

Sense-based Approach to Student Drug Use

This Union Notes:

1. Drug use is prevalent in student communities.
2. Whilst drugs in their pure form come with their own risks; illegal/controlled drugs bought cheap from unregulated suppliers can be 'cut' with many toxic substances which bring with them increased risk factors.
3. There have been many cases of hospitalisation and even fatalities amongst our own community due to illegal/controlled drug use in recent years.
4. Neither the University nor the Union have ever had a campaign focused on illegal/controlled drug use/misuse.
5. Both the University and the Union have a zero-tolerance stance on illegal drug use and possession.

This Union Believes:

1. Ignoring that illegal drug use or controlled drug misuse is a problem in any University community helps no-one.
2. More information should be made available to members of the community about the dangers of illegal drug use/controlled drug misuse.
3. Help systems should be put in place to help anyone making the decision to continue taking drugs to do so as safely as possible.
4. Attacking the problem with a 'drugs are bad' approach will not work with students so our approach must be softer and sense-based: 'If you are going to choose to do it, here are the risks...'
5. We should still hold our zero-tolerance stance on drugs on Union premises, in line with our current licenses, and anyone caught breaking this should face the disciplinary actions laid out by the University.

This Union Resolves:

1. To train bar and catering staff, and officers on the risk of drugs; how to spot drug use, and how to signpost to organisations or individuals who can help with addiction or abuse.
2. To create a campaign that teaches students about the risks of illegal drugs in a safety-centric way without being patronising, and/or alienating the student population from the Union.
3. To provide information that enable students to understand that if they decide to take illegal drugs, that they do so in a safer manner (e.g. *readily available information packs*) in a way that is discrete and judgement-free.
4. Acknowledge the law of the land but adopt a more Sense-based Student Drug Policy in our wider community to ensure the safety of our students is always at the centre of what we do.

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