

Motion to Campaign for more Student Common Rooms & Social Space

This Union Notes:

1. That societies and students wanting to meet for social occasions often use the rooms provided by the Union or in teaching rooms in Congregation Hall.
2. That the University Accommodation Office states on its website that "our first aim is that you are happy and making the most of student life."
3. That the University Room Booking Office recently has had to deal with the consequences of societies leaving the teaching rooms in Congregation Hall in a poor state, which has included dismantling expensive audio-visual equipment.
4. That only Nelson Court and Constable Terrace have common rooms for their residents, and that these have very limited space and facilities.
5. A number of the University Schools do not have a common room for students to convene in.
6. Of the rooms available to clubs and societies only a small number allow for the provision of food and non-alcoholic drink, namely Nelson Court and Constable Terrace Common Rooms.

This Union Believes:

1. That the University does not offer acceptable social space for students, especially in accommodation such as the University Village and the newest residences.
2. That were there specific common rooms for students, the recent incidents & disruptions in Congregation Hall would not have occurred, as there would be no need to use teaching space for society meetings.
3. That all students are entitled to a suitable social space to meet with peers and relax in between studying.
4. That schools should be providing a common room, where students on the same courses can meet, relax between lectures and discuss their subjects.

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the Executive Committee to write to the Dean of Students Office, Estates Department, the Registry, the Vice-Chancellor and the University Planning & Resources committee informing them of this motion.

This letter would ask the university to set aside specific space for students to use socially, and that in future, when planning new buildings, the university makes a commitment to providing suitable social space for students.

2. To continue to work with the University to ensure students, especially those in Union clubs & societies, are aware of the need to use these spaces with due care and consideration.

3. To ask the University to encourage Schools to set up their own common rooms on campus for students studying within them.

4. To look into ways to increase the number of rooms available to clubs and societies with the provision of food and non-alcoholic drink allowed.