

550 Hidden Disabilities amended 19/11/09

This Union notes:

1. 70% of Disabled Students have a 'hidden' disability – i.e. a disability that can not be seen with the 'naked eye' - examples of 'hidden' disabilities include, (but are not limited to) Dyslexia, Dyspraxia (and other specific learning difficulties) Diabetes, ADHD, Autism and Colour Blindness.
2. At least 5% of students at UEA declare themselves as disabled.
3. Hidden disabilities are very wide ranging conditions which many people do not know they have until older age.

This Union believes:

1. Students would benefit from knowing that they have certain hidden disabilities and from the resources that the university can offer these students.
2. Students with hidden disabilities have difficulty in accessing some University and Union services/activities. The reasons for this vary upon the nature of the 'hidden' disability.
3. Unfortunately, it is felt (especially by disabled students) that a 'stigma' still exists if you declare yourself as 'disabled' in many areas of university life. This leads to many students not declaring themselves as disabled (and therefore they are not able to access the various means of help and support offered by the University) due to the fear of discrimination.

This Union resolves:

1. To mandate the **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER** to meet with the Disabilities Co-ordinator of the Dean of Students Office in order to look at issues regarding the publicity of resources available to students with hidden disabilities, and to investigate issues in relating to disclosure of disabilities.
2. To mandate the **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER** to use relevant parts of the NUS **DISABILITIES Campaigns** in order to teach students about hidden disabilities in order to increase student disclosures at this stage of their lives.

To mandate the **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER** to continue to work with clubs and societies and the Sports and Societies officers to ensure that all clubs and societies are accessible to all disabled students – including those with hidden disabilities.