**Student Members’ Meeting – Student Ideas**

The following ideas will be debated on during the Student Members’ Meeting on May 24th 2022. Following the closing of the amendment period, here are the finalised ideas:

1. BU should allow students to retake Semester 1 exams during Spring Break
2. Meat Free Catering at BU
   1. *Original proposal*
   2. *Suggested amendments*
3. The University and Union should stop banking/associating with Barclays
4. The Allyship Policy

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| **Proposed by** | Dylan Lintern-Mole |
| **Proposal** | **BU should allow students to retake Semester 1 exams during Spring Break** |
| **Problem** | * If students fail or are unable to take an exam for various reasons during Semester 1, currently the only option they have is to re-sit the exam during Summer. * There is currently no option for students to take their resits during the Spring Break. * This can pose a problem to some students (such as International Students) who will have to travel back to Bournemouth to take this exam. Travelling can also mean extra costs for students, who may not be able to afford to do so. * If Semester 1 exams could be retaken in April, it would ease the pressure on students. For example, students would not have to study for resits for both Semester 1 and 2 at the same time. * It would also provide reassurance for prospective PGRs, given the Reassessment Board is held in the first week of September. |
| **Solution** | * BU should allow students the option to retake Semester 1 exams in Spring Break. That the VP Education Officer lobbies the University to introduce Spring Break retakes. * That the University Exam Board should meet at the end of each semester to accommodate this change. * SUBU should lobby BU to allow students to retake exams during Spring Break. |
| **To be implemented  by** | VP Education |

*Following the amendment period, an amendment was submitted. In accordance with Bye-Laws 4.5.9, if the original proposers do not accept the amendments, then the amendments shall also be debated in line with Bye-Laws 4.10.4. Therefore, both the original idea and the suggested amendments have been included in this document.*

*Original Idea:*

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| **Proposed by** | Ellie Jones and Tanya Bellows |
| **Proposal** | **Meat Free Catering at BU and SUBU** |
| **Problem** | * Industrial meat is the single biggest cause of  deforestation  globally. Vast forests are felled to grow animal feed crops and use land for animals before slaughter. Reducing the supply and demand of livestock means that crop reallocation could feed up to 2.4 billion humans for basic calorific needs, and excess land can be used for reforestation. If we substantially reduce or stop consuming meat, science shows there would be less hunger and less emissions globally. * The Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to 2°C, ideally 1.5°C, to avoid the worst effects of climate and ecological breakdown. With great concern, we are not even nearly on target for this. If left unchanged, 37-49% of the Paris Agreements emissions budget would be used up by 2030 by livestock alone. * BU’s  Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan (CECAP) is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030/31, but not enough is being done to decarbonise food options. Despite other environmental achievements, BU falls behind other universities in the "Carbon Management" ranking, which is largely comprised of food procurement. * Despite meat-free options being more sustainable and ethical, the cost is sometimes higher than meat options and they do not always cater for multiple needs (gluten-free, for example). However, globally speaking plant-based food is typically the cheapest form of calorie and protein. * Research on farming and agriculture by Oxford University shows that a plant-based diet is better for the environment and contributes significantly less global emissions than a non-plant-based diet, therefore SUBU and other outlets on the BU campus should  commit to being meat-free. All major scientific literature suggests transitioning to a plant-based society as a means to protect environment and society. * Universities such as Oxford and Cambridge have banned beef altogether, so BU no longer serving any meats would be a true statement of commitment to reducing carbon emissions and demonstrate our leadership. |
| **Solution** | * Research on farming and agriculture by Oxford University, shows  that a  plant-based  diet is better for the environment and contributes significantly less global emissions than a  non-plant-based  diet therefore SUBU and other outlets on BU campus should commit to being meat-free. * Universities such as Oxford, Cambridge and Goldsmiths have banned beef altogether, while Leeds, Chester, York ST John, Durham and Lancaster have adopted Default Veg. So, transitioning away from all meats while increasing the plant-based / vegetarian range would be a statement of commitment to reducing carbon emissions. * Make all foodstuffs vegetarian  with  a good variety on campus to reduce carbon emissions and be more inclusive of those who do not consume animals due to religious, lifestyle or allergy reasons. * Supply vegan, gluten-free and other dietary needs to ensure all are included within the meat-free campus at no extra cost. * Commit to decarbonising on-campus catering outlets. |
| **Ideas for  implementation** | * All food sold by the University/Union and franchised catering outlets should be vegetarian, i.e., breakfast items, snacks, treats, sandwiches, and hot meals. * Improve the signage of why we have made this change to a meat-free campus explaining the impact of livestock farming on the climate. * BU/SUBU can take advantage of Plant Based Uni’s offer to set up a free 3-month trial to investigate the financial viability of this policy. This should be started at the earliest convenience, preferably the next academic year. This could be extended if successful to the maximum of an entire academic year before final review and implementation. * Rotate the options  regularly  to ensure that there is a variety  of options. * Ensure that  these new meals  have parity in pricing to current meals. * Provide items that cater to multiple dietary requirements such as vegan and gluten-free at no extra cost/no surcharge. |
| **To be implemented  by** | VP Welfare and Community |

*Suggested Amendments (amended sections have been italicised):*

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| **Amendments suggested by** | Toluwa Atilade |
| **Proposal** | ***Low Meat, Veg First* Catering at BU and SUBU** |
| **Problem** | * Industrial meat is the single biggest cause of  deforestation  globally. Vast forests are felled to grow animal feed crops and use land for animals before slaughter. Reducing the supply and demand of livestock means that crop reallocation could feed up to 2.4 billion humans for basic calorific needs, and excess land can be used for reforestation. If we substantially reduce or stop consuming meat, science shows there would be less hunger and less emissions globally. * The Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to 2°C, ideally 1.5°C, to avoid the worst effects of climate and ecological breakdown. With great concern, we are not even nearly on target for this. If left unchanged, 37-49% of the Paris Agreements emissions budget would be used up by 2030 by livestock alone. * BU’s  Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan (CECAP) is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030/31, but not enough is being done to decarbonise food options. Despite other environmental achievements, BU falls behind other universities in the "Carbon Management" ranking, which is largely comprised of food procurement. * Despite meat-free options being more sustainable and ethical, the cost is sometimes higher than meat options and they do not always cater for multiple needs (gluten-free, for example). However, globally speaking plant-based food is typically the cheapest form of calorie and protein. * Research on farming and agriculture by Oxford University shows that a plant-based diet is better for the environment and contributes significantly less global emissions than a non-plant-based diet, therefore SUBU and other outlets on the BU campus should  commit to *reducing the proportion of meat-based products they sell*. All major scientific literature suggests transitioning to a plant-based society as a means to protect environment and society. * *Cambridge University has stopped providing beef and lamb products in its outlets. Oxford Students’ Union has voted to request that Oxford University do the same, so BU reducing the volume of meat sold* would be a true statement of commitment to reducing carbon emissions and demonstrate our leadership. * *However as a student-led organisation that aims to satisfy the needs and wants of its members, SUBU must also recognise that unilaterally ceasing to sell meat products without similar action from the University would not significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the BU student body; it would only transfer the purchases from SUBU outlets to BU outlets.* * *SUBU funds a wide range of student activity using the surplus generated by its commercial activities – including our food & drink outlets. SUBU must balance its leadership role in emphasising positive & ethical behaviours by our members, with recognising that our members are a large, diverse group whose buying habits will take time to adapt to an increasingly meat-free world.* * *We must explore policies that genuinely reduce our carbon footprint in a sustainable fashion, rather than transfer it elsewhere – damaging the economic viability of our student community, without significantly reducing its environmental impact.* |
| **Solution** | * Research on farming and agriculture by Oxford University, shows  that a  plant-based  diet is better for the environment and contributes significantly less global emissions than a  non-plant-based  diet therefore SUBU and other outlets on BU campus should commit to being *less reliant on meat-based products and improving their vegetarian range.* * Universities such as Cambridge and Goldsmiths have banned beef altogether, while Leeds, Chester, York ST John, Durham and Lancaster have adopted Default Veg. So, transitioning away from meats while increasing the plant-based / vegetarian range would be a statement of commitment to reducing carbon emissions. * *Making the majority of* foodstuffs vegetarian  with  a good variety on campus to reduce carbon emissions and be more inclusive of those who do not consume animals due to religious, lifestyle or allergy reasons. * Supply vegan, gluten-free and other dietary needs to ensure all are included within the meat-free campus at no extra cost. * Commit to decarbonising on-campus catering outlets. |
| **Ideas for  implementation** | * *An increased percentage of all* food sold by the University/Union and franchised catering outlets should be vegetarian, i.e., breakfast items, snacks, treats, sandwiches, and hot meals. * Improve the signage of why we have made this change to a *low-meat, veg-first* campus explaining the impact of livestock farming on the climate. * BU/SUBU can take advantage of Plant Based Uni’s offer to set up a free 3-month trial to investigate the financial viability of this policy. This should be started at the earliest convenience, preferably the next academic year. This could be extended if successful to the maximum of an entire academic year before final review and implementation. * Rotate the options  regularly  to ensure that there is a variety  of options. * Ensure that  these new meals  have parity in pricing *and cost margin* to *the* current meal range. * Provide items that cater to multiple dietary requirements such as vegan and gluten-free at no extra cost/no surcharge. |
| **To be implemented  by** | VP Welfare and Community |

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| **Proposed by** | Tanya Bellows |
| **Proposal** | **The University and Union Should Stop Banking/associating with Barclays** |
| **Problem** | * Barclays has been Europe’s biggest investor in fossil fuels since the Paris Agreement, according to the Banking on Climate Change report, providing 36% more finance than the next worst European banker (HSBC). * Barclays Bank is currently the largest funder of fossil fuels in Europe, having invested $85 billion in the industry in the last three years. Given that the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) warns that we have 11 years to limit catastrophic climate change, the University should be proactively examining its investments to make sure that it is not contributing to the problem. * *Funding Bangladesh’s coal expansion:* Barclays has provided $USD 300 million for NTPC, the key initiator behind the Rampal Power Plant in Bangladesh, through bond underwriting. The power plant threatens the world’s largest mangrove forest, Sundarbans, a vital carbon sink and has seen extensive protests in the country and around the world. * Until now, only 2.8% of Bangladesh’s energy has come from coal. Yet, the government plans to increase dependence on coal up to 37% over the next decade by establishing 29 new coal power plants. * According to Tonny Nowshin, a researcher at environmental and human rights organisation Urgewald and a degrowth activist from Bangladesh, the pollution from the power plant would cause low birth weight for 24,000 babies and premature death for 6,000 people. * Barclays is supporting the Rampal Coal Power Plant in Bangladesh which threatens the world’s largest mangrove forest, Sundarbans, a vital carbon sink. * Without the financial support of Barclays the Rampal project could not go ahead. We can all see how climate change impacts are rapidly unfolding: it is not justifiable for any company to keep channelling money to such projects. * The University has a Policy that covers what they should and should not invest in. Barclays breaks this in numerous ways. * BU’s Ethical Investment Policy and Procedures Policy states : “Companies which are perceived to be engaged in any other controversial activities.” * I would think that the destruction of whole villages populated by local indigenous and Afro-Colombian people is a controversial activity * BU’s Policy also states : “Extra consideration should also be given to investments in any of the following areas: Companies engaged in controversial environmental activities, including fossil fuel extraction but seek opportunities to play a more active role in investing in low-carbon technologies. This is in support of BU’s Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan’” |
| **Solution** | * The Union should seek to move all banking to a more ethical banking supplier. Triodos is recommended as the most ethical and viable choice. Co-Op and Nationwide are other viable options, though Triodos should be explored first. * The Union should cut future ties with Barclays such as but not limited to: sponsorship, corporate partnerships, advertising, careers fair. * SUBU will lobby the university to cut other ties such as but not limited to banking, sponsorship, corporate partnerships, advertising, careers fairs, ATMs and branches on campus. This lobbying should be done by the President of SUBU. * To divest any shares that they may have with Barclays. |
| **To be  implemented  by** | SU President |

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| **Proposed by** | Toluwa Atilade |
| **Proposal** | The Allyship Policy |
| **Problem** | * Despite the efforts of Toluwa Atilade, VP Welfare and Community and SUBU, Allyship is not pushed within the university as much as it should. * It is on everyone to learn how to be an active ally. It is not a choice to sit on the side-lines and be silent. * We need to set out practical steps and actions for student facing work * Allies have an important role in society - to show solidarity to people from marginalised communities and to unlearn their own unconscious biases and encourage others to do so as well. * Showing that the union and the university is an authentic ally will show students that they are accepted for who they are. As university is the first step into adult life for many students, experiencing this acceptance will ensure that they carry that with them through their adult lives. |
| **Solution** | * SUBU should continue to champion allyship through different campaigns – this includes, but not limited to: * Providing financial support to trans students in need who are beginning their transition * Ensuring SUBU does not use gendered language when discussing menstruation * Improving the accessibility of events, including events run by our clubs and societies. * To encourage staff and students in SUBU and the University to become allies for marginalised communities via the SUBU website. * Ensure that students are clear on SUBU’s stance regarding allyship * Ensure that Bournemouth University learn to be active allies * For the Students’ Union and the University to acknowledge their lack of diversity and to acknowledge the necessity for allies * For SUBU to: * host an annual Allyship Fair * create a Live-Experience Liberation Panel where students will get renumerated for their time * pledge and adopt the Allyship Commitments and Strategy * encourage students to register as allies on the SUBU website * promote the Allyship Hub and related projects through BU/SUBU welcome comms * infuse allyship within the Liberation Campaigns structure. This includes, but is not limited to, each Liberation Campaign having a minimum of one allied event each year. * organise and facilitate allyship training for student leaders * keep the Allyship Hub up to date * For SUBU to lobby Bournemouth University to: * pledge and adopt the Allyship Commitments and Strategy * ensure that correct language is used in lectures around marginalised communities, particularly for terms relating to LGBTQ+ and disabled communities. * allow an option for BU staff and students to include pronouns on ID badges * support SUBU with their allyship events and campaigns where possible |
| **To be implemented by** | VP Welfare and Community |