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## Lobby KCL to Introduce Faculty Wide Mature Student Inductions with Mixers

Motion Proposer (including K number): Abigail Coughlan K1461729

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### **KCLSU Notes**

1. There are no separate inductions for mature students.
1. KCL does not employ a member of staff to represent and support mature students. All mature student support goes through Widening and Participation who are responsible for encouraging mature student entry to King's, KCL advice who are responsible for student parent network.
2. No recognition is given by KCL to the diversity of the needs of mature students.
3. This year (2015/15) KCL advice held coffee mornings for incoming mature students, however this was not inclusive of current mature students and no further information has been provided.
4. King's does not promote an inclusive environment for mature students.

### **KCLSU Believes**

1. By introducing faculty wide induction sessions at the beginning of each year it will create a community of mature students within that faculty and allow people of similar areas of study to interact with one another.
2. Each student should be treated the same as another, however some groups may need tailoring to, such as post-graduates and international student groups. These groups already receive separate inductions and mixers.

### **KCLSU Resolves**

1. To lobby the University to introduce faculty wide inductions specifically tailored to mature students to be followed by a mixer encouraging students to develop connections that may benefit and support them throughout their academic life.

## Lobby KCL to postpone exams one week following the next UK general election

Motion Proposer (including K number): Benjamin James Thomas K1009454

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### KCLSU Notes

1. The most general election occurred on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 (No reference needed).
2. The following day, 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 several exams took place of varying lengths (exam timetable).
3. Students were therefore forced to choose between sufficient sleep & rest for their exams, or following the unfolding election results (student complaints).
4. The fixed-term parliament act dictates that the next general election be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2020, barring intervening circumstances (Fixed-Term Parliaments act 2011, Poling Days for Parliamentary Elections, Section 1 & Section 2).
5. This period is typically host to exams.

### KCLSU Believes

1. KCLSU believes firmly that a democracy is enriched by participation of constituent citizens, and that said participation should be nourished and encouraged where possible.
2. Although one cannot be forced to take part in democratic activities, KCLSU believes that the removal of barriers to democratic awareness and engagement can lead to increased participation.
3. Last year, the results of the general election were announced throughout the night following the closing of the polls at 10pm, and though many students were interested in the results an exam the following day, they were forced to choose between following the developing results and resting for their subsequent exam.
4. The nightlong analysis of the results is politically educational and provides a chance for many people to become more engaged, but many were forced not to choose this.
5. KCLSU believes that exams should be postponed one week following a general election to (a) allow students the opportunity to follow and learn from these developments; (b) allow the student's time to return to their normal sleep-cycles; and (c) allow the student's time to return their thoughts to their exams and study properly following these days spent being politically engaged.

### KCLSU Resolves

1. Lobby KCL to postpone exams by one week following the next general election, to ensure students have sufficient time to (a) become engaged in the political proceedings, and (b) return their thoughts to their studies following this.

# Smash the NSS

Motion Proposer (including K number): Andy Warren K1460266

Policy Expiry date (maximum of 2 years): 2 years

## KCLSU Notes

1. The National Student Survey (NSS) is filled out by final-year students each year in order to rank universities across the country.
2. The NSS is likely to be one of the metrics used in the Teaching Excellence Framework, which itself could be linked to higher fees.<sup>1</sup>
3. KCLSU's opposition to the TEF and other reforms like axing maintenance grants set out in the motion 'Support the Student Strike', passed by Student Council last term.

## KCLSU Believes

1. The National Student Survey (NSS) does not measure student satisfaction in any meaningful way.
2. The NSS is used by management in institutions to (and this list is by no means conclusive) bully staff, fire staff, change their contracts and cut courses.<sup>2 3</sup>
3. As a tool for marketization, the NSS is used to standardise HE, pitching incomparable teaching practices against each other and ranking universities to fuel a notion of 'value for money'.
4. The focus on an academic style learning disproportionately affects art institutions and other specialist HE institutions which do not fit this narrow framework.
5. The questions that the NSS asks do not address institutional problems within universities.
6. The NSS is counterproductive to creating liberated, autonomous universities.
7. Our overall aim should be the end of the NSS through campaigning for a national boycott or sabotage by students. This would involve students giving full marks on every question to skew the data, making it unreliable and meaningless while protecting education workers. This must be national; individual sabotage and sabotage by individual institutions will be ineffective and not tackle the problems caused by the survey.

## KCLSU Resolves

1. To campaign to get rid of the NSS.
2. To campaign for a national boycott by the NUS.
3. To campaign for the NUS to disaffiliate itself from the NSS.
4. To encourage KCL to create its own form of democratic, participatory feedback process to improve courses and departments alongside staff not at the expense of them.
5. Educate people about the problems with the NSS.
6. To refuse to promote or assist with with the NSS.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/higher-education-green-paper-tef-paves-way-variable-fees>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2015/aug/13/the-national-student-survey-should-be-abolished-before-it-does-any-more-harm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://thetab.com/2015/04/02/finalists-do-not-complete-the-national-student-survey-34649>

## Lobby the University to Introduce Academic Reading and Writing Workshops

Motion proposer (including K number): Asmaa Khayre (K1460870), Shahla Omar (k1207542), Tayyaba Zadid (K1460841), Hareem Ghani (K1333361), Imaan Ashraf (K1459258)

Policy Expiry date (maximum of 2 years): 2 years

### KCLSU Notes

There are courses available for masters students and international students<sup>4</sup>

1. 'SKILLS4STUDYCAMPUS' provide online help with academic writing and reading, and provide one to one help (you have to book a slot)<sup>5</sup>

### KCLSU Believes

1. Workshops on how to read and write academic text would provide a non-intimidating space (students could support each other) for students to learn and develop essential skills to aid them in their degree.
2. Workshops are an effective means of preparing students with the necessary skillset, they are more informative than the vague 'how to write an essay' segment presented at the start of new modules.
3. I've spoken to a lot of students who found academic texts to be inaccessible; having workshops would help break this down to an *extent*.
4. Students pay a minimum of £9000 they should be provided with these kinds of services.

### KCLSU Resolves

1. For Vice Presidents of Education to work toward the introduction of academic writing and reading workshops.
2. For KCLSU to lobby the university to introduce the workshops across all departments. These workshops should:
  - Offer comprehensive help in dissecting academic texts and aid on how to write essays and reference at the start of every new term;
  - Be visible to students (well promoted)

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/english-language-centre/courses/international-pre-masters-programme/course-materials.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> <http://libguides.kcl.ac.uk/studyskills/writing>

## Support Student Walkout on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February

Motion Proposers (including K number): Emma Clewer - k1458595, Danielle Tiplady - K1332992, Alison Sweeney – k1464185, Zoe Alldis, K1458317, Nicole Emery – K1458140, Phoebe Cantacuzino - K1458687, Jacob Smith - K1332872, Marina Downs - K1458634, Charlotte Alexandra - K1332252, Sophia Koumi - K1187934

Policy Expiry date (maximum of 2 years): 2 years

### KCLSU Notes

1. From 2017, the government are proposing to scrap the NHS bursary for student nurses, midwives, radiographers, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, dieticians and occupational therapists. These students are also going to be made to pay over £50,000 to do these degrees instead of them being NHS funded. <sup>6</sup>
2. Over 155,000 people have signed a petition and over 5,000 people marched through London on 9th January against this decision by the Government. Further demonstrations occurred in Newcastle, Manchester and Middlesbrough. <sup>7</sup>
3. Some of these courses involve clinical placement time, for example nursing, midwifery and radiography courses are 50% tutoring time and 50% clinical placements. Currently the bursary means these students are paid roughly £3 for each hour worked during clinical placement. This does not cover living costs, especially in London, but it does offer some support. <sup>8</sup>
4. Current student nurses, midwives, radiographers, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, dieticians and occupational therapists are planning to walk out from their placements to join the Junior Doctor strike on the 10th February in order to protest against the cuts to bursaries and introduction of fees but also to stand in solidarity with Junior Doctors and to unite our fight. <sup>9</sup>
5. Students who are unable to participate in the walkout will be provided with lanyards/badges/stickers to wear on the day.

### KCLSU Believes

1. The government should not introduce fees for student nurses, midwives, radiographers, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, dieticians and occupational therapists.
2. The government should not scrap the NHS bursary and should recognise that these students are undertaking unpaid work for up to half of their course which should be rewarded with a wage or bursary.
3. Cuts to the bursary and the introduction of fees for would-be health workers is part of a wider political attack by the government on one of our most valued institutions, which we defend alongside the Junior Doctors.

### KCLSU Resolves

1. Support students on their walkout and day of action on the 10th February.
2. Financially support the students' campaign to provide materials in order to make this movement as broad as possible and to publicise the campaign, such as printing leaflets and making the armbands.
3. To send this motion on anywhere else if agreed e.g. higher union structures, trades council etc.
4. Support future campaigns and direct action by students fighting against the NHS bursary cuts.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unison.org.uk/our-campaigns/save-the-nhs-bursary/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/113491> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/nhs/12091541/Student-nurses-protest-over-bursary-changes.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.unison.org.uk/our-campaigns/save-the-nhs-bursary/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jan/23/poll-junior-doctors-support>

## Fair Pay for GTAs

Motion proposer: Joseph Attard (K1203073)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### KCLSU notes – the facts

1. More than half of the teaching hours on some university modules at King's College London are covered by Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs – PhD students who double as part-time academic staff). The university leans heavily on the cheap labour of overworked, overstretched academics-in-training. In addition to their own studies, GTAs are responsible for everything from marking and lesson preparation to running seminars.
2. The results of a survey of more than 450 GTAs published by King's College London's student newspaper, Roar in 2014 implicated King's College London in "systemic exploitation." Some teachers are expected to mark 9,000 words every hour but they claim this is "impossible" and that "there is pressure to cut corners."<sup>i</sup>
3. The survey appears to explain the College's dire student satisfaction ranking – 111th in the country – which drags King's down in domestic leagues every year. Only 62% of King's students were satisfied with "assessment and feedback" last year – 10% below the national average.<sup>iii</sup>
4. The 'Teaching Excellence Framework' (TEF), proposed as part of Chancellor George Osborne's summer budget will, allegedly, reward 'top performing' institutions with the right to increase their fees indefinitely in line with the rate of inflation.<sup>iii</sup>

### KCLSU believes – your opinions

1. Historically, GTAs were eligible to complete a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCAPHE) if they were teaching within the university for two or more academic years. As of the 2015-6 academic year, the PGCAPHE has been scrapped. In its place, GTAs can apply for an HEA fellowship by attending 'Preparing to Teach', a four-hour training day. This has been described by GTAs have described as substandard. This fellowship is not a qualification and may expire if a GTA has a gap in teaching in the higher education sector (when preparing for thesis submission or navigating the job market, for example).<sup>iv</sup>
2. GTAs report that, in private conversation with Vice-Dean Burns during a faculty induction for the Arts and Humanities, they were informed that the 'pressures of the neoliberal job market' mean that they are better off regarding their teaching work as an 'apprenticeship.'
3. King's cannot have it both ways. Management cannot lean on student staff as a cheaper alternative to paying full-time staff while also striving for higher standards, better results and an improved student experience. And it certainly cannot conceal this subterfuge by passing off GTAs vital work as an 'apprenticeship.'
4. The Government is being deliberately vague over exactly what criteria TEF will involve. One could easily imagine that the amount of teaching performed by GTAs as opposed to full-time members of staff could equate to a lower score, effectively rendering GTAs a black mark against King's College London's standing in the higher education sector.
5. GTAs are part-time academic staff and deserve to be treated as such, with contracts that are reflective of the hours they put into their teaching, adequate resources to perform their work and an immediate end to any talk of 'apprenticeships.' Furthermore, GTAs invest a great deal of time and energy into our teaching roles, an investment that we expect to contribute to a future in the academic sector.

### KCLSU resolves – proposed action

1. The KCLSU endorses the Fair Pay for GTAs' demands for: adequate resources.
2. Pay that reflects GTAs' labour.
3. The restoration of PGCAPHE or a qualification of equal value that will help student teachers gain a foothold in the competitive academic job market.
4. The union calls on university management to consent to these demands and on the NUS to endorse this motion at a national level.

<sup>i</sup> <http://roarnews.co.uk/wordpress/?p=17677>

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/teaching-excellence-framework-tef-everything-you-need-to-know>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/learningteaching/kli/Programmes/AcademicPractice/Index.aspx>

## College Point of Information

- King's College London has long had a [policy](#) on postgraduate students who teach, which specifies three pay levels:
  - £14.52 per hour at Grade 4
  - £16.10 per hour at Grade 5
  - £18.96 per hour at Grade 6
- No GTA at King's is paid £4.00 per hour for their work.
- The Arts & Sciences Faculties have undertaken to adopt a common policy on pay by January 2016.

A review of GTA pay across all faculties was completed at the end of June 2015. Because pay was and continues to be the main issue raised by the GTA campaign, this work was given top priority. It is important to say that no GTA at King's is paid £4.00 per hour for their work. Indeed, the minimum hourly rate as mandated by our [policy](#) on postgraduate student involvement in teaching and learning is £14.52 per hour.

Following on from the report – which was shared with the GTA Fair Pay Campaign group – a proposal for standardising pay across the four Arts & Sciences faculties was produced and has been discussed at Arts & Sciences Senior Executive Team (ASSET) meetings. The proposal would increase the number of hours of preparation for which GTAs could be paid, and would also offer an increased rate of pay for marking. ASSET is chaired by Vice-Principal Professor Evelyn Welch and has undertaken to adopt a common policy by January 2016, in advance of allocating teaching for the next academic year.

As part of this ongoing work, the Faculty of Arts & Humanities has also standardised its rates of pay for GTAs across all departments, removing any discrepancies that existed in previous years. The main change is that all departments will now pay for marking at a rate of 5,000 words per hour pro rata, or six one-hour exams per hour.

The review is continuing, with a final report expected in January 2016. The final report will deal with all aspects of the GTA experience, from recruitment and training to pay and support. As part of this review, we are holding four focus groups for GTAs in order that their views can be heard. We think GTA experiences and views are critical to our understanding of the current position and how King's should move forward in the future. Involvement in teaching and learning is entirely optional and is an important part of career development for a postgraduate research student; as such, it is important that we are providing the support that GTAs need.

We recognise that this is an important issue for GTAs and the students whom they teach. We undertake to keep the campaign and KCLSU updated as discussions progress.

## Affordable Printing for Students

Motion proposer: Zachary Hawson (k1503429)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### **KCLSU notes – the facts**

1. That the current cost of printing at King's is 5p per side or 10p per duplex sheet<sup>1</sup>
2. Other institutions charge less. For example 5p per sheet (Cambridge<sup>2</sup>, Reading<sup>3</sup>, ICL<sup>4</sup>, UCL<sup>5</sup>, and many others) or 8p per sheet (Liverpool<sup>6</sup>, Nottingham<sup>7</sup>, LSE<sup>8</sup> and others).

### **KCLSU believes – your opinions**

1. The cost of printing at King's is excessive, especially when compared with like institutions and the other colleges of the University of London.
2. This negatively affects many students, especially those who need to print more frequently such as those on Humanities courses, particularly items such as readings for seminars.
3. This is especially problematic for those students with the least means.
4. That cheaper printing is possible as shown by other institutions.

### **KCLSU resolves – proposed action**

1. Press for King's to reduce print costs to a more reasonable level in line with other institutions.
2. Organise a working group on these issues to lobby the university, in collaboration with VP of Health Sophia Koumi's work around free printing

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/using/print-copy-scan.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/desktop-services/ds-print/paying-for-ds-print>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.reading.ac.uk/library/using/services/lib-photocopying.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/computers-printing/printing/cost/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/isd/services/print-copy-scan/about/print-charging>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.liv.ac.uk/csd/printing/print-costs/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/it-services/services/print-copy-scan.aspx#prices>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/IMT/guides/printing.aspx>

## Healthcare Career Accessibility Motion

Motion proposers: Simon Tetlow; Emma Clewer; Sara Davison; Daniel Turk; Omar Risk; Joe Simpson; Sophie Mustoe; Joshua Fisher; Andrew Baigey; Henrietta Helliwell; Sophia Koumi; Danielle Tiplady

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### KCLSU Notes

1. The NHS employs the vast majority of healthcare professionals in the UK. The proposed changes to the contracts of NHS-employed doctors up to consultant level will see them facing a pay cut of up to 30% whilst including the hours of 7am-10pm, Monday to Saturday as "sociable hours", which incur no overtime pay.<sup>10</sup>

### KCLSU Believes

1. Due to this contract and other recent changes to the NHS many healthcare students are facing uncertainty about the security of their future careers, in particular the increased difficulty in paying off their university debt on a dramatically reduced salary and the prospect of being forced to work dangerously long hours that put both patient safety and their own mental health at risk. Furthermore, the proposed pay cuts risk further narrowing the accessibility of a healthcare degree by making it harder for students from less financially well-off backgrounds to pay for an already long and expensive degree.
2. Healthcare students should not have to fear unfair contracts or instability in the NHS, their monopoly employer. Health sciences students should expect fair pay and conditions, and should not be forced to work hours that place themselves or their patients at risk.

### KCLSU Resolves

1. Healthcare degrees should be accessible to students of all backgrounds, and no one should be put off studying by fears over their future pay or working conditions. KCLSU should support issues and campaigns affecting students pursuing a degree in healthcare.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/in-depth-junior-and-consultant-contract/ddrb-recommendations-analysis-for-juniors/junior-doctors-contract-negotiations-faq#3>

## Core Book Template

Motion proposer: Alberto Torres, k1214321

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### **KCLSU Notes**

1. Two Arts and Sciences representatives were elected on a manifesto to improve core book availability at the libraries.<sup>11</sup>
2. Many modules require the use of core books, which means they are essential books used throughout the module.

### **KCLSU Believes**

1. Often, the library only possesses a few copies, forcing students to buy them or try to look in other libraries.
2. Even the second hand version of many of these books is often over the range of 40 pounds,
3. Given the amount of fees that we pay, and the capital universities like King's have, no student should be forced to buy a book because there are not enough copies of it at the library
4. The unavailability of books puts undue pressure to a great majority of students dealing with expensive travel, accommodation, food, and other costs.
5. The availability of core books can be greatly improved and this is of benefit to the student and its academic development.

### **KCLSU Resolves**

1. To start a research stream whereby every course representative in the faculties of Arts and Sciences is contacted about modules in their course and year that require book availability, to then investigate their respective availability at the KCL libraries.
2. To lobby the college, the departments, and library acquisitions to significantly increase core book availability as mandated by students, and to acquire the e-book version when possible.
3. To lobby to ensure it is KCL policy to automatically acquire a sensible amount of core books whenever a module marks a book as core.
4. To aim to achieve this goal by the end of the academic year, and for the student officer responsible for Academic Affairs to report to student council at the start of the second term (2016) to report about the progress of this motion.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.kclsu.org/studentcouncil/meet/>

## Shuttle Bus Motion

Motion proposers: Jade Seidman (K1119443), Amy Gillespie (K1270471), Derek Andrews, Sophia Koumi

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### **This Union notes:**

1. King's College London has recently restructured the schools of biomedical science, medicine and the Institute of Psychiatry (IoP) thereby creating the IoPPN resulting in more movement between Guy's Campus, Waterloo Campus and Denmark Hill campus.
2. Dentistry, Nursing, Medical, Biomedical Science (especially neuroscience and Dietetics students use Guy's, Waterloo and Denmark Hill Campuses regularly.
3. The cost of public transport prices continue to increase every year thereby increasing financial burdens on students.
4. The shuttle between St. Thomas's and Guy's campus is still used

### **This Union Believes:**

1. Facilitating transport between the campuses encouraging inter-disciplinary work, collaboration etc.
2. Encouraging students who find traveling too expensive to attend classes on other campuses
3. This will benefit both staff and students
4. Useful for those living in student accommodation in Camberwell – and would help compensate for the high cost of the halls

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. Lobby to introduce the Guy's- Waterloo – Denmark Hill shuttle with similar schedules and services as the St. Thomas – Guy's shuttle
2. Encourage students to use shuttle with advertising around campus

# Undergraduate Home Students' Payment of Tuition Fees

Motion proposer: Mohamed Elbuzidi (1456017)

## This Union notes:

1. Most undergraduate home students can avoid upfront payment of their tuition fees through a student loan.
2. There are many students who do not take out loans through the Student Loan Company due to the repayment model and the addition of 3% interest.
3. The current instalment payment method is as follows: 1st instalment: £4500 by October and 2nd instalment of £4500 by January. Therefore, the deadline for full payment of one's tuition fees is 31st January of the corresponding academic year.<sup>12</sup>
4. The deadline for full tuition fee payment in other universities such as, but not limited to, Nottingham, Durham and Loughborough is May of the corresponding academic year.<sup>13 14 15</sup>

## This Union Believes:

1. That the current system adds incredible, and potentially detrimental, financial pressure on students.<sup>16</sup>
2. That no student should be financially disadvantaged if they do not wish to take out a contractually-binding loan, with interest, due to personal or religious reasons.

## This Union Resolves:

1. To lobby the College to extend the deadline of full payment of a home, undergraduate student's tuition fees until May of the corresponding academic year.
2. To lobby the College to change the instalment payment method to as follow:
  - a. 1st instalment: 25% of tuition fee by 10th October, of that academic year.
  - b. 2nd instalment: 25% of tuition fee by 31st January, of that academic year.
  - c. 3rd instalment: 50% of tuition fee by 25th May, of that academic year.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/orgstructure/ps/finance/fees/fees-tandc.aspx#HomeEU>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/fabs/finance/services/tuitionfeeservices/2014-15instalments.aspx>

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/financial/pages/student\\_fees.htm#fees](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/admin/financial/pages/student_fees.htm#fees)

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.dur.ac.uk/treasurer/students/tuition\\_fees/how\\_to\\_pay\\_tuition\\_fees/howtopayinv/](https://www.dur.ac.uk/treasurer/students/tuition_fees/how_to_pay_tuition_fees/howtopayinv/)

<sup>16</sup> Campaign Lead and first year medical student Ayaan Musa has surveyed fellow privately funded students and has accumulated written documents detailing the negative impact of the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan deadline.

## Plagiarism Motion

Motion proposer: Nadine Almanasfi (K1210654)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### This Union notes:

1. Minor cases of plagiarism are assessed through the expedited procedure of examination misconduct according to the College's misconduct regulations.<sup>17</sup>
2. In the last academic year there were 188 cases of plagiarism/collusion brought against students, 97 of these were minor.<sup>18</sup>
3. In many cases the flagged piece of work is taken down from KEATs before students have a chance to check the Turnitin report.<sup>19</sup>
4. Students are not given specific information about the accusation of plagiarism before attending the expedited interview.
5. Most students are forced to make a decision by the end of the interview.
6. Academic representatives are not usually allowed at the expedited interview.
7. Mandatory essay training does not exist in all departments.

### This Union Believes:

1. The majority of students accused of plagiarism do not intend to do so; some instances are accidental.
2. Despite the expedited process being 'informal', it is a highly stressful issue when a student is accused of misconduct without any further information.
3. The period between receiving a letter informing a student of misconduct and the interview can be a while and a student's education can be disrupted by these accusations with limited information.
4. For this reason the term 'minor plagiarism' is oxymoronic, terminology should be changed to 'referencing/citation issues'.
5. International students whose first language is not English, or who are used to a different style of essay writing and referencing may be at risk of plagiarism accusations.
6. Mature students who are resuming university education after a long period away may be at risk of plagiarism accusations.
7. The English Language Centre has limited courses in English writing skills and do not have classes outside of term time which is problematic for cases where essay resubmission is necessary.
8. The College's application of penalties during the expedited process for plagiarism is inconsistent and subjective ie. certain professors may sympathize with a student and others may not. There needs to be a more robust and nuanced penalty system.
9. An academic representative or mentor would be useful at the interview to help a student answer specific questions that a case worker may not be able to.

### This Union Resolves:

1. To lobby the College to review and improve the expedited process that involves consultation with students and the KCLSU VP Arts and Sciences and VP Health.
2. This consultation should include a review of penalties and the promotion of restorative training such as mandatory essay writing.
3. To lobby the College to allow an academic mentor/representative in the room for support.
4. For student officers to lobby the College for more English language classes.

### KCLSU Point of Information

'KCLSU Advice Service provides confidential and impartial support to students suspected of misconduct, including those going through the expedited procedure for minor plagiarism. Our Advice Caseworkers provide students with information about the process; help identifying any problems with their referencing, and signposting to other academic and pastoral support. We can accompany any student who has been asked to attend a minor plagiarism meeting for support and representation, and offer independent advice on their options.'

KCLSU Advice Service is referred to in the [Student Guide to the Misconduct Regulations](#), however as the expedited procedure is managed locally by departments, unfortunately not all students are signposted to the support we provide.'

Policy expiry date: 2 years

**This Union notes:**

1. Optional computer-based exams can be more efficient and effective for students taking exams.
  - Fluck, Pullen & Harper (2009): after conducting an examination for 270 students of 4-year Bachelor of Education Program at the University of Tasmania – “*Survey indicated that 38% of the survey respondents had previously taken a computer-based test (CBT), 78% had used the practice before examination and 71% had found it very or moderately useful. The valid responses (N=230) indicated that 94.5% preferred CBT. The prior exposure to CBT was a highly significant factor for preferring the computer medium*”([2012] TOJETvol 11 Issue 4).
2. Optional computer-based exams do not affect exam scores; therefore they do not create inequality between those who opt for computer-based exams and those who opt for paper-based.
  - Bodmann & Robinson (2004): study on both Computer-based tests (CBT) and paper-pencil tests (PPT) found “*approximately half class (28 students) took the first test on the computer and rest preferred first test on paper. Procedures shifted for the second tests, with the first group receive PPT and second group CBT with a gap of two weeks. It was concluded that undergraduates completed the CBT faster than PPT with no difference in scores.*”([2012] TOJETvol 11 Issue 4).
3. Optional computer-based exams have become recognised as a norm of educational assessment in a range of mediums:
  - The University of Edinburgh offers a range of students the option to take either paper-based exams or computer based exams using simplified word processors
  - In 2011, the Chief Executive of Ofqual Office of Qualifications and Examinations stated that the current reliance on hand-written exam papers for school exams “*cannot go on*”.
4. Of KCL Law Students (N=45), who participated in an informal online survey, 93.4% stated that optional exams would be a good thing.
5. Softwares, specifically designed for this purpose, such as ExamSoft, can be used on standardised computers provided by the university or on students’ personal computers by rebooting the computer and not allowing exiting the software or using the rest of the computer in any way.

**This Union Believes:**

1. That computer-based exams should be made optional and available to all KCL students
2. That the possibility to hand-write exams must still be available
3. That there is interest for computer-based exams option within the KCL student body
4. That such a development would be invaluable in (a) updating KCL’s exams policy, and in (b) improving student’s ability to tailor and personalise their education.

**This Union Resolves:**

1. That KCLSU lobby KCL to introduce a policy of optional computer-based exams for KCL students.
2. That KCLSU lobby KCL for the continued availability of paper-based exams, alongside computer-based exams.
3. That, if KCL introduces said policy, KCLSU promote and support its continuance.

# Improve Sustainability Targets for KCL Estates

Motion Proposer (including K number): Oliver Ritchie (K1596562)

Policy Expiry date (maximum of 2 years): 2 years

## KCLSU Notes

1. Energy use in buildings is the biggest contributor to KCL's immediate carbon footprint<sup>20</sup>.
2. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol divides emissions into scope 1 (direct emissions), scope 2 (indirect emissions from purchased energy sources), and scope 3 (all other indirect emissions)<sup>21</sup>.
3. BREEAM is a widely used accreditation which assesses the environmental sustainability of buildings, particularly in relation to scope 1 and 3 emissions<sup>22</sup>.
4. KCL Energy and Carbon Management Policy states that the university will make "continued efforts" to achieve BREEAM rating of excellent for new build projects over £1m, and a rating of very good for refurbishments over £1m<sup>23</sup>.
5. An 'excellent' rating places buildings approximately in the top 10% nationally, while a 'very good' rating places buildings in the top 25%. An 'outstanding' rating places a building in the top 1%<sup>24</sup>.
6. LSE's latest new build, the SAW Swee Hock Student Centre achieved a rating of 'outstanding'<sup>25</sup>.
7. The 'Planet' strand of the KCLSU Ethical policy emphasises that the Union is committed to green impact accreditation, alongside other sustainability commitments<sup>26</sup>.
8. KCL currently has a target to reduce scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 43% by 2019/20, compared to the 2005/06 baseline.

## KCLSU Believes

1. KCL should continue to strive towards improving the sustainability of its buildings. However, BREEAM 'very good' ratings are not a sufficiently high standard for a world leading institution. KCL should aim for a standard of 'excellent' or 'outstanding' wherever possible.
2. If this commitment is to have maximum impact, the University should aim to improve the sustainability of all buildings, not just new builds or renovations.
3. KCL should additionally adopt similar targets that relate to scope 2 (energy procurement) emissions.
4. KCL should look beyond 2019/20 to set ambitious, world leading targets for the future.
5. Sustainable, low carbon infrastructure provides students with value for money, a better learning environment, and exemplifies the type of best practice that students will go on to deliver in their own fields after they have graduated.

## KCLSU Resolves

1. Adopt the KCLSU position that the Union supports continued reduction in the environmental impact of all University buildings.
2. Lobby the University to 1) commit to timescales in which to review the BREEAM rating of all buildings, and 2) wherever possible take the measures necessary to bring these up to an 'excellent' or 'outstanding' standard.
3. Lobby the University to raise its standards for new builds and refurbishments to aim for 'outstanding' for new builds, and at least 'excellent' in all refurbishments.
4. Lobby the University to adopt specific and measureable targets to address scope 2 emissions. For example switching to a green energy provider and/or committing to power 10% of our own power from renewable sources.
5. Lobby the university to commit to continuing improvements after 2019/20. While the exact target should be agreed following consultation with relevant individuals, a reduction of 80% by 2030 against the 2005/06 baseline provides a good starting point for discussion.

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/orgstructure/ps/estates/sustainability/energy-carbdocs/carbmanplan2010-2020.pdf> (page 8).

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.ghgprotocol.org/files/ghgp/public/FAQ.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> [http://www.breeam.com/breeamGeneralPrint/breeam\\_non\\_dom\\_manual\\_3\\_0.pdf](http://www.breeam.com/breeamGeneralPrint/breeam_non_dom_manual_3_0.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/governancezone/Assets/Estates/Energy%20and%20Carbon%20Management%20Policy.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> [http://www.breeam.com/BREEAM2011SchemeDocument/Content/03\\_ScoringRating/scoring.htm](http://www.breeam.com/BREEAM2011SchemeDocument/Content/03_ScoringRating/scoring.htm)

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/campusLondonLife/sweeHockStudentCentre/environmentAndSustainability/BREEAM.aspx>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.kclsu.org/pageassets/policyzone/Ethical-Policy-Passed-by-Board-Dec-14-FINAL.pdf>

## Secularise KCL

Motion Proposer (including K number): Joe Simpson

Policy Expiry date (maximum of 2 years): 2 years

### Proposed amendments

- **Remove Notes 2 + 5**
- **Believes 2:** remove the word 'many'
- **Add to Believes section:** '*KCLSU recognises the religious beliefs of its many students and the positive contribution that KCL and the Dean has done through its support to students considering Ordination and its services held in Chapels that are often interfaith amongst others*'

### KCLSU Notes

1. The 1829 Royal Charter states that the purposes of King's College are to maintain the connection between 'sound religion and useful learning' and to teach the 'doctrines and duties of Christianity'<sup>27</sup>.
2. Wikipedia describes Kings' formation as '*a Tory response to reassert the educational values of The Establishment*'.<sup>28</sup>
3. Kings' website states: that the college was founded with '*the express purpose of ensuring that its students received an education that took seriously the religious dimension to life. Throughout the history of King's its Deans have been key people in ensuring this continues.*'<sup>29</sup>
4. The Dean of King's is responsible for ensuring that the College retains its Anglican, Christian traditions and overseeing all religious provision at the College. The Dean must be an ordained Church of England minister.<sup>30</sup>
5. An article published in Roar on November 12, 2015 criticised the AKC for being 'misogynistic and outdated'.<sup>31</sup>

### KCLSU Believes

1. King's should not promote, or be seen to promote, one particular faith or set of beliefs more strongly than others.
2. Many aspects of King's are still strongly influenced by Anglican Christianity. Examples of this include the role of the Dean, the role of the Chaplaincy and the teaching of the AKC. Thus despite measures to taken to support students with beliefs other than Christian ones, King's is still seen as a predominantly Christian institution,
3. No attempt should be made to airbrush history; King's Anglican foundation should continue to be acknowledged and celebrated as part of its history. However, this should not be allowed to affect King's functioning as a modern institution which caters equally for followers of all faiths and none.
4. King's can best serve its student and staff community by committing to being a secular institution which provides equally for students of all beliefs.

### KCLSU Resolves

1. To lobby the College to review its religious provision and ensure that it caters equally for students of all faiths.
2. To lobby the College to provide a secular equivalent of the Chaplaincy, as well as diversifying the Chaplaincy to reduce the current predominance of Christian faith amongst Chaplains.
3. To lobby the College to remove the requirement that the role of Dean is reserved for an ordained Anglican and ensure that the role is open to those of all faiths and none.
4. To lobby the College to commit to being a secular University which has moved on from its Christian religious foundation and become an institution which promotes and facilitates all beliefs equally.

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/principal/dean/akc/AKC-Handbook/starting/values.aspx>

<sup>28</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s\\_College\\_London#cite\\_note-Thompson5-35](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s_College_London#cite_note-Thompson5-35)

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/principal/dean/thedean/why.aspx>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/principal/dean/thedean/why.aspx>

<sup>31</sup> <http://roarnews.co.uk/wordpress/?p=19357>

## Democratise KCL!

Motion proposers: Sam Bysh, Areeb Ullah, Jamie Sweeney, Sebastiaan Debrouwere, Adwoa Mensah, Emily Braddock, Liam Jackson, Jonathan Cardoso, Sophia Koumi

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### This Union notes:

1. KCL College Council has spent an amount estimated between £87,000 and £300,000 on consultancy fees to rebrand of which the result was to drop the word 'College' from King's College London so that it would be known simply as 'King's London.'<sup>32</sup>
2. KCL Management are in the process of closing the Hampstead Residence: the KCL residence with the most affordable rent<sup>33</sup>.
3. KCL College Council issues only one seat (the KCLSU President) to a student representative<sup>34</sup>.
4. KCL has an ethical investment policy<sup>35</sup>. However, the committee that decides where to invest money has no staff or student representatives<sup>36</sup>.
5. Academic staff from most of the faculties at KCL are not represented at all, and those who have a staff member on the council are not there to represent their faculty - they have a specific role assigned to them aside from their faculty.<sup>37</sup>
6. KCL Council Chairman's Committee takes some decisions privately<sup>38</sup>. These decisions preclude any student representation in those decisions<sup>39</sup>.
7. Around 12% of students are reported to have voted in the KCLSU officer elections in 2014<sup>40</sup>.
8. KCL has world-leading academics in an array of different disciplines<sup>41</sup>.

### This Union Believes

1. The rebrand fiasco, sale of affordable accommodation and plan to stop employing a large number of health staff are all individually bad decisions. But they are also symptomatic of a wider problem in the unaccountable, bureaucratic way KCL is currently governed
2. One of the core reasons for rebranding was the wish to improve perceptions of KCL. This union believes the most powerful way to improve the perceptions of KCL as an institution would be to transform the way it was governed and run into a system with greater popular participation, transparency and accountability. In this case popular is taken to mean the community of students and staff who comprise KCL.
3. The sale of the residences is something that has been widely opposed by the community of KCL - a decision that would have priced many students out of halls. Those who took this decision had little or no contact with, awareness of, or care for the opinions of the community; this was not something that was considered when taking the decision.
4. There have been decisions made by College Council that took into account the opinions and wishes of staff and students. One such decision was in the process of designing and redeveloping the Strand Quad over the next 15 years<sup>42</sup>. By consulting with students - taking into account the opinions of those who use the spaces to be redeveloped - a successful outcome was reached with support of the KCL community.

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<sup>32</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/higher/kings-college-london-ditches-pretentious-rebrand-after-student-anger-9989019.htm>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.kclsu.org/blogs/blog/Student%20Officers%20Blog/2014/11/17/An-Open-Letter-to-Paloma-Lisboa-Head-of-Campus-Operations-Residences/> and <http://www.kclsu.org/blogs/blog/Student%20Officers%20Blog/2014/02/21/Affordable-housing/>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/governance/council/index.aspx>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/index.php?id=388>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/governance/committees/investToR2013-14.pdf> This document is the most recent list of the Investment Subcommittee members available online and demonstrates the absence of student representation.

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/governance/council/councilrole.pdf> Most specifically bullet-point 6 on page 2/3

<sup>38</sup> By 'privately' it is meant that no minutes are available online publicly. <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/governance/committees/chairmans.aspx> Most specifically bullet-point 5. Also, bullet-point 4 because if a recommendation is deliberated and agreed on by the Council Chairman's Committee it already has the support of half the College Council at the time it is recommended.

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/governance/committees/chairmanstor2013-14.pdf> This document is the most recent list of the Council Chairman's Committee members available online and demonstrates the absence of student representation.

<sup>40</sup> <http://roarnews.co.uk/wordpress/?p=15382> final point in article percentage worked out as 3000 out of 25000 students.

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/newsevents/news/newsrecords/2014/September/Kings-ranked-16th-in-the-world.aspx>  
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/news/records/2014/July/Three-loP-academics-ranked-as-worlds-leading-scientific-minds.aspx>  
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/newsevents/news/newsrecords/2013/09-September/Kings-College-London-ranked-in-top-20-in-world.aspx>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/campuses/strand/quad.aspx> First paragraph of 'Vision For the Quadrangle' section.

5. Greater representation for the Faculties and departments of the university and for different sections of the student body would lead to decision making more in the common interest than the system currently in place. We believe that our world leading academics have some good ideas, perhaps even better ideas than unaccountable businesspeople.
6. Decisions being taken in private by subcommittees without any elected representation is to the detriment of accountability and perpetuates a lack of transparency within the KCL community.
7. Although College Council meetings are minuted and the minutes are available online, we note that the publication of minutes is not up to date<sup>43</sup>. These minutes are sparse in detail on the specific discussions and disagreements, which does not provide enough accountability to the student community at large.
8. 12% is a low election turnout. This is a strong indication of the disconnection between management, representatives and students at King's.
9. One of the reasons that KCLSU lacks engagement with the community is its perceived lack of power and capabilities. Increasing democracy in the way KCL is governed would also create an incentive for people to participate actively in KCLSU as its power to cause change in the interest of the community is increased.
10. Part of university education includes encouraging students to think independently in new ways. Students who attend a university that encourages the active participation of its members in its governing process will go on to have new, different ideas about the world than a student who is allowed no such involvement.
11. The KCL system of governance is a phenomenon repeated in most HE institutions in this country. Running Universities as businesses comes at the detriment of both students and staff. There is no reason to believe KCL can't be the first to make a change away from this paradigm

#### **This Union resolves:**

1. To condemn the current system of College governance as not fit for purpose.
2. To encourage students to participate in declaring discontent with the current system of governance and increase participation in KCLSU.
3. To support any campaign with aims to change the university's governance in the ways stated e.g. Democratise King's! with campaigning and marketing resources.
4. To support student campaigns aimed at developing a potential alternatives and a more democratic system for the government of KCL that includes:
  - a. Representatives of staff from different areas of KCL.
  - b. Increasing the number of student representatives and student involvement in decisions and plans that impact the student body.
  - c. The ability for students to have a direct say through direct democratic means in certain matters of greatest importance.
  - d. Greater transparency and honesty in reporting how meetings occur.
  - e. Student representation on committees that decide how the university spends its money.
  - f. Increasing the ability of students to oppose changes and decisions enacted by management that are not in the interest of students.
5. To campaign for KCL College Council to take seriously and implement the alternative system of governance that comes out of the deliberative process.

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<sup>43</sup> <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings/governance/council/ag-mins.aspx>

## College Room Bookings Motion

Motion proposers: Amanie El-Alfy (K1304790), Joe Simpson (K1102084)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### **This Union notes:**

1. The current minimum room booking time for college rooms is 14 days before event, or 21 days if an external speaker will be present.
2. Student groups have complained that there have been occasions where a private booking for a college room has been prioritised over their event.

### **This Union Believes:**

1. That the current period of notice that must be given to the college is excessive.
2. That the college should prioritise the events and activities of student groups over private bookings.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. To lobby the college to reduce minimum booking time from 14 days to 7 days, and from 21 days to 14 days when an external speaker will be present
2. To investigate alleged instances of private bookings being prioritised over student bookings, including college space and sports pitches.
3. To lobby the college to publicly commit to prioritising student bookings over private bookings.
4. To have a system which allows student groups to report such incidents.
5. To lobby the college to remove charges for rooms on weekends.
6. To lobby the college to inform student groups of what event is being prioritised over their booking if they do not get their first choice room.
7. To lobby the college to implement the same room booking system as KCLSU, where the booking timetable is visible.
8. To lobby the college to send confirmation email to student group one week before event to confirm booking.

## Support Yarl's Wood Demonstration

Motion Proposer (including K number): Hareem Ghani (K1333361), Cary Monz (K1332833), Lexi Kamen Turner (K1335422), Samia Gundkalli (K1332961), Rada Ouchakova (K1332840), Natalie Faber (K1335918), Amanie El-alfy (K1329533), Alys Aamer (K1329964), Nouf Al-Mazidi (K1460753), Tayyaba Rafiq (K1460841), Lydia Bevan (K1460630), Sona Jalilzadeh (K1460111), Imaan Ashraf (K1459258), Sabina Sevillano (K1338213), Joana Petrova (K1335929), Lily Roberts Phelps (K1333410), Maia Blumberg (K1208430), Shahla Omar (K1207542), Sara Najim (K1504148), Soha Salem (K1504148), Olamide Oshunniyi (K1185619), Sophie Hiscock (K1332990). Noor Khan (K133360), Natalie Faber (K1335918), Nancy Carney (K1598916), Rebekah Merriman (K1185694)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### KCLSU Notes

1. Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre is the largest detention centre for foreign nationals (women) prior to their deportation from the United Kingdom
2. Yarl's Wood has a well documented history of sexual abuse allegations and human rights violations<sup>44</sup>
3. Documents that resurfaced in 2014, for example, showed that Serco (the company in charge of Yarl's Wood) failed to properly investigate allegations of sexual assault against male guards<sup>45</sup>
4. Former detainees have also alleged that guards asked women to perform sexual acts in return for assistance with their asylum case<sup>46</sup>
5. Channel 4 broadcast undercover footage revealing the alleged racist and aggressive attitudes of staff<sup>47</sup>
6. Staff were filmed by Channel 4 referring to detainees as "animals" and "beasties", with one guard saying to an inmate "I'd beat her up" and "head-butt the bitch"<sup>48</sup>
7. According to the charity Women for Refugee Women, a third of detained have mental health problems
8. Noel Finn, former head nurse at Yarl's Wood, stated that several women in the detention centre are on suicide watch at a time<sup>49</sup>
9. Furthermore, guards lack the proper training to spot the danger signs or are reluctant to raise the alarm by filling in the right forms for fear of "clogging up the system"<sup>50</sup>
10. Children are also held at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre
11. Maltem Avcil, a student and campaigner was detained at Yarl's Wood aged 13<sup>51</sup>
12. Detainees have also included university students on a student visa - when their visa expired, their application for asylum was rejected and they were detained promptly<sup>52</sup>
13. Movement for Justice have organised a protest outside the detention centre for the 12<sup>th</sup> of March entitled 'Surround #YarlsWood demonstration'
14. The demonstrations at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre, led by hundreds of women detainees inside and ex-detainees outside have grown from 50 to over 1000 since May 2015

### KCLSU Believes

1. Regardless of your views on migration and detention, it cannot be denied that the women in this detention centre are subject to horrific acts of abuse
2. Health standards at the immigration detention centre are abysmal, and inadequate healthcare has in the past resulted in miscarriage
3. The Union ought to support the campaign kick-started by Movement for Justice
4. The Union and university is committed to

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<sup>44</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/yarl-s-wood-undercover-tour-of-detention-centre-with-dreadful-reputation-for-its-treatment-of-asylum-9863842.html>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/video/2014/may/17/yarl-s-wood-sex-abuse-allegations-treating-us-like-animals-video>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/video/2014/may/17/yarl-s-wood-sex-abuse-allegations-treating-us-like-animals-video>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.channel4.com/news/yarls-wood-immigration-removal-detention-centre-investigation>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/06/hundreds-protest-at-yarls-wood-demand-closure> and <http://www.channel4.com/news/yarls-wood-immigration-removal-detention-centre-investigation>

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/yarl-s-wood-undercover-tour-of-detention-centre-with-dreadful-reputation-for-its-treatment-of-asylum-9863842.html>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/yarl-s-wood-undercover-tour-of-detention-centre-with-dreadful-reputation-for-its-treatment-of-asylum-9863842.html>

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/international-migrants-day-yarls-wood-was-like-being-tortured-second-time-1533492>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/international-migrants-day-yarls-wood-was-like-being-tortured-second-time-1533492>

## **KCLSU Resolves**

1. For KCLSU to endorse Surround Yarl's Wood demonstrations as organised by Movement for Justice

## Defend the Right to Protest

Motion Proposers (including K numbers): Rachel Williams (K1205691, Joe Simpson (K1185583)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### KCLSU Notes

1. "Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests." – Human Rights Act 1998
2. "The right applies to protest marches and demonstrations, press conferences, public and private meetings, counter-demonstrations, 'sit-ins', motionless protests etc." - The National Council for Civil Liberties
3. "The right to peaceful assembly cannot be interfered with merely because there is disagreement with the views of the protesters or because it is likely to be inconvenient and cause a nuisance or there might be tension and heated exchange between opposing groups." - The National Council for Civil Liberties

### KCLSU Believes

1. The College has acted disproportionately in response to peaceful protest on campus
2. A high security presence at a peaceful protest is a sign that the College continues to treat students as suspects
3. The College should give fair and transparent consideration to the Article 11<sup>53</sup> right to protest and freedom of association in disciplinary procedures in comparison with its emphasis on Article 10<sup>54</sup> freedom of expression

### KCLSU Resolves

1. To give equal and transparent consideration to the Article 11 right to protest and freedom of association whenever the Article 10 freedom of expression is invoked, especially as a justification for disciplinary procedures.
2. To lobby the College to give equal and transparent consideration to the Article 11 right to protest and freedom of association whenever the Article 10 freedom of expression is invoked, especially as a justification for disciplinary procedures.
3. To support campaigns defending the right to protest and freedom of association

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<sup>53</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/1/part/1/chapter/10>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/1/part/1/chapter/9>

# Blacklist the Blacklisters

Motion proposer: Joseph Attard (K1203073)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

## KCLSU notes

1. In February 2009, the offices of Ian Kerr (founder of the Consulting Association (CA))<sup>i</sup> were raided by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), exposing the existence of a blacklist containing the personal details of 3,213 people, largely construction workers.<sup>ii</sup> This blacklist had operated had been used by over 40 UK construction companies to deny work to anyone they considered "troublemakers".<sup>iii</sup>
2. According to the *Guardian*, in many cases workers had been systematically denied work for as long as decades, often simply because they had been involved in a trade union or raised health and safety concerns.<sup>iv</sup> The *Guardian* states that "Ian Kerr spent more than 30 years compiling blacklisting files on workers considered by managers to be politically troublesome [...] One of his bosses said he infiltrated "a lot" of trade union meetings and was "a key guy. He was one of our most effective research people."<sup>v</sup>
3. According to *Blacklist: The inside story of political vetting* by Richard Norton-Taylor and Mark Hollingsworth, prior to 1993 a similarly organised and well-funded blacklist had been run by the so-called "Economic League"; founded in 1919 under the name "National Propaganda" by a group of industrialists and an MP who had been the Director of the Admiralty's Naval Intelligence Division to combat the growing militancy in the working class in the wake of the First World War.<sup>vi</sup>
4. There is no compelling reason to believe that the practice of blacklisting has now ceased. Mr Kerr admitted before the Scottish Affairs Committee that shortly after the ICO raid in 2009 he destroyed records held by the Consulting Association, meaning that the ICO only saw a "small amount" of the records held.<sup>vii</sup>
5. Further investigations into the Consulting Association have provided increasing evidence for the involvement of UK police and security services in the maintenance of blacklists. Consider for example the so-called 'McLibel' case, in which Helen Steel, a Greenpeace activist, was targeted by undercover police officer Jon Dines. Steel was named on Kerr's blacklist.<sup>viii</sup>

## KCLSU believes

1. This year universities have a larger intake than usual as caps on student numbers have been lifted. This, combined with other factors, is leading to a boom in construction work taking place on campuses. Such is apparent in our own University. King's College London is in the midst of building a new student complex in Canada Waters that will provide 770 new student rooms. Unfortunately, there is a very sinister side to the companies being contracted to do this building work. At least one of the final bidders courted (Balfour Beatty)<sup>ix</sup> is a known former blacklister<sup>x</sup> and King's' £60 million contract only endorses such practices.
2. As yet, no effective inquiry has been put into place to investigate the full extent of blacklisting in the construction industry and the level of collusion between this illegal enterprise and the UK authorities. It is inconceivable that successive British governments could not have been aware of the existence of blacklisting and the fact that the current government has refused to hold a full inquiry into the involvement of the British state clearly shows its own guilt.
3. The above shows that the blacklisting of trade unionists and politically active workers is an integral part not only of the UK construction industry but also of British capitalism as a whole. The bosses' state will not lift a finger against its big business backers. Only the workers themselves, united with the support of students, can force the bosses to reveal their dirty secrets and bring their rotten system to an end.

## KCLSU resolves

1. The KCLSU resolves to lobby King's College London to refuse to grant construction contracts to any company that is known to have participated in blacklisting. The union acknowledges the Procurement Advice Note issued by the Welsh government in September 2013<sup>xi</sup> and calls on King's College London to put effective measures in place to ensure that nowhere on our campus or halls of residence is tainted by blacklisting.
2. The KCLSU condemns the blacklisting of workers by construction companies and gives full support to the call from the TUC for a full 'Leveson-style' inquiry into blacklisting in the UK.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmselect/uc156-x/uc156x.pdf>, 1.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmselect/writev/blacklisting/blacklisting.pdf>, 7.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid, 32.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/27/on-the-blacklist-building-firms-secret-information-on-workers>.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>1</sup> *Blacklist: The inside story of political vetting*, Richard Norton-Taylor and Mark Hollingsworth (London, 1988).

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmselect/uc156-x/uc156x.pdf>, 42 – 49.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/27/on-the-blacklist-building-firms-secret-information-on-workers>.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.constructionenquirer.com/2014/08/05/balfour-and-bam-left-in-60m-student-scheme-race/>

<sup>1</sup> <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/construction-blacklist/>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmselect/543/54307.htm>

Support the National Day of Action Against Prevent

Motion proposer: Yousef El-Tawil (K1456439)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### **KCLSU notes**

4. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2015, KCLSU passed a motion resolving to publicly denounce the Prevent strategy due to the impact it will have on students, work with trade unions on campus around education students and staff on Prevent, for the union officers to lobby the university to be more transparent about how they engaging with the Counter-Terrorism legislation amongst other resolves which can be found in the motion.<sup>1</sup>
5. As part of the #StudentsNotSuspects campaign, the National Union of Students is calling for a National Day of Action against Prevent on our campuses.<sup>2</sup>

### **KCLSU believes**

1. The Prevent legislation is proven to have a detrimental impact on the education and welfare of students, particular from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, as well as Muslim students. It also affects students who have 'radical' political opinions eg. on climate change or social justice.

### **KCLSU resolves**

1. To officially endorse the national day of action against Prevent.
2. For the Union to provide funding to students that want to print off flyers, create banners and other creative action.
3. For the Union officers to support students who want to organise actions or events on the day.
4. For Union officers to work with the trade unions on campus to organise actions or events on the day.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kclsu.org/referenda/motion/6/20/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/events/528980720592096/>

## Diversify Window Representation and Remove Lord Carey

Motion proposers: Ben Hunt k1334074, Nicole Walsh k1335848, Sam Hampson k1332740, Alberto Torres k1214321, Ellie Harris k1335962, Nik Sas k1190818, Ben Morgan k1207943, Azura Farid k1335897, Poppy Mostyn-Owen k1460288, Aysa Strachan k1332388, Claire Vainker k1460899, Sam Hart k1329663, Josh Milton k1460692, Ellie Klime k1460542, Finnegan Schauer k1333293, Ross Bunting k1333712

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### KCLSU notes

1. That there is currently a Lord Carey Motion which will expire at this meeting mandated by Student council in 2013.<sup>1</sup>
2. That since that point there has been campaigning to remove Lord Carey's image and, furthermore, to many the windows at Strand properly representative and diverse of the student body.<sup>2</sup>
3. That this year it has been claimed in the media that Lord Carey helped to 'cover up' Bishop Peter Ball's abuse of 18 young men to the Crown prosecution service, and that Carey has admitted to giving 'too much credence to his [Ball's] protestations' when denying this abuse when Carey was Archbishop of Canterbury.<sup>3</sup>
4. That Lord Carey has likened gay marriage to 'cultural vandalism' and has further likened critics of gay marriage to persecuted Jews in the Second World War.<sup>4</sup>

### KCLSU believes

1. That asking for Carey's image to be removed should be a continued position of the Students Union.
2. That Carey should not be a representative of the College on the Strand windows.
3. That Carey's alleged covering up of the abuse of Bishop Peter Bull in his tenure of Archbishop of Canterbury is unacceptable and brings reputational damage to the College.
4. That there should be continued effort to campaign and lobby for alumni who are BME, women, disabled, LGBT+ and other oppressed groups to replace those currently on the front of the Strand.

### KCLSU resolves

1. To continue to campaign for Lord Carey's removal.
2. To continue to campaign for diverse windows on Strand and across campuses to represent alumni and other students and staff who are BME, disabled, women or LGBT+
3. To campaign towards a change in windows and other visual representations within College throughout the year.

# Support the Student Strike Ballot

Motion proposer: Andy Warren (K1460266)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

## KCLSU notes

1. The governments' higher education green paper outlines provisions to ease and speed up the entry of private providers into the sector and their access to funding, with no caps on student numbers. There will be lighter checks and balances on who can award degrees and call themselves a university, as well as provisions allowing for public universities to fail.<sup>1</sup>
2. That the government intends to take the power to raise tuition fees away from Parliament and put it in the hands of the Secretary of State, allowing for potentially unlimited fee increases.<sup>2</sup>
3. That the Teaching Excellence Framework would link fee increases to universities' performance according to metrics such as graduate earnings and the National Student Survey. Those that perform well according to such metrics will be allowed to increase their fees in line with inflation.<sup>3</sup>
4. That the government intends to convert maintenance grants into maintenance loans, putting the poorest students in more debt.<sup>4</sup>
5. That government proposes change student loan conditions, forcing graduates to repay loans earlier and faster by freezing the repayment level at £21,000, effectively a yearly rise in real terms. This would apply retrospectively to all loans taken out since the tripling of fees in 2012.<sup>5</sup> The government projects that graduates on starting salaries of £21,000 to £30,000 would repay an additional £6,100 each over the lifetime of their debt before the remainder is written off at the 30-year mark. Graduates starting at £40k, who would previously have expected to pay off virtually their entire debt before the 30-year mark, will repay just £300 more under the new system.<sup>6</sup>
6. That the government plans to cut the Disabled Students' Allowance from 2016/17, which provides crucial support to those who need it.<sup>7</sup>
7. That the government plans further cuts to further education and 6<sup>th</sup> form institutions in the upcoming spending review<sup>8</sup> on top of the cuts of the last parliament, with 14% cuts in real terms since 2010.<sup>9</sup> Already 1 million adult education places have been lost<sup>10</sup>, and a further 190,000 could be lost in 2015/16 alone<sup>11</sup>. At least 4500 jobs are at risk.<sup>12</sup>

## KCLSU believes

1. That the Tory government's Higher Education Green Paper opens the door to the full marketization of the sector.
2. That the changes represent some of the most radical changes to the nature and purpose of FE and HE education in 20 years. Universities will be geared towards the needs of business, not students or public good.<sup>13</sup>
3. The Green Paper and the policies of the last 5 years, therefore, constitute a huge attack on public education and the maintenance support offered to the students that need it most.
4. That the Teaching Excellence Framework will increase competition between institutions, increase pressure on teachers and accelerate the casualization of academic staff.
5. That students should have the right to democratically decide how we fight against marketization, cuts to student support like DSA and maintenance grants and the general direction of government education policy.
6. That there are many cases for and against the strike tactic, but that these arguments should be had by students at large in a democratic process.
7. That the student movement will only ever win on the basis of mass grass roots participation.

## KCLSU resolves

1. To make the NUS aware that this union supports a ballot on the strike.
2. [Amendment]: To campaign for a 'yes' vote in a cross-campus referendum or general assembly in the event of a ballot taking place.

## Ballot question:

Should students take strike action on [amendment: 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February] ~~15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>~~ to defend students, colleges and universities from current government attacks, which would further marketise education?

## Demands:

1. That tuition fees are not increased, and that the power to raise them undemocratically is not handed over to the Secretary of State.
2. That the Teaching Excellence Framework, which will only further harm education, pressuring and overburdening academics and workers in an already intense climate of uncertainty, is scrapped.
3. That increases in the cost of education for the poorest and most vulnerable students are halted: that the Disabled Students' Allowance is protected, that cuts to maintenance grants are reversed, and that student loan repayment conditions are not worsened.

4. That all cuts to further and adult education since 2015 are halted and reversed.

#### Further information on the student strike:

What a student strike is:

- <https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/callum-cant/return-to-student-militancy-in-uk>

Why we need a student strike:

- <http://anticuts.com/2015/09/11/we-need-a-student-strike-ncafc-call-out/>

Process of balloting for strike action:

- <http://anticuts.com/what-is-the-process-for-the-student-strike/>

International precedents:

- <http://wire.novaramedia.com/2015/09/5-student-strikes-that-show-how-students-can-win/>
- <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/sep/07/quebec-students-lesson-protest-politics>

Strike FAQs:

- <http://anticuts.com/student-strike-faqs/>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/student-choice-at-the-heart-of-new-higher-education-reforms>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/higher-education-green-paper-glance>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/higher-education-green-paper-glance>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/student-choice-at-the-heart-of-new-higher-education-reforms>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-33444557>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-32785363>

<sup>6</sup> <http://andrewmcgettigan.org/2015/07/23/government-confirms-preference-for-retrospective-price-hike-on-undergraduate-study/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.kclsu.org/ourcampaigns/dsa/>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/cuts-disabled-students-allowances-back-agenda>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/nov/10/sixth-form-further-education-colleges-funding-cuts-cliff-edge-labour>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/publications/bns/BN168.pdf#page=5>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.trainingjournal.com/articles/news/budget-cuts-further-education-affects-sixth-formers-and-adults>

<sup>11</sup> <http://feweek.co.uk/2015/03/25/government-cuts-could-decimate-adult-education-by-2020-aoc-warns/>

<sup>12</sup> [http://fefunding.org.uk/files/2015/03/FE\\_cuts\\_briefing\\_June15.pdf](http://fefunding.org.uk/files/2015/03/FE_cuts_briefing_June15.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/nov/10/the-higher-education-green-paper-will-see-market-forces-permeate-universities>

## Gender Neutral Toilets

Motion proposers: Travis Alabanza (K1460358) and Georgie Spearing (k1459682), Ellie Harris (k1335962), Ed Donald k1598333, Mical K1335952, Hannah Smethurst k1459682, Saf k1205726, Nicole Walsh K1335848, Natalie Faber K1335918, Daniel k1459838, Aysha K1456518 on behalf of the LGBT Association, the LGBT+ Society and the Disabled Students Association and the 295 supporters of the More Gender Neutral Toilets at King's Change Petition.

Policy expiry date: 2 years

This motion proposes to:

1. Create a KCLSU Gender Neutral Toilets Policy
2. Improve KCLSU Services by creating more gender neutral toilets
3. Allocate campaign funding to resource to increase visibility of the existing gender neutral toilets campaign

### KCLSU Notes

2. Gender-neutral toilets (GNTs) are toilets and/or bathroom facilities which do not have gendered signage and which do not require the person using them to define into a gender. Rather than being unisex (both male and female), gender-neutral toilets assign no gender whatsoever to people using them.<sup>55</sup>
3. King's College London and KCLSU have both made public commitments to be inclusive and provide students with safe spaces to be themselves at university.
  - a. Section 2 of the King's College London 'Guidance on Bullying and Harassment for Students' states that:  
*King's College London is committed to protecting the dignity of its students in their learning and participation in university life... This includes providing a university environment that is free from discrimination,*<sup>56</sup>
  - b. The KCLSU Safe Space policy states that:  
*KCLSU is committed to providing an inclusive and supportive space for all students... KCLSU believes all students should be free from intimidation or harassment, resulting from prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, marital or maternity/paternity status, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, trans status, socio-economic status, or ideology or culture, or any other form of distinction.*<sup>57</sup>
4. King's College London (KCL) and the KCLSU both qualify as a responsible body under s. 91(10) (a) and s. 91(10)(c) of the Equality Act 2010, respectively.<sup>58</sup>
5. As responsible bodies, KCL and KCLSU are legally required to fulfil the provisions set out in the Equality Act 2010, one of which is s. 91(2), which reads:

The responsible body of such an institution must not discriminate against a student:

- (a) in the way it provides education for the student;
- (b) in the way it affords the student access to a benefit, facility or service;
- (c) by not providing education for the student;
- (d) by not affording the student access to a benefit, facility or service;
- (e) by excluding the student;
- (f) by subjecting the student to any other detriment.

6. On 10 December 2014 KCL and KCLSU signed the Time to Change Pledge making a commitment to end mental health stigma and help to improve the wellbeing of their students.<sup>59</sup>

### KCLSU Believes

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<sup>55</sup> LGBT, NUS, 'Gender Neutral Toilets Briefing', NUS LGBT [http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nusdigital/document/documents/17329/0ceab1f1afdd722dfcoa16047f4a9c30/2009\\_LGBT\\_gender%2oneutral%2otoilets%2obriefing.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJKEA56ZWKFU6MHNQ&Expires=1444141146&Signature=7ait4DT%2FykZZ077wTgLLP8scPml%3D](http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nusdigital/document/documents/17329/0ceab1f1afdd722dfcoa16047f4a9c30/2009_LGBT_gender%2oneutral%2otoilets%2obriefing.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJKEA56ZWKFU6MHNQ&Expires=1444141146&Signature=7ait4DT%2FykZZ077wTgLLP8scPml%3D)

<sup>56</sup> King's College London, 'Guidance on Bullying and Harassment for Students', King's College London [http://www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/assets/files/students/Bullying\\_and\\_Harassment\\_Guidance\\_for\\_Students\\_July\\_2015.pdf](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/assets/files/students/Bullying_and_Harassment_Guidance_for_Students_July_2015.pdf)

<sup>57</sup> KCLSU, 'Safe Space Policy', <https://www.kclsu.org/pageassets/policyzone/KCLSU-Safe-Space-Policy.pdf>

<sup>58</sup> Equality Act 2010, [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/pdfs/ukpga\\_20100015\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/pdfs/ukpga_20100015_en.pdf)

(Accessed: 23 November 2015).

<sup>59</sup> Time to Change, 'King's College London University and Students' Union', Time to Change Pledge, 2014 <http://www.time-to-change.org.uk/node/97742>

1. That as a student's union, KCLSU should be at the forefront of liberation movements, working actively to lead the way for trans inclusion.
2. Trans and non-binary students do not feel safe on campus.
3. By not providing enough gender neutral toilets KCL and KCLSU are not meeting their own, and their legal requirements under the Equality Act 2010, the KCLSU Safe Space policy and the Time to Change pledge.
4. The simple act of going to the bathroom puts trans and nonbinary students at a significant and unacceptable level of risk. Trans and nonbinary students face being misgendered, often exposing them to common and frequent harassment once in male or female toilets. This affects their studies, their wellbeing and their experience of university.
5. LGBT groups at KCL have been in communication with King's about this issue for several years. LGBT groups have requested and asked for maps of gender neutral toilets (GNTs) on campus and whilst have now received them this only highlights to abysmal number available.
6. LGBT groups are told that there are disabled toilets to use, as well as one or two non-labelled toilets around. This is not acceptable. A disabled toilet is a dedicated space that should be for disabled people only to ensure they have access to the correct facilities they need at all times. It is not a gender neutral toilet.
7. Searching for Gender Neutral toilets should not be a strenuous task for students on campus. There should be enough non-gendered toilets, clearly located, for all students to use.

### **KCLSU Resolves**

1. Lobby the university that they will make a commitment, through policy, to ensure that gender neutral toilets are available on all campuses.
2. Work with KCLSU to ensure that any future buildings eg. The West Wing at Guy's Campus will have gender neutral toilets in place.
3. Lobby the university to ensure that gender neutral toilets will be clearly signposted and will remain unlocked and accessible at all times when not being cleaned or fixed.
4. To lobby the university to ensure they have printed maps on campus highlighting gender neutral toilets that will be readily available to all students, and to ensure that KCLSU has these maps in their spaces.
5. That KCLSU will issue an official statement on the Gender Neutral Toilet campaign to accompany the blog post on the website.
6. This campaign will include:
  - 6.1 Lobbying the college to stay accountable to their commitment in ongoing discussions to provide gender neutral facilities across campuses.
  - 6.2 Lobbying the college and the developers of the new Aldwych Quarter to promise to include trans and nonbinary students in conversations around building plans, to ensure the new building is safe for trans and nonbinary students. This is to include the commitment to provide gender neutral toilets.
  - 6.3 Lobbying the college to stay accountable to its commitment to be inclusive and accessibility, by publicly acknowledging the number of disabled toilets that they are using as gender neutral toilets. This acknowledgement will explain why they feel it is acceptable to encourage able students to use disabled facilities and why this has been the solution.

# Emergency Motion in Support of International Students

Motion proposer: K1462458

Policy expiry date: 2 years

## **KCLSU Believes**

1. International students have been under constant Attack by the Home Office for a number of years.
2. These taxes have intensified since 2012 with the revocation of the Highly Trusted Sponsorship of London Metropolitan University, scrapping of the Post study work visa provision and other changes to the immigration system.
3. The number of visa refusal has increased significantly over the past couple of years and the new immigration rules which will be coming into action soon will only make life more difficult for international students and all migrants in general.
4. The onslaught on international students' rights in the UK is not an isolated matter and is part of a bigger picture of the anti-migrant sentiment which is growing in the UK.
5. The anti-migrant sentiment growing in the country that had previously severely affected international students, is now manifesting itself in how the most vulnerable migrants, who are refugees, are being treated.
6. As a progressive movement, it is our responsibility to stand in solidarity with all migrants and condemn the government's attitude towards them

## **KCLSU Resolves**

1. KCLSU should prioritise the plight of migrants, in general, and that of international students and refugees in particular in its campaigning activities.
2. KCLSU should fully support, endorse and encourage a national day of work out on 'International Students' Day', November 17<sup>th</sup>. This would be to raise awareness regarding the treatment of refugees, international students and the wider migrant communities in the UK and to show the government that students overwhelmingly reject the government's attitude towards migration.
3. KCLSU's communication team to particularly magnify this day of action by producing the relevant material as well as distributing videos and other promoting material provided by the NUS.

## Working Timetable Motion

Motion proposer: Nicole Walsh

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### **This union notes:**

1. That KCL does not currently provide an exact date by which timetables will be published.
2. That many departments in KCL have had problems publishing timetables on time for the new term in the past few years.

### **This union believes:**

1. Timetables are a vital resource for all students, but of particular importance to disabled students.
2. Disabled students should have their timetables in advance to enable them to appropriately prepare for the term ahead.

### **This union resolves:**

1. To lobby the university to:  
publish all timetables at least one week before the term starts.
2. Prioritise disabled students and publish their timetables at least three weeks in advance.
3. To be held accountable and give a full explanation, with accessible back up resources to any students affected by a delay in timetabling.
4. To promptly offer reasonable timetable changes on the grounds of disability and access needs.

## Affordable Meal Plan for KCL

Motion proposer: Sam Bysh, 1332381

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### **This Union notes:**

1. There is no affordable meal to be purchased from KCL catering facilities. By affordable is meant cheap enough so that the least well off in the university can sustain themselves from it.
2. Hare Krishna hand out free meals to thousands of people across London every day. They are able to fund this service by donation and grant<sup>1</sup>.
3. Every student pays a minimum of £9000 in fees to KCL.
4. The Principal earns more than £300,000 PA. More than 200 staff earn more than £100,000 PA<sup>2</sup>.

### **This Union Believes:**

1. There is no affordable meal to be purchased from KCL catering facilities. By affordable is meant cheap enough so that the least well off in the university can sustain themselves from it.
2. Paying (something like) £1 for a large portion of food should be accessible to everybody.
3. If Hare Krishna are able to do it then it should be possible at KCL. There's a wonderful provision and shows it can be done, but KCL should take on that responsibility. Vegan food such as a curry plus carbohydrate is one of the cheapest possible meals yet can/should fully serve nutritional needs.
4. If people want choice in what they buy for lunch that's fine but that need not come to the detriment of those who have no choice but to choose the cheapest option.
5. This is in the interest of student welfare. Part of studying successfully is being nourished in order to maintain concentration. KCL Strand Campus is located in the very heart of London where there are limited options for eateries that aren't luxury priced. The alternative is a falsely named 'meal deal' which is neither a meal nor a deal.
6. It should not be necessary for KCL catering to be a profit-making organisation. Points 3 & 4 of TUN demonstrate that the money is there to feed everyone at the university in an affordable way. This is a part of the wider problem - including vast pay differences, selling off and overcharging for housing and generally putting students and staff last - of management interests being in the wrong place.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. To lobby the College to begin an affordable meal plan at KCL.
2. To support any campaign with aims to change the university's catering in the ways stated with campaigning and marketing resources.

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hare\\_Krishna\\_Food\\_for\\_Life](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hare_Krishna_Food_for_Life)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2010/mar/15/university-vice-chancellor-pay> this is the most up-to-date information available online.

## “Students not Suspects” Motion

Motion proposers: Noor Khan (1333306), Nadine Almanafsi (1210654), Ahmed Kerwan (1305261), Hareem Ghani (1317808), Ovia Nagulendram (1004981), Amanie El-Alfy (1304790), Shruti Iyer (1225553), Duaa Khair (1301152), Umar Khan (1325914), Zaidi Hamid (1300523)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### This union notes:

1. On 26 November 2014, the Home Secretary Theresa May introduced the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill (CTSB) to Parliament highlighting some revised and new counter-terrorism powers that would be placed on a statutory basis.<sup>60</sup>
2. That CTSB seeks to make the controversial the Prevent and Channel strategies statutory.<sup>61</sup>
3. That academics and campaigners fear the CTSB will criminalise ideas and create a culture where students are unwilling to speak out.<sup>62</sup>
4. The National Union of Students have condemned the Counter terrorism and Security bill and described the Prevent strategy and Channel policies as “further developing a culture of suspicion and surveillance on campuses, whilst also potentially conflicting with institutions’ duties to promote freedom of speech, by making them overly risk-averse and unwilling to engage in important topics of discussion.”<sup>63</sup>
5. That Universities UK have expressed concerns about academic freedom in their parliamentary briefing on the counter terrorism and security bill.<sup>64</sup>
6. That the Prevent strategy guidance in 2011 stated that university staff, lecturers and chaplains to report to the police any Muslim students who are isolated or depressed.<sup>65</sup>
7. The Prevent strategy currently exists and operates on most university campuses. On the basis of a survey undertaken by Universities UK, Professor Petts considered that “the vast majority of institutions” have “signed up wholeheartedly” to the Prevent Strategy.<sup>66</sup>
8. That Islamophobia has been on the rise in the UK<sup>67</sup> and mainland Europe<sup>68</sup> over the last decade.
9. That a vote on whether to make the counter-terrorism policy known as the Prevent strategy into legislation takes place on the 29th January.
10. That according to the current Prevent Strategy, potential indicators of “radicalism” or “extremism” include:
11. “A need for identity, meaning and belonging.”
12. “A desire for political or moral change.”
13. “Relevant mental health issues.”<sup>69</sup>
14. That through the PREVENT strategy, universities will be legally responsible for the ideologies of their students.<sup>70</sup>
15. That the Prevent Strategy has been criticised for demonising Muslim students on campus.<sup>71</sup>
16. That on university campuses PREVENT strategy enables the possibility of a No Platform policy being extended to any member deemed “radical” or “extreme” by the university, with no consultation.<sup>72</sup>

### This union believes:

1. That students are not suspects.
2. That students should be offered help and not victimised for suffering from mental health issues.
3. That rushed laws are often ill thought out and poorly scrutinised.

<sup>60</sup><http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141202/debtext/141202-0002.htm#14120262000001>

<sup>61</sup><http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141202/debtext/141202-0002.htm#14120262000001>

<sup>62</sup><http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/dec/02/anti-terror-bill-making-radical-ideas-crime-campus>

<sup>63</sup><http://beta.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/statement-on-counter-terrorism-and-security-bill>

<sup>64</sup><http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Documents/2014/CounterTerrorismandSecurityBillCommitteeStage.pdf>

<sup>65</sup><http://www.theguardian.com/education/2011/aug/29/university-inform-vulnerable-muslim-students>

<sup>66</sup><http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmhaff/1446/144606.htm>

<sup>67</sup><http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2013/jun/05/islamophobic-hate-crime-getting-worse>

<sup>68</sup><http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/10/islamophobia-racism-dresden-protests-germany-islamisation>

<sup>69</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/118187/vul-assessment.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118187/vul-assessment.pdf)

<sup>70</sup><http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Documents/2014/CounterTerrorismandSecurityBillCommitteeStage.pdf>

<sup>71</sup><http://www.irr.org.uk/pdf2/spooked.pdf.pages.26-27>

<sup>72</sup><http://www.theguardian.com/education/2011/jun/06/theresa-may-extremism-university-islamists>

4. That any expectation by the state for academic staff to be involved in monitoring their students is deeply worrying, and could have a chilling effect on relations between staff and students.
5. That the CTSB could serve to isolate many students who already feel that the only avenue through which the Government will engage them is 'anti-radicalisation' initiatives, resulting in further alienation and disaffection.
6. The Counter Terrorism and Security Bill discourages free expression and analysis of ideas.
7. Academics, as well as anyone in a public sector job, should not have to be part of this surveillance.
8. The implementation of the Prevent strategy on campus will not only isolate Muslim students but undermine the civil liberties of other groups such as environmental, political and humanitarian activists.
9. The monitoring and exclusion of ideas from public debate opposes the basic function of universities; introducing students to a variety of opinions and encouraging them to analyse and debate them.
10. The policy significantly undermines the freedom and activities of university staff and students.
11. Our public services (i.e. hospitals, schools, universities, prison services) should exist to serve the general public and not be used against the very people it exists to serve.

**This union resolves:**

1. That KCLSU support an enquiry into the legality of the proposals under the Equality Act 2010 and the Education Act No. 2 1986 in so far as it would affect the interests of KCL students.
2. That KCLSU should issue a public statement condemning the Prevent strategy and the government's counter terrorism and security bill for the impact it has on KCL students.
3. For KCLSU to work with campus trade unions such as UCU and other trade unions recognised on campus on combating the Prevent strategy, and lobby them to condemn the Counter terrorism and Security bill.
4. To mandate the Student officers to lobby the university to be more open and transparent about how they are engaging with PREVENT, CHANNEL and other similar initiatives. This involves:
5. Demand publications of how the policy is operating within KCL.
6. This includes access to materials used to train staff and students.
7. Hold consultations with the student body regarding how this affects students.
8. That KCLSU and the student officers will not engage with the Prevent strategy unless legally required to do so.
9. That KCLSU will educate students on the dangers of the counter terrorism and security bill and the Prevent Strategy.
10. That the KCLSU NUS delegation will ensure KCLSU students concerns are adequately taken to NUS conference.

## Support the Affordable Accommodation Campaign

Motion proposers: Sophia Hammond (K1205450), Kate Shaw (K1250417), Alberto Torres (K1214321), Ben Wood (K1312576), Emily Ritchey (K1313248), Abi Dickinson (K1207753), Morven Smith (K1342667), Ellie Green (K1216485), Joseph Pollard (K1304372), Steven Murgia (K1026861), Ellie Harris (K1320612), Leo Elbourne (K1209120), Aysha Strachan (K1222564), Hannah Smethurst (K1404251), Hannah Riley (K1459207), Nik Jovicic-Sas (K1109763), Nicole Walsh (K1215951), Jacob Reilly-Cooper (K1314481) Sebastiaan Debrouwere, Sophia Koumi, Areeb Ullah, Liam Jackson, Jamie Sweeney

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### This Union notes:

- The current King's Residence fees are as follows:

Residence Fees 2014 - 2015								
Residence	Room Type	Daily	Weekly	Term 1 Instalment (25.10.14)	Term 2 Instalment (25.01.15)	Term 3 Instalment (30.04.15)	Term 4	Total
Moonraker Point	Single Ensuite	£ 29.50	£ 206.50	£ 3,304	£ 2,950	£ 2,006	-	£ 8,260
	Studio	£ 34.50	£ 241.50	£ 3,864	£ 3,450	£ 2,346	-	£ 9,660
Great Dover Street Apartments	Single Ensuite	£ 26.50	£ 185.50	£ 2,968	£ 2,650	£ 1,802	-	£ 7,420
Iris Brook & Orchard Lisle* (PG; 51 week tenancy agreement)	Single (shared bathroom)	£ 26.00	£ 182.00	£ 2,912	£ 2,600	£ 1,768	£ 2,002	£ 9,282
	Studio	£ 35.00	£ 245.00	£ 3,920	£ 3,500	£ 2,380	£ 2,695	£ 12,495
Champion Hill Residence (brand new for 2014)	Large Single Ensuite	£ 27.50	£ 192.50	£ 3,080	£ 2,750	£ 1,870	-	£ 7,700
	Standard Single Ensuite	£ 26.00	£ 182.00	£ 2,912	£ 2,600	£ 1,768	-	£ 7,280
	Non Standard Ensuite	£ 22.00	£ 154.00	£ 2,464	£ 2,200	£ 1,496	-	£ 6,160
Julian Markham House	Single Ensuite	£ 25.50	£ 178.50	£ 2,856	£ 2,550	£ 1,734	-	£ 7,140
	Studio	£ 30.00	£ 210.00	£ 3,360	£ 3,000	£ 2,040	-	£ 8,400
Stamford Street Apartments	Single Ensuite	£ 25.50	£ 178.50	£ 2,856	£ 2,550	£ 1,734	-	£ 7,140
	Non Standard Single Ensuite	£ 24.00	£ 168.00	£ 2,688	£ 2,400	£ 1,632	-	£ 6,720
	Couple**	£ 32.00	£ 224.00	£ 3,584	£ 3,200	£ 2,176	-	£ 8,960
Ewen Henderson Court	Single Ensuite	£ 23.00	£ 161.00	£ 2,576	£ 2,300	£ 1,564	-	£ 6,440
	Single Non Standard ***	£ 20.00	£ 140.00	£ 2,240	£ 2,000	£ 1,360	-	£ 5,600
Wolfson House	Single	£ 19.50	£ 136.50	£ 2,184	£ 1,950	£ 1,326	-	£ 5,460
	One bedroom flat	£ 32.00	£ 224.00	£ 3,584	£ 3,200	£ 2,176	-	£ 8,960
Hampstead Residence	Single	£ 17.00	£ 119.00	£ 1,904	£ 1,700	£ 1,156	-	£ 4,760
	Non Standard Single	£ 15.00	£ 105.00	£ 1,680	£ 1,500	£ 1,020	-	£ 4,200
	Twin	£ 13.00	£ 91.00	£ 1,456	£ 1,300	£ 884	-	£ 3,640
	Double Room	£ 30.00	£ 210.00	£ 3,360	£ 3,000	£ 2,040	-	£ 8,400

- In the academic year 2011/12 King's Residence fees were as follows:

College residences	Fee for shared room (per person)	Fee for non-standard single room <sup>o</sup>	Fee for single room	Booking fee/Deposit	2010-11 Standard Agreement
<b>Catered &amp; self-catered residences</b>					
Hampstead Residence	£2847.60-£3122.00	£3522.40-£3664.00	£3864.00-£3908.80	£200	40 weeks
King's College Hall	na	na	£4659.20	£200	40 weeks
Wolfson House	na	na	£4645.20	£200	40 weeks
Brian Creamer House	na	na	£4645.20	£200	40 weeks
The Rectory	na	na	£4645.20	£200	40 weeks
<b>Apartments</b>					
Stamford Street Apartments	na	£5205.20	£5776.40	£200	40 weeks
Great Dover Street Apartments	na	na	£5776.40	£200	40 weeks

- Between the academic year 2011/12 and academic year 2014/15, the cost of a single room at Great Dover Street Apartments has risen by 29%.
- Between the academic year 2011/12 and academic year 2014/15, the cost of a standard single room at Stamford Street Apartments has risen by 24%.

5. Between academic years 2013/14 to 2014/15, accommodation fees were increased by at least **6%** in all King's Residences, except Hampstead Residence and Moonraker Point, **and Great Dover Street Apartments increased by 10%**.
6. In the academic year 2011/12 there were 1341 King's bed spaces at a price of less than £150pw, which was 50% of total bed spaces.
7. This academic year, 2014/15, there are 554 bed spaces at a price of less than £150pw, which is 14% of total bed spaces.
8. The Southside of Hampstead Residence, our cheapest Residence, has closed and the Northside of Hampstead Residence is due for closure by next academic year, 2015/16.
9. Champion Hill, formally known as King's College Hall, has reopened this academic year after refurbishment. Before refurbishment, a standard single room cost £116.48pw including catering. After refurbishment, a standard single room now costs £182pw without catering.
10. Brian Creamer House and The Rectory are no longer King's Residences.
11. In an entry survey completed by students living in Halls of Residences in November 2013, 48% of students who replied stated that their maximum budget for accommodation fell within £100-150pw.
12. In the same survey cost came out as the most important factor for students when ranking their residence preferences during the accommodation application process.
13. Accommodation deposits, aside from nominated Residences and those renting couple accommodation, used to be £200 in the academic year 2011/12 and in subsequent years has been increased to £250 and most recently to £300.

### **This Union Believes:**

1. When Hampstead Residence is closed completely, as is planned by academic year 2015/16, there will likely only be 276 bed spaces at a price of less than £150pw, which is 7% of total bed spaces.
2. A decrease from 50% to 7% of bed spaces at a price of less than £150pw demonstrates that this is as a result of the university's poor strategic decisions rather than external factors.
3. Students with lower and middle budgets who are offered accommodation in Residences which cost over £150pw either have to reject the offer (and sometimes subsequently reject their offer at King's) or struggle to afford the accommodation fees after accepting the offer.
4. Many prospective students with lower and middle budgets will look at the current Residences fees and be deterred from applying to the university entirely.
5. Many students have no choice but to take on an unsustainable amount of part-time work in order to pay accommodation fees, often to the detriment of their education.
6. A lack of money should not be a barrier to accessing higher education.
7. King's should be committed to ensuring that Residences, and the university in general, are open to all students regardless of economic circumstances.
8. The unaffordable Residences fees demonstrate that King's is currently not committed to ensuring that Residences, and the university in general, are open to all students regardless of economic circumstances.
9. There has been little to no consultation with students regarding the university's Residences strategy which has led to the current situation described in Residences, which has angered students.
10. King's should stop treating students in Residences as consumers and begin to treat them as students wanting to access an education at King's, for whom they should make this goal as attainable as possible.
11. An increase of 29% on a standard single room over three years, as has been the case at Great Dover Street Apartments, is unsustainable and if increases continue at the same level will result in very few students being able to afford the Residences fees at King's. This could result in less than full occupancy in Residences.
12. The cost of running Halls of Residences has likely not increased at the same rate as Residences fees have increased.
13. Some students really struggle to find the £300 required for an accommodation deposit and would benefit greatly from having this money available to them during their studies.
14. There is no good justification for increasing deposits to £300, as students are very rarely charged more than £200 in damage costs.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. For KCLSU to support the Affordable Accommodation Campaign with funding and marketing resources, which has the following aim:  
'Increase the number of students with lower and middle range budgets that can afford halls, as well as meet their other essential costs without impacting on their studies.'
2. To mandate current and future Student Officers to call for the following objectives of the campaign, which were agreed by the Affordable Accommodation Campaign team, wherever appropriate:
3. Maintain at least 492 single rooms at the price of £119pw and of an equivalent standard to those that were available at Hampstead Residence, from September 2015 onwards.
4. Stop year on year prices from increasing above RPI rate of inflation.

5. Increase the number of single rooms priced under £150pw to 25% of total bed space in King's Residences by September 2016.
6. Introduce an accommodation subsidy for those that are placed in rooms above £150pw but cannot afford it.
7. Reduce accommodation deposit fee, or advance payments if introduced, to £200.
8. Improve the room allocation process so that an applicant's budget, including travel, is taken into account when offers are made.

## Amendment to Scholarships for Gaza policy

Motion proposer: Nadine Almanasfi (K1210654)

Policy expiry date: 2 years

### **This Union notes:**

1. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, KCLSU student council passed the Scholarships for Gaza motion. <sup>73</sup>

### **This Union Believes:**

1. That the Union should lobby the university to offer a fee waiver or scholarship for a student from Gaza to study at KCL.
2. For the union to lobby the College to donate resources to the Islamic University of Gaza like they did in 2009.<sup>74</sup>

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. To change Resolves 1 of the Scholarships for Gaza motion from "For the Union to lobby the university to offer a fee waiver or scholarship for a Palestinian student to study at KCL" to "That the Union should lobby the university to offer a fee waiver or scholarship for a student from Gaza to study at KCL"
2. To change Resolves 2 of the Scholarships for Gaza motion from "For the union to lobby the College to donate resources to the Gaza strip like they did in 2008" to "For the union to lobby the College to donate resources to the Islamic University of Gaza like they did in 2009."<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>73</sup><http://www.kclsu.org/pageassets/studentcouncil/motions/SC-23-10-14-Minutes-and-Amended-Motions-APPROVED.pdf>

<sup>74</sup><http://www.kcl.ac.uk/newsevents/news/news-archive/2009/feb/STATEMENT-RE-STUDENT-PROTEST.aspx>

<sup>75</sup><http://www.kcl.ac.uk/newsevents/news/news-archive/2009/feb/STATEMENT-RE-STUDENT-PROTEST.aspx>

## Accessibility Pamphlet Motion

Motion proposers: **Ben Hunt (K1339717), Nik Jovic-Sas (K1109763), Nicole Walsh (K1335848)**

### **This Union notes:**

1. According to the NUS 20% of students self define as suffering from mental health issues, and 13% suffer from suicidal thoughts
2. Mental health issues are heavily stigmatised, which makes it difficult for students suffering from mental health issues to access the services that are available

### **This Union Believes:**

1. King's College London offers insufficient communication to students with mental health issues as to what services and benefits are available to them
2. King's College London needs to provide more information to students with mental health issues

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. To create an easily accessible pamphlet/e-pamphlet containing information of all the different serves on campus that are offered to students with mental health issues
2. To Lobby the college to make departments send these pamphlets/e-pamphlets to students who are suffering from mental health issues, or symptoms of anxiety, depression etc.

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