**SUBU Summit Ideas**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Proposed by**          | *Dan Merry - 2nd Year Film Student* |
| **Proposal**       | *SUBU to lobby BU to improve students right to freedom of expression.* |
| **Problem**       | * *Students and lecturers are unable to protest on or around campus and often face sanctions should they engage in this which contradicts the universities progressive approach to student voice.*
* *Students have attempted to exercise their right to freedom of expression in a peaceful manner on campus and were challenged by university security and were eventually escorted from campus by the police. Student was threatened with physical removal from campus security before police involvement.*
* *Students have additionally had the threat of visa and scholarship revocation for attempting to express their views, even in a peaceful manner.*
* *BU have implemented an unclear risk assessment process for students to follow before being permitted to express their views on campus in the form of protest or speech etc.*
 |
| **Ideas for solutions**     | * *SUBU to lobby BU to update disciplinary processes to outlined steps taken in the breach of student code of conduct regarding expression of free speech. To also adjust these processes to remove the ability for university to threaten students with dire consequences without following all the steps involved for a resolution.*
* *SUBU to lobby BU to clarify views and definitions of protests, demonstrations, speeches, peaceful and what they consider harmful, unlawful, provocative, or dangerous.*
* *SUBU to lobby BU to clarify their policies on student and staff freedom of expression and right to protest peacefully and increase visibility of these policies for students.*
* *SUBU to lobby BU to examine campus security training on handling protests and expressions of views to ensure students and staff still feel protected and not physically or academically threatened.*
* *SUBU to lobby BU to expand risk assessment process and process involved in students requesting ability to express their views or protest something in a way that considers student consensus and important issues.*
* *SUBU to lobby BU to introduce notice of speech/event/protest/demonstration system as like [BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY] for students to make public knowledge of their intentions.*
* *SUBU to lobby BU to explore introduction of safe space for demonstration, placement of artwork and space to safely express views.*
* *SUBU to introduce student facing training on freedom of expression and wider workshops to inform students of their rights and ability to express views.*
 |
| **To be implemented by**     |  VP Welfare & Community |