

## Future-Proof Union: Provide for VR recording

### The Union Knows

- VR (Virtual Reality) technology has advanced significantly in recent years, attracting increased attention from the media, technology enthusiasts, and the general public. VR has been described as the 'empathy machine' due to the immersive nature of the technology affording the viewer a greater awareness of some of the most isolated and dangerous places on Earth (short documentaries have been filmed in locations including Cuba, North Korea and Syria), and it is increasingly accessible, with Google Cardboard providing an entry-level experience for under £20 to anybody with a recent high-end smartphone.
- Whilst this encompasses many different experiences, one of them is filming events using 360 degree cameras, with YouTube now featuring recordings on its #360video hashtag including US Presidential campaign rallies, extreme sports, music concerts, and documentaries. Whilst professional level arrays cost thousands of pounds; consumer level devices in an 'action camera' format capable of full HD recording are expected to retail for around £500 this year.
- Although many film or live stream various events, relatively few universities or student bodies have 360 degree filming capability. Material from those that have include campus tours (eg Roehampton, Plymouth, Louisiana State) and dance team ensembles (York), however this proposal aims for a greater range of material than that alone.

### The Unions Believes

- This proposal will allow the Union and UWE the opportunity to be ahead of the curve in regard to recording events for posterity as well as promotional purposes. Whilst many students have HD or 4K capable video cameras in their smartphones, 360 degree recording is still slightly out of reach to most - this proposal allows the Union to add value for students who are increasingly self-sufficient in their management of social events and activities.
- The action camera capabilities will (with appropriate protective cases) be of use to highlight the range of sports clubs, such as climbing, gliding, polo, and snow sports; and aid in their promotion; whilst the immersiveness of VR



autoplay will allow debates and talks to feel more lively in character when re-played.

### **The Union Will**

- Purchase a consumer-level camera capable of full HD 360 degree recording (e.g. Samsung Gear 360);
- Investigate the purchase of a professional level camera or camera array for 360 degree recording (which may include requesting a relevant University department to purchase it on the basis that it may on occasion be loaned to the Union);
- Commit to filming major events during the 2016/17 academic year and beyond, such as the Freshers' Fair, the Varsity Boat Race, and the AGM in 360 degrees, and loan the camera to student groups under reasonable terms for the recording of their own events.
- Commit to live streaming the AGM and significant speaker events and debates in 360 degree video, when YouTube or comparable services support such live streaming.

### **The Union Chooses**

VP Societies & Communication

**Proposer:** Callan Powers

