



The University of York / The Student Centre  
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## **Agenda – UGM 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

- 1. Ratification of Union Council Minutes**
- 2. To Push For Greater Lighting Around Campus**
- 3. UGM to improve YUSU democracy**
- 4. UGM to lobby NUS for more ethical drinks**
- 5. UGM To Push For A Student-Friendly City Stadium**
- 6. UGM to lobby for lake cleaning**
- 7. UGM to lobby York City Council to reopen barbican centre as a high-capacity venue**
- 8. YUSU should review its democratic structures and rules to improve accessibility and engagement**
- 9. UGM Reform**
- 10. International Students at York**
- 11. HEAR This.**
- 12. Officer Reports**
- 13. Officer Questions**



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## To Push For Greater Lighting around Campus

Proposed by: Jason Rose

Seconded by: David Clarke

### This Union Notes:

1. That a significant number of areas around campus have poor quality lighting.
2. That many access routes to campus, off university land, have poor quality lighting.
3. That the University has previously made commitments to improving lighting and have specified certain places as being in need of improvement.
4. That Walmgate Stray is one of the places previously identified by the University.

### This Union Believes:

1. That the University has a duty to care for off-campus and on-campus students alike.
2. That there have been a number of attacks on- and off-campus in poorly lit areas, some of which may have been prevented by greater lighting.
3. That there are places needing extra lighting or appropriate repairs/renovations.
4. That environmental and astronomical concerns are important when considering new lighting, on Heslington West and on the university expansion.

### This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the President, Womens Officers, Campaigns Officers and Welfare Officer to lobby the university for improvements to lighting around campus.
2. To mandate the Campaigns Officers and Womens Officers to lobby the university and City Council for improvements to lighting on Walmgate Stray.
3. To mandate the Environment and Ethics Officers to lobby the university to improve the environmental effects of lighting around campus, including any new lighting areas.



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## UGM to improve YUSU democracy

Proposed by: Jason Rose

Seconded by: Miles Layram

This Union notes:

1. That YUSU are looking to expand the amount of minuting.

This Union believes:

1. That democracy is integral to the Union.
2. That an essential part of democracy is opening up meetings to the general membership, through comprehensive minutes and open meetings.
3. That all members of the Union should be able to access and participate in Union democracy, irrespective of disability or other relevant differences.
4. That finances should be spent effectively and efficiently.
5. That YUSU spends a significant amount of money on paying staff to take minutes.

This Union resolves:

1. To mandate the Democracy and Services Officer to undertake a review of the minuting system. To mandate the Democracy and Services Officer to promote all open Union meetings and Union General Meetings much more effectively, through online publicity.



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## UGM to lobby NUS for more ethical drinks

Proposed by: Jason Rose

Seconded by: David Clarke

This Union notes:

1. the previous motion relating to fair-trade drinks.
2. that the vast majority of cola-flavoured beverages in Your:Shop are sold as part of the “meal deal”.
3. that the “meal deal” is controlled by the NUS.
4. that all NUS “meal deal” drinks are owned by the Coca-Cola corporation.

This Union believes:

1. that the Coca-Cola corporation is relatively unethical.
2. that, for the reasons cited in the previous motion, the meal-deal should have ethical drink alternatives.

This Union resolves:

1. to mandate the Democracy and Services Officer, in connection with the Environment and Ethics Officers, to lobby NUS Services Ltd to make ethical alternatives available as part of the “meal deal” and other relevant promotions.
2. to sell ethical drinks at lower prices than other drinks, where financially viable.



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## UGM To Push For A Student-Friendly City Stadium

Proposed by: Jason Rose

Seconded by: David Clarke

### This Union Notes:

1. The active, well-supported policy regarding York City Stadium proposals.
2. That, since the first motion passed, the University has started talking to the City Council about stadium proposals again.
3. That the first motion was very unspecific.
4. That there were a few problems raised with the first motion, including potential issues surrounding student welfare.

### This Union Believes:

1. That student welfare should be the most important concern to the University and the Union.
2. That environmental sustainability, sporting facilities and cost should also be key concerns.

### This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the Welfare Officer to ensure that any public developments on or near Heslington East are not detrimental to student welfare.
2. To mandate the Environment and Ethics Officers to ensure that all further developments on or near Heslington East are environmentally sustainable.
3. To mandate the Sports President to lobby the University and the City Council to provide the best sporting facilities possible.
4. To mandate the Democracy and Services Officer to campaign for a significant price reduction for students, should the Stadium be located near the university.



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## UGM to lobby for lake cleaning

Proposed by: Jason Rose

Seconded by: David Clarke

This Union notes:

1. That absence of a formal report outlining the current state of the lake.
2. That the lake is the home of many types of birds, fish etc.
3. That students are advised not to enter the lake.
4. That students, in previous years, have suffered from health problems as a result of ingesting lake water.

This Union believes:

1. That student welfare should be the primary concern of both the University and the Union.
2. That environmental effects and animal care should also be important issues for the University and the Union.
3. That the lake was designed to be environmentally supportive.
4. That the lake is no longer beneficial to the ecology at the University.

This Union resolves:

1. To lobby the University to clean the lake, as thoroughly as possible.
2. To mandate the Environment and Ethics Officers to lobby the University to ensure that the Heslington East lake will be environmentally sustainable and beneficial.



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## **UGM to lobby York City Council to reopen barbican centre as a high-capacity venue**

Proposed by: Jason Rose

Seconded by: Miles Layram

This Union notes:

1. That the barbican centre was closed in 2006.
2. That, although some facilities have been demolished, the 1500 capacity venue facility is still primarily intact.
3. That several developers have put forward proposals to take over the barbican centre.

This Union believes:

1. That another high-capacity venue in York would be beneficial for both the public and students.
2. That the Liberal Democrat council made a mistake in closing down the original swimming pools, sports halls, gyms and venue.
3. That the Liberal Democrat council hasn't made an effort to quickly restore these valuable facilities to the general public.

This Union resolves:

1. To lobby the Council to accelerate the process of deliberation.
2. To lobby the Council, and developers, to make venue and sporting facilities available, accessible and affordable to the student population, particularly the Barbican site.



## **YUSU should review its democratic structures and rules to improve accessibility and engagement**

Proposed by: Lewis Bretts

Seconded by: Tim Ngwena

### **This Union Notes:**

1. That democracy is the fundamental process for YUSU's decisions.
2. That while YUSU has taken some steps towards registering as a charity our current constitution will not be fit for purpose when registration is complete
3. That charity registration will add an additional complexity to constitutional amendments
4. That the constant amendments made to the constitution at UGM inhibit the decision making scope of this forum resulting in a lack of effectiveness achieved by this process.
5. That the current decision making system can be seen as cliquy, inaccessible and as not able to focus on relevant issues
6. That YUSU current constitution and by-laws are incomplete and currently offer no infrastructure or guidelines for key services such as sports and societies.
7. The extensive directly elected YUSU Committee Structure

### **This Union Believes:**

1. That YUSU's democratic systems should enable students to create real change that affects their time at York.
2. That students should have confidence in the Union's democratic systems
3. That YUSU's rules and regulations should offer clear guidance on how the organisation is run and ensure the transparency of its processes.
4. That this review is an opportunity for YUSU to ensure that its purpose and function to its members is clearly set out for all to see in its ordinances.
5. That YUSU should research other best practice amongst the national student movement and the latest charity regulations.
6. That the proportion of motions relating to minor constitutional amendments disengages members and results in low voter turnout.
7. That General Meetings should be a means of the membership actively directing YUSU's campaigns and political focus.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. To mandate the President and Democracy & Services Officer to review the current constitution and democratic structures and present them to the next UGM
2. To ensure that the new constitution and structures meet the Charity Commissions requirements, are more transparent to the membership and are accessible.



## UGM Reform

*Proposed By: Matthew Bailey*

*Seconded By: Alasdair Macintyre, Lloyd Sparkes, Ralph Buckle, Felix Bungay, Matthew Wright*

### **This Union Notes**

1. That at a Union General Meeting (UGM) proposers of motions are called to give a 3 minute speech in favour of a motion.
2. That if the motion's proposer is absent a free speech in favour of the motion is called by the Chair.
3. That at a recent UGM the proposers of several motions were absent.

### **This Union Believes**

1. That UGM motions should be the subject of open and transparent debate.
2. That if you submit a motion for a UGM, you should be prepared to debate that motion at a UGM. If a motion proposer is unable to attend the UGM, they should submit a written apology to the Chair.
3. That in the case of a proposer being absent, a member of the Union, who seconded the motion should argue the motion.
4. That if the proposer(s) and the seconder(s) are both absent at the UGM, and the Chair has been informed of such absence, the Chair will call for a free speech.
5. That if the proposer and seconder are both absent, and that no apology has been received by the Chair, that the motion be deferred until a future UGM for debate.

### **This Union Resolves**

1. To remove Section 1.7.1 of the Schedules of the Constitution. "In order to debate a normal motion the Chair will call the proposer to make a speech in favour of the motion, of not more than three minutes. In the absence of the proposer, the Chair calls for a free speech (where any member can speak on it)."
2. To replace Section 1.7.1 of the Schedules of the Constitution to read. "In order to debate a normal motion the Chair will call the proposer to make a speech in favour of the motion, of not more than three minutes. In the absence of the proposer, the Chair will call for the seconder to make a speech in favour of the motion. If both the proposer and seconder are absent, and have submitted a written letter of absence, the Chair will call for a free speech (where any member can speak on it)."
3. To add a clause to the Schedules of the Constitution to read. "If a proposer is unable to attend the UGM they should notify the Chair in writing, no later than, 4 hours before the publicised start time of the UGM."
4. To add a clause to the Schedules of the Constitution to read. "If both the proposer and seconder are absent at the UGM, and no written letter of absence submitted, the Chair can rule to defer the motion to a future UGM so that full debate can be heard."



## International Students at York

Proposed by: Ben Humphrys

Seconded by: Lewis Bretts, Tim Ngwena, Rhianna Kinchin, Charlie Leyland

### This Union Notes

1. The Increase in numbers of international students (including EU and overseas students) at the University of York over the last decade.
2. The many areas of policy which affect international students specifically, including fees, visa and immigration rules, specific financial support, volunteering and work restrictions and accessibility of teaching and learning across language barriers.
3. The lack of union policy on issues affecting international students.
4. The prevalence in other unions of international students officers and committees.
5. The advice of the NUS report "Internationalising students unions" on increasing representation of international students with a specific committee within union structures.
6. That there are many policy areas which come up day to day in which specific reference to issues affecting international students is required.
7. That developing students through internationalisation has been proposed in the drafting of the YUSU strategic plan and is one of the university's strategic objectives.

### This Union Believes

1. That it is YUSU's role to represent all students, including international students, and ensure that their views are taken to every level of the University.
2. That it is important that those areas which do specifically affect international students are not forgotten within the Union.
3. That internationalisation is beneficial to both home and international students.
4. International representation should be one key part of the work of the Union.

### This Union Resolves

1. To amend the articles of the YUSU constitution, 9.2.1 to

There shall be 10 part-time officers of the union as detailed in the schedules:

- a) Disability
- b) Entertainments
- c) Environment and Ethics
- d) LGBT
- e) Campaigns
- f) Racial Equality
- g) RAG
- h) YUSU Volunteering
- i) Womens
- j) 21 Plus Officer
- k) International students Association President



2. To amend the articles of the constitution 16.1.1 to:

16.1.1. The following will be permanent sub-committees of the Union Council (varied only as a result of an amendment to this constitution):

- a) Academic Affairs Committee
- b) Campaigns Committee
- c) Communications Committee
- d) Entertainments Committee
- e) Disability Committee
- f) Equality, Welfare and Diversity Committee
- g) Environment and Ethics Committee
- h) LGBT Committee
- i) Nightline Committee
- j) Rag Committee
- k) Racial Equality Committee
- l) Rules and Revisions Committee
- m) York Sport Committee
- n) YUSU Volunteering Committee
- o) 21 Plus Committee
- p) Volunteering & Charities Committee
- q) Women's Committee
- r) York University Media
- s) International students Association

3. To ammend to the schedules of the constitution:

5.18 International students Association President

5.18.1 The international students President is primarily responsible for the representation of students from outside of the United Kingdom and shall:

- a) Be non-sabbatical officers for a term of office of twelve months unless instructed otherwise by a GM
- b) Represent the views and interests of international students within the University, locally and nationally
- c) Encourage and support cross-cultural activities, in liaison with other Union Officers and the Graduate students association.
- d) Encourage the combating of discrimination and prejudice against international students at all levels.
- e) Liaise with International student and advisory groups, both within and external to the organisation.
- f) Co-ordinate campaigns and activities concerning issues which primarily affect international students.
- g) Organise a termly International student's forum to identify issues affecting international students at York.
- h) Represent or co-represent students in individual cases of discrimination, bullying or harassment on the basis of country of origin in liaison with appropriate welfare personnel.



#### 4. To amend to the schedules of the constitution

##### 10.20 International students Association

##### 10.20.1 The role of International students committee is to

- a) Represent the full range of international students on campus
- b) Support the International students Officer(s) in their work
- c) Combat discrimination against international students at all levels.
- d) Help to coordinate, publicise and run campaigns concerning issues which primarily affect international students and work with the YUSU & GSA Academic and Welfare officers to identify areas where change is needed.
- e) Provide a method for creating new policy for the International students committee.
- f) Members of the international students committee must be citizens of a country outside of the UK, unless otherwise stated.
- g) For positions corresponding to a particular area, only persons who identify themselves as citizens of that area may stand. The responsibility of those holding such positions is to represent the interests of that demographic both within the committee itself and through its outward facing activities
- h) To liaise with the YUSU & GSA Welfare officers, YUSU & GSA Academic officers and International coordinator and international office to provide information and support to current and prospective international students
- i) Hold, organised and develop events for students at York which are accessible to international students and encourage a broad range of the membership to get get involved

The membership of the international students Association is as follows:

- a) The International students officer (s) (Chair)
- b) The treasurer
- c) Vice-President (representation)
- d) Vice President (events)
- e) Secretary (representation)
- f) Secretary (Events)
- g) 2 campaigns officers
- h) Internal Activities officer(s) (which may be held by a maximum of two people)
- i) External Activities officer (s) (which may be held by a maximum of two people)
- j) Webmaster
- k) An Ordinary member, who should be from the UK.
- l) The Regional Representative for Africa
- m) The Regional Representative for Asia
- n) The Regional Representative for Europe
- o) The Regional Representative for the Middle East
- p) The Regional Representative for North America
- q) The Regional Representative for Oceania
- r) The Regional Representative for South America
- s) Each International Representative of each continuous affiliate committee of Union Council.



- t) A representative from each International based student organisation or society, as agreed by union council.

The International students association will have two standing committees; A representative committee and an events and social activities committee. The composition, corresponding to the international students association committee is as follows:

Events committee: The ISA events committee will have responsibility for organising the events held by the international students association.

- a. Vice President events (chair)
- b. President
- c. Treasurer
- d. Secretary (events)
- e. The Regional Representative for Africa
- f. The Regional Representative for Asia
- g. The Regional Representative for Europe
- h. The Regional Representative for the Middle East
- i. The Regional Representative for North America
- j. The Regional Representative for Oceania
- k. The Regional Representative for South America
- l. An Ordinary member, who should be from the UK.
- m. Webmaster
- n. Internal Activities officer(s) (which may be held by a maximum of two people)
- o. External Activities officer (s) (which may be held by a maximum of two people)

Representation Committee: The ISA representation committee will have responsibility for fulfilling the ISA's representative roles.

- a. Vice President (representation)
- b. President
- c. Treasurer
- d. Secretary (representation)
- e. The Regional Representative for Africa
- f. The Regional Representative for Asia
- g. The Regional Representative for Europe
- h. The Regional Representative for the Middle East
- i. The Regional Representative for North America
- j. The Regional Representative for Oceania
- k. The Regional Representative for South America
- l. An Ordinary member, who should be from the UK.



## **Motion to create a Societies Committee**

Proposed by: Rhianna Kinchin  
Seconded by: Lewis Bretts, Charlie Leyland, Tim Ngwena

### Union notes:

1. The increasing the number of YUSU societies;
2. The change of the YUSU constitution from the Societies and Communications Officer to the wider remit of the Student Activities Officer covering societies, RAG and YUSU Volunteering;
3. That c.7500 students contribute to the high level of student participation in YUSU societies;
4. YUSU Strategic Plan 2010-2013 Section 'Getting Involved': Point 1 (Improving YUSU's relationships with clubs and societies), Point 6 (Reduce bureaucracy), Point 7 (Require societies to achieve some minimum standards);
5. That YUSU dedicates a significant proportion of its resources to developing student activities, and a large proportion of this goes towards societies.

### Union believes:

1. That societies form a key part of many students' experience of the Students' Union, and provide an accessible point of engagement with YUSU and YUSU's further support and opportunities;
2. That societies form a key part of YUSU's overall development and student life in general;
3. That the YUSU Student Activities Officer cannot effectively represent and support all societies without a robust internal communication structure;
4. That some societies often fail to see the significance of their activities, the resources they consume and their responsibilities to their membership in the context of the Union as a whole;
5. That a substantive forum is required to highlight areas where YUSU should campaign to support societies on a University level and promote the high quality of student activities at York;
6. There is no effective accountability procedure for society chairs.

### Union Resolves:

1. To amend the Constitution as per note below;



2. To mandate the Student Activities Officer to constantly work to develop internal communication between the YUSU Student Activities Officer, Societies Committee and Ratified Societies;
3. To mandate the YUSU Student Activities Officer to improve the engagement of Ratified Societies with the wider Union to benefit the full YUSU membership.

#### Constitutional amendment:

- a. To add to the articles of the constitution 16.1.1
  - t) Societies Committee
- b. To add to the articles of the constitution 10 Committee lists

#### 10.21. Societies Committee

##### 10.21.1. The Societies Committee must meet at least twice a term and its role is to:

- a. Promote and protect the interests of societies and society members;
- b. Advise Union Council on the formation of policy to support societies;
- c. Hold societies to account by requiring a termly report to be submitted to the relevant society category representative;
- d. Be responsible for the co-ordination of collaborative society activities;
- e. Support the Student Activities Officer in the co-ordination of a compulsory society forum in the first week of Autumn Term;
- f. To advise the Student Activities Officer on the ratification of new societies and re-ratification of existing societies;
- g. To be responsible for the de-ratification of societies consistently contravening the YUSU Constitution, the Standard Society Constitution, their own constitution, their own Code of Practice or misusing financial accounts.
- h. To receive and pass comment on the annual society grant allocations in Summer Term.

##### 10.21.2. The membership of the Societies Committee is as follows:

- a. Student Activities Officer (Chair)
- b. Secretary



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- c. Games and Activities Societies Representative (x2)
  - Academic and Careers Societies Representative (x2)
  - Faith Societies Representative (x2)
  - International and Culture Societies Representative (x2)
  - Media Societies Representative (x2)
  - Political, Debating and Campaigning Societies Representative (x2)
  - Special Interest Societies Representative (x2)
  - Music and Performance Societies Representative (x2)
- i) Each Category Representative is responsible for co-ordinating and chairing their respective society forum twice termly, reporting back to the Societies Committee
  - ii) Category Representatives must be a member of a society within that category



## HEAR This.

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**Proposed by:** Charlie Leyland

**Seconded by:** Ben Humphrys, Tim Ngwena, Nell Beecham, Chris Etheridge, Emily Scott

### This Union Notes

1. In October 2007, The Burgess Group published their final report: 'Beyond the honours degree classification'. This recommended a series of additional information to be given in a document to supplement the transcript.
2. The Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) seeks also to accredit extra-curricular learning.
3. A high number of our students are involved in extra-curricular activities, a conservative estimate of around 60% students are involved in YUSU activities alone.
4. The HEAR has been trialed in a number of Universities and now is set to be rolled out to others such as our own.

### This Union Believes

1. That more information about the nature of the qualifications as outlined in the earlier parts of the document would be beneficial to students.
2. That the additional information regarding extra-curricular activities could be harmful to students and belittle the amount of work that goes into these areas by students partaking.
3. That there are a number of our students who face more barriers in getting involved in extra-curricular activities such as caring commitments, visa constraints, financial constraints.
4. Placing more emphasis on something which is generally unsupported and does not fall within learning objectives of study programmes nor funding support puts a dangerous additional barrier for those who may face the most barriers.
5. The resource needed for the institution to quality control the achievements of students would be unfeasible and would take away from core teaching and learning resources which are already under strain in the current funding situation.
6. The University is looking at expanding the York Award, with a review taking place over the summer with YUSU involved.
7. Liberation and political campaigns would suffer: students may be put off from putting a large amount of effort into a cause they may not necessarily be able to or would want to appear on a written transcript for life for a number of reasons. Omissions of them would leave gaps and not reflect the activities and skills of the student.
8. Our students have a high degree of social responsibility and should not be patronized by a system creating boxes for them to tick.
9. The University often has very little to do with the learning that has happened outside of the curriculum, so them accrediting it is false, and would disadvantage mature students whose prior life experience may not be taken into account just because skills were not learned in the brief University period.



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## This Union Resolves

1. To campaign against the implementation of the parts of the Higher Education Achievement Record which stipulate inclusion of co-curricular or extra-curricular activities
2. To campaign for further investment in, and recognition in the University Employability Strategy to strive to
  - help students access extra-curricular opportunities,
  - raise the quality and breadth of those opportunities
  - articulate what has been gained from those opportunities
  - access high quality information and support to guide career and employability choices.
3. To lobby nationally for employers groups to evaluate recruitment systems and selection procedures to better meet the needs of graduates.
4. To mandate the Academic Affairs officer, the Faculty Reps, the President, the Student Activities officer, the Campaigns officers, the Liberation officers, the Mature Students Association Officer, and the RAG and volunteering officers, the Welfare officer, the Yorksport President, and the Democracy and Services Officer to carry out the resolves above.