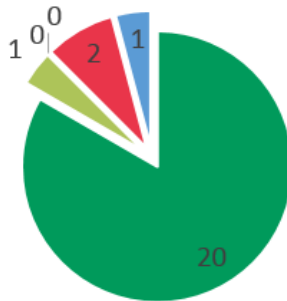
Not all Ideas will gain the support of the wider student population but that doesn't necessarily mean that they aren't important. If for example students from a small postgraduate course had an Idea that affected only them, a member of The Executive could take it to The Executive meeting and suggest that it be automatically passed.

As a safeguard, The Student Council Meeting can overturn an Executive decision with a 2/3rd majority.

Lobby the Vice-Chancellor and Directorate to oppose the removal of NHS student bursaries

Lobby the Vice-Chancellor and University Directorate to oppose the removal of NHS student bursaries

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Confused



RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:24

SCORE:0

MEAN AVERAGE:4.46

SCORE:10

MAJORITY:91.3

SCORE:25

TOTAL:35

FAIL

Idea Holders Extra Information

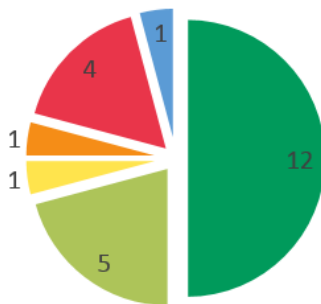
Suggestions of action that could be taken include that the SU lobbies the University for the creation of a hardship fund for students who would have qualified for this bursary and experience economic hardship as a result of its withdrawal; that the SU will promote to students the negative effects caused by the removal of these bursaries

and encourage them to take action against it; that the SU will work alongside other organisations and bodies to oppose the withdrawal of NHS bursaries; that the SU affirms its commitment to equal access to higher education for all based on merit not on circumstance; that the SU will take any and all other opportunities to oppose this destructive government policy.

Make a commitment to more unisex bathrooms on UWE campuses

MAKE A COMMITMENT TO MORE UNISEX BATHROOMS ON UWE CAMPUSES

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Confused



RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:24

SCORE:0

MEAN AVERAGE:3.75

SCORE:5

MAJORITY:73.9

SCORE:25

TOTAL:30

FAIL

Idea Holders Extra Information

At Bower Ashton, by the canteen, there is a block of gender-neutral toilet cubicles (which are excellent in that they are not only open to all gender identities, but are also individual 'rooms' in themselves, as opposed to a door with a gap above and below, offering more privacy).

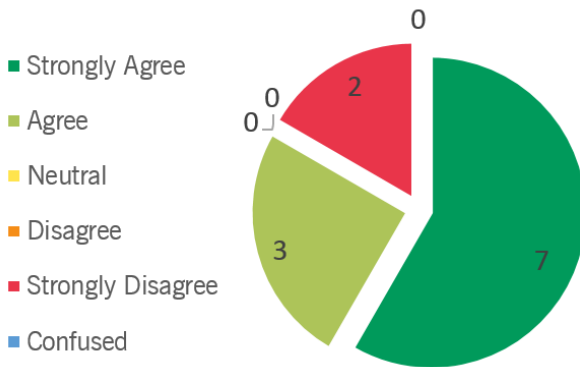
Unisex toilets - and to be clear, 'bathrooms' does not actually mean that the room requires a bath - are important to members of many communities; transgender and non-binary individuals who feel uncomfortable with the idea of using bathrooms which don't match their gender identity; the elderly, disabled and other individuals who may require assistance in certain circumstances; parents who need to accompany their young children to the toilet, etc.

They are also more cost-effective to the university (negating the need to fill up more space by building separate male & female toilets). To the best of my knowledge (although I do not know the campus intimately, so I could be wrong), these facilities are not widely available on Frenchay campus. Glenside is also an unknown entity to me.

I would like to propose that the university commits to increasing the number of unisex bathrooms on all campuses; be this through converting existing male-or-female bathrooms, or committing that bathrooms built in new facilities will be unisex. This does not have to mean the immediate spending of lots of money; it can be a gradual long-term commitment to improving unisex facilities as the opportunities become available.

Make Campus Officer Positions More Prominent In The Running Of The SU

REDEVELOP THE ROLE OF BOWER & GLENSIDE CAMPUS OFFICERS TO INVOLVE THEM MORE PROMINENTLY IN THE RUNNING OF THE SU



RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:12

SCORE:0

MEAN AVERAGE:4.08

SCORE:10

MAJORITY:83.3

SCORE:25

TOTAL:35

FAIL

Idea Holders Extra Information

At present, the role of Campus Officer on our non-Frenchay campuses is not well thought-out. Ideally, the position would be a full-time elected position, not an extra responsibility for students who are also studying a full-time course.

While financially, a full-time position might not be viable, there is still much more that the SU can do to develop their role. For example, non-Frenchay campus officers should be more closely involved in the general day-to-day operations of the SU. This could include involving them more directly & regularly in meetings about the SU's campaigns, policies, etc. Many students on Bower & Glenside campuses do not feel that the SU has a real presence there - or, when they do, that it is in the form of a visitor from Frenchay or a non-student, as opposed to a fixed presence (as at Frenchay). This should not be the case.

Also, Bower Ashton was recently without a campus officer for the first couple of months of the new academic year, which is one of the most important times of the year. More effort should be made on the SU's part to promote the role to ensure that it is never vacant, & to make sure that it informs how the SU operates according to the needs of other campuses as well as to Frenchay's.

Restore a bus link between Yate and Frenchay Campus

RESTORE A BUS LINK BETWEEN YATE AND FRENCHAY CAMPUS

RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:13

SCORE:0

MEAN AVERAGE:4.08

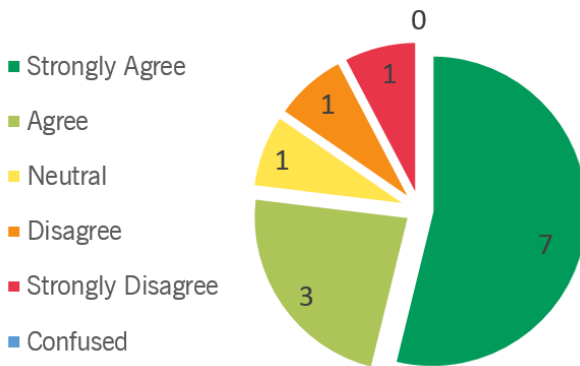
SCORE:10

MAJORITY:76.9

SCORE:25

TOTAL:35

FAIL



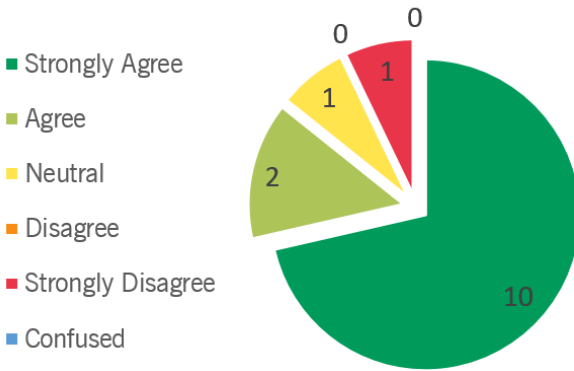
Idea Holders Extra Information

In the 2015-16 academic year, this service ran regularly. It has been cancelled for 2016-17 and I know a considerable number of students who this has negatively affected (those who are coming/going not just from Yate, but from other areas on its route).

Bus routes to Frenchay are currently overwhelmingly urban; they come to & from the centre of Bristol (which does make sense). The number of services from more rural areas, however, is currently too low to provide an effective service for many students who live locally but not within walking or cycling distance.

The Bower Ashton SU bar should play other radio stations as well as Kiss

THE BOWER ASHTON SU BAR SHOULD PLAY OTHER RADIO STATIONS AS WELL AS KISS.



RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:14

SCORE:0

MEAN AVERAGE:4.43

SCORE:10

MAJORITY:85.7

SCORE:25

TOTAL:35

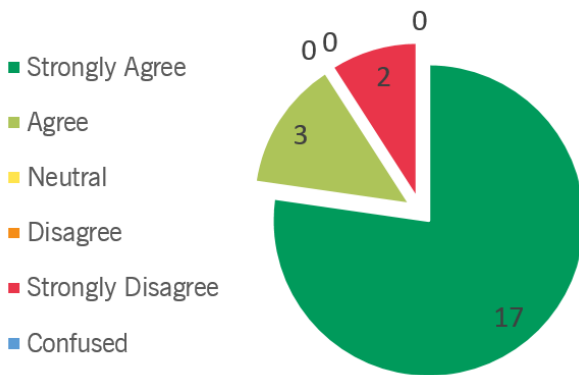
FAIL

Idea Holders Extra Information

None

Extend Council Tax Exemption period for final year students

EXTEND COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION PERIOD FOR FINAL YEAR STUDENTS



RESULT

VOTER NUMBER:22

SCORE:0

MEAN AVERAGE:4.5

SCORE:15

MAJORITY:90.9

SCORE:25

TOTAL:40

FAIL

Idea Holders Extra Information

Currently, the exemption ends with the day ('the last day') on which you complete your course. This will be the last day of the assessment period in the last term of study.

This will be the 19th May this year and does not cover resits and many students houses rent lasts until the end of June and they will have to pay Council Tax for this period.