



Union Democracy

Over recent years students have become concerned about the way in which decisions within HUU can be decided by under 50 students for a campus that has tens of thousands of students. Not only this, when some of these decisions (such as what newspapers can be bought in our shop) are made by under 50 students that affect so many more, we feel that this sort of almost closed-door decision making doesn't work.

While we understand the merits of representative democracy, it requires that people actually represent students. If our concerns over these decisions aren't going to be listened to, then what is the point in having student representatives? If information on what is happening, what will happen and what has happened isn't made accessible enough for students who really don't have the time to go trawling through pages of documents to find one part, why bother putting the information out there at all? If the elected Sabbatical Officers and Volunteers of HUU don't want to know what we think, why do they pretend they do?

We believe that real change is necessary before members of HUU can actually have genuine confidence in their elected "representatives". As such:

HUU Notes:

- Currently decisions that could affect thousands of students are made only by a tiny handful of students.
- Decision making bodies are not public enough and not accessible enough. Information isn't readily available for students and isn't accessible enough for students who have more important things to do (like their degree) than look through pages of minutes, standing orders and other documents that are decided by said handful of people.
- Currently the level of representation in HUU is nowhere near good enough.

HUU Believes:

- Decisions that can directly affect thousands of students should be decided by more than a handful of people that don't necessarily represent a majority of students.
- Decision making bodies in HUU, such as Union Council, ought to be much more publicised to students so that students can go along to such meetings and air their views directly. Documents relating to these groups should be accessible in terms of length and language that is used so that every student can understand and get involved in the democratic process.
- Representatives at HUU need to work harder at representing students. A quick post on a social media website a week before a meeting isn't good enough!

HUU Resolves:

- Any decision that can affect thousands of students, such as the boycott of a national newspaper, will go directly to a campus wide referendum to let students decide on these issues in the future.
- HUU will endeavour to better publicise Union Council and increase accessibility for students. HUU will also looking into ways to provide more accessible supporting documents (e.g. minutes) from meetings.
- HUU will look into better ways of connecting with students directly other than over social media and email.

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