

## **1789 Don't Judge the Jury** (Passed 19 Nov 15)

Proposer: Yan Malinowski (UEA Model UN)

Seconder: Jo Swo (Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer)

### **Union Notes:**

- 1) That any person over 18 who is on the electoral register may be selected to perform Jury Service.
- 2) That in a democracy, Jury Service is one of the ways in which citizens have a major impact on their community
- 3) For students, proof of class attendance or examination is required in order to be excused from Jury Service.
- 4) A small number of UEA students have been and will continue to be called for Jury Service.
- 5) That there are no University or Union resources advising students on what to do if they are called for Jury Service.

### **Union Believes:**

- 1) That recent efforts to increase the number of students registered to vote will have inadvertently increased the number of students eligible for Jury Service.
- 2) That information on how students can apply for excusal is hard to come by.
- 3) That this lack of information can result in students being mandated to attend Jury Service without realising they could have opted out.
- 4) Students should have adequate advice when called for Jury Service, and have support from the Union so they can choose whether to apply for excusal or carry out their service.
- 5) That the pressures of Jury Service can impact the mental health and wellbeing of students.
- 6) That Jury Service can take students from classes for multiple weeks and that this can impact their educational attainment, regardless of whether or not they have exams.
- 7) That the University must show understanding to students requesting leave

of absence to perform Jury Service.

**Union Resolves:**

- 1) To mandate the Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer to produce materials that will advise students on what they can do if they are called for Jury Service.
- 2) To ensure that this information is easily accessible, on the Union website, upon request in Union House and through the Advice Service.
- 3) To ensure that students know of the existence of this information, by producing leaflets that raise awareness to the issue of Jury Service.
- 4) To lobby the University:
  - a) To ensure students choosing to apply for excusal get the proof they need for their application swiftly and without obstacle.
  - b) To ensure that students who attend their Jury Service are given the necessary leave of absence.