

1777 Union Access for All! Passed 29 October 15

Proposer: Max Levene (Students with Disabilities caucus – open position)

Seconded: Aaron Hood (Students with Disabilities officer)

Council Notes:

- 1) Students with disabilities face problems accessing many buildings/rooms throughout the country and at UEA.
- 2) An estimated 18% of the population have a disability (census, 2011)
- 3) An estimated 2% of the UK population use a wheelchair (NHS purchasing and supply agency, 2000)
- 4) Union house is a public building and should therefore be accessible to everyone
- 5) Students with disabilities often require use of Union services
- 6) 26% of disabled people reported negative experiences in mainstream education, in part because of poor facilities and negative attitudes of other people (Department for Work and Pension's report into attitudes toward disability in Britain (Grewal, Joy, Lewis, Swales and Woodfield, 2002))
- 7) With all students able to run in elections there is a strong possibility that a full time or part time officer could have a disability.
- 8) Currently the whole union graduate space is located on the upper floor of union house
- 9) The current lift in union house is consistently not working/out of order and cannot be used in the event of a fire
- 10) Currently some students are being denied access to the upper floor of union house for fire safety reasons (Regulatory Reform (Fire) Safety Order, 2005)

Council believes:

- 1) All students should be able to access all union services whether they have a disability or not
- 2) The graduate space should be accessible to all
- 3) Students should never be made to feel they are being an inconvenience to the union/societies/peer support groups/sports clubs
- 4) If required the union should offer reasonable adjustments to its staff and members
- 5) The lift situation should be a priority in any further union house renovations
- 6) It is unacceptable for access buttons to be switched off or out of order

Council resolves

- 1) To Mandate the union to assess the costs of fitting a fire safe lift

- 2) To lobby the university to fit a new fire safe lift at the earliest chance possible in union house
- 3) To Lobby the university to improve access around campus
- 4) To mandate the students with disabilities officer to attend the Access All Areas group at least 3 times per year
- 5) To make sure the lift is on at all times
- 6) To make sure all access buttons to union house and within the building are switched on and working at all times, and if out of order to be reported to estates within 24 hours
- 7) If room changes are required, they should be done so at the earliest chance possible and the student for whom the room change is needed should be kept anonymous
- 8) To ensure reasonable adjustments are put in place for staff and students if required