



**Passed by Executive:  
Passed by Union Council and became Policy: 17 April 2009  
Lapses: April 2012**

## **Let us run our Union!!**

### **This Union Notes:**

1. The Students' Union has been running bars and commercial services for over 40 years and employs over 70 student staff and over 30 full time staff
2. The venue is a core activity for the Union, which supports other core departments of the Union
3. At the Executive Committee on 26 November 2008, it was unanimously agreed that the best way forward for the Students' Union's commercial services was the option to have a service level agreement with the University for the running of the venue
4. The University agreed in principle and in practice to the proposals passed at the above meeting
5. Students' Union Staff and Sabbaticals consulted with the University on issues concerning the building and specifically space, function and facilities within the venue
6. In a recent meeting between the Students' Union and Senior University Staff, the Students' Union was informed that the agreed option that the Executive Committee favoured was no longer seen by the University as in the University's best interests
7. The contract for the management of the venue facilities in the new building will now be put out to tender for external private organisations

### **This Union Believes:**

1. That the venue is the only guaranteed social safe space for students within the city and that the venue attracts a variety of people for a diverse range of activities. The Union should be run by students for students
2. The University has misled the Union and has taken advantage of its generous consultative services and free expertise from our staff and students, whilst concealing plans
3. That the University has deceived the Union and used this opportunity to take advantage of potential financial benefits in order to maximise profit from the building and its students
4. That a private corporation may not be able to safeguard the interests and wellbeing of students
5. The priorities of the University favour profit before students as they are concerned about maximising profit outside of term time making the venue profit driven and likely not to be a student only venue

6. The Union makes decisions based on student needs and not on commercial grounds. For example the Summer Ball which aims to break even
7. There is no business plan that has been presented to the Students' Union management
8. The Union will lose the ability to run events such as One World Week, Halls Parties, Society Socials, Fresher's ball, Fresher's fair, Varsity rallies, Society practice sessions and could have a detrimental effect on Union activity
9. The loss of income will have a crippling effect on the Union and its ability to provide quality representation and services to all students
10. That urgent action is needed in the short time span available
11. That a group be formulated in order to coordinate a plan of action to retain the venue as a student led venue
12. To seek legal advice on this matter and use all available legal methods to overturn this decision

**This Union Resolves:**

1. To take all necessary action to overturn the University's decisions and ensure that all current Students' Union areas and services are run by the Students' Union in the new building
2. To set up an Emergency Executive Action Team (EEAT) consisting of the General manager, the 2008/9 and 2009/10 Executive Committee and Co-opted members from Union Council, to lead the campaign to save the venue
3. That the EEAT make representations to the University in the first instance to ensure that CUSU has control of the operation and strategy for the venue and bars in the new building
4. That EEAT seek legal advice on this matter, and any resulting possible Union action
5. The EEAT start protesting and using appropriate campaigns methods to overturn this decision
6. To empower EEAT with the necessary powers and resources to achieve the above aims

**Proposed by:** Bonolo Woracker, VP Welfare

**Seconded by:** David Quince, E&C Faculty Chair and Tom Wood, President