

Motion: Implementation of an Access Hours Policy

Proposer(s): Beatrix Livesey-Stephens (Vice-Chair, Welfare Committee)

Seconder(s): Sian Wallace (Disabled Students Forum), Ivana DrdÁková (Ordinary Member, Welfare Committee), Davide Bonne (CASE), Cecilia Wallback (Student President), Sol Börjesson-Grotmaak (LGBTQ+ Forum), Alanna Caitlyn Buchan (RAG), Alisa Koester, (Vice-Chair, Environment & Ethics Committee), Lilidh Jack (Trans Students Forum), Anttoni James Numminen (Vice-Chair, Communities Committee)

Council notes:

1. That students are looking forward to using Union Brew again when it is safe to do so.
2. That there a high proportion of disabled students at the university who do not feel comfortable using Union Brew because it is inaccessible to them.
3. That there is unequal access to facilities for disabled students compared to their abled (non-disabled) counterparts, due to factors such as noise, music, and lighting levels.

Council believes:

1. That the factors that make Union Brew less accessible to disabled students can easily be rectified.
2. That everyone should have equal opportunity to use AUSA facilities regardless of physical, sensory, or mental impairments.
3. That an Access Hours Policy would benefit everyone who wants a social space that can be used by all, and would not serve to decrease the benefits of Union Brew for anyone.
4. That the introduction of access hours in the student union building would serve to make disabled students more comfortable using the facilities that AUSA provide.
5. That the safety and comfort of disabled students means that they will feel better integrated into life at the University, and that they can take advantage of the opportunities available to them.

Council resolves:

1. To mandate AUSA to create an Access Hours Policy for use in Union Brew or any other spaces controlled by AUSA, in collaboration with the Disabled Students' Forum and the Welfare Committee.
2. To keep in mind that the access hours themselves have to be accessible to disabled people, that is, they should not only be at 9am-10am every day.