Motion

Motion Form for Student Council

18 January 2021

**Motion Title**

A motion to cause the Students’ Union to review how COVID-19 has affected teaching at the Universities in Cornwall; to campaign for change for Students during the COVID-19 pandemic; and for connected purposes.

**Proposed By:**

Gas Williams, Student Voice Chair.

**Seconded By (10 required):**

The Politics SSLC.

**The Union Notes:**

1. That the COVID-19 Pandemic has severely damaged the opportunities available to students in Cornwall, both socially and academically;
2. That at the University of Exeter certain courses have had no face-to-face teaching for over a year, as strikes disturbed teaching last year also;
3. That national lockdowns and the prohibition placed on students returning to campus means that students have been unable to access the specialist equipment and resources that they require to fulfil their degrees;
4. That students nationally have similarly been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, to the overall detriment of their social and academic standing;
5. That the Students’ Union’s Strategic Direction for 2018-2023 aims for every Student to feel:
   1. “I belong”
   2. “I am heard”
   3. “I am realising my potential”
   4. “I am supported”

# The Union believes:

1. In acting to promote the interests of its members, as they are expressed to the Union and to the Student Council;
2. That the Union must take decisive action to improve the Social and academic standards of Students;
3. That the quality of student life, both academic and social, has recently suffered significantly as a direct result of the Coronavirus;
4. That the imposition of a third national lockdown (the second during the academic year 2020-21) has uniquely disrupted the opportunities available to students to study, learn and grow as individuals;
5. That staff of the Universities have had inadequate support in making the transition to on-line and blended learning to the significant detriment of teaching quality;
6. That the Universities of Falmouth and Exeter have failed to deliver the same quality of teaching as in previous years, while simultaneously refusing to satisfy student concerns surrounding assessments;
7. That the cancellation of Years Abroad, and of important field trips, has been to the severe detriment of Students;
8. That Her Majesty’s Government, and the governments of devolved nations have failed to make reasonable and practical steps to support university students;
9. That students were promised a higher quality of learning at the start of the academic year than they have received;
10. That landlords and university run halls have continued to profit from student rents, despite students being disallowed from returning to Cornwall; and
11. That, ultimately, the value of University in the year 2020-21 has substantially decreased.

**The Union Resolves:**

1. In the spirit of openness and goodwill, to require the Sabbatical Officers to formally review the SU’s support-policies in Term 1 2020-21, and to Publish these findings ahead of a Student Members Meeting;
2. To announce its regret at the national handling of the Coronavirus;
3. To require that the Presidents of the Union take further action to campaign nationally for COVID-19 related education and lockdown policies to take better account of students,

Such action may or may not include:

* Gathering student perspectives on national lockdown policy and reporting it;
* Co-ordinating campaign efforts with other Students’ Unions and the National Union of Students;
* Working with the University of Exeter Guild in order to promote improvements across universities;
* Attempting to seek rent holidays for students;
* Persuading the Universities to adopt ‘no detriment’ policies for final year students;
* Attempting to reduce the fees payable for education in the year 2020-21;
* Referring part of all of this motion to referendum to demonstrate student support.

1. To require the Presidents to issue a joint statement outlining what they intend to achieve for students; and
2. To invite all Officers, Part-Time Officers, Course Reps and Staff members to work together to share best practice and develop a second term that befits Falmouth and Exeter’s status as a friendly, well-organised, and world-class pair of Universities.

***Policy review date (1 Year.)***



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