

YUSU Active Policy

As of 23/04/2017

Every student at the University of York is a member of YUSU, and every member of YUSU has a say in how we run and what our priorities are. Active Policy is any Idea that has passed through YUSU's democratic procedures to come into being. In most cases this will be via the Policy Process, though in others the final decision is taken by the whole student body at a referendum. [You can find out more about the process on our website.](#)

1. YUSU should lobby the University to apply for Living Wage Employer status with phased implementation from the Living Wage Foundation

Submitted By: Stuart Maule

YUSU now has the mandate to go and ensure that the University commits to giving its staff a wage that will ensure that they have a decent standard of living. Although the University has made clear that they won't commit to this we can apply significant pressure and unite with the Unions, the city council and other organisations in the sector and surrounding area and fight to ensure a fair wage for all, for now and forever.

Policy Expires: 18/05/2018

2. YUSU should also conduct a research project into a 'Student Living Wage' in conjunction with an independent research body such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Trust

Submitted By: Stuart Maule

This will ensure that we pay our many student staff fair wages for years to come. When developed we can also publicise it across the higher education sector and wider and put pressure on universities, unions and other employers to pay student's the fair wage they deserve.

Policy Expires: 18/05/2018

3. YUSU should boycott goods produced in illegally built Israeli Settlements

Submitted By: Palestinian Solidarity Society

This policy was passed at referendum by the student body, and on the basis of legal advice Trustees, pursuant with constitutional rule 61.2, have ruled that this motion reaches a corporate conclusion only. The Corporate Conclusion reflects that members reached a consensus opinion using our democratic procedures but no further action or implementation will be made.

Voting was as follows – with a 5% quorum (830 students) required;

Yes: 834

No: 223

Abstain: 29

Total Votes Cast: 1086

A statement has been issued in relation to the referendum that reached this corporate conclusion. [The statement can be found here.](#)

Corporate Conclusion Expires: 18/05/2018

4. The name of YUSU's 'Welfare & Community Officer' should be changed to 'Community & Wellbeing Officer'

Submitted By: Scott Dawson

This will ensure that the title of the role more accurately reflects the duties of the role – the officer role does not provide 'welfare' to students, and they cannot take on casework. This change reflects the fact that the officer is there to signpost students to support and represent them to the wider York community.

Alongside that, the Wellbeing officer helps students coordinate proactive campaigns across campus with regards to wellbeing, such as healthy eating, improving campus facilities, etc.

The title change is to help reflect the true purpose of the role and to prevent confusion and miscommunication over what the role truly entails.

Policy Expires: 02/11/2018

5. YUSU should implement the proposed changes to the Bye-Laws

Submitted By: Ben Leatham

These updates to the Bye-Laws ensure that they are up to date, and reference things that exist within YUSU's current structures and are much clearer.

[The full revisions can be found here.](#)

Policy Expires: 02/11/2018

6. YUSU should implement the 5p plastic bag charge at its retail outlets

Submitted By: Environment & Ethics Officers

YUSU will begin charging 5p for plastic carrier bags at its retail outlets, and encourage other outlets on campus to do the same – with a longer term goal of moving away from carrier bags altogether by 2020.

Policy Expires: 14/01/2019

7. YUSU should provide Gender Neutral Toilets, and lobby the University to do the same

Submitted By: Lucas North & the Trans Committee*

YUSU will (where possible) provide, alongside gendered facilities, at least one GNT at all events, work with the University to introduce gender-neutral facilities in all locations where doing so will not affect gendered provision and lobby the university to provide at least one gender neutral toilet in all new facilities and ensure that any new plans for campus developments or extensions include such a facility.

[The full motion can be found here.](#)

Policy Expires: 17/05/2019

8. YUSU should make the following changes to Bye-Laws 9 and 11 to ensure Union Documents are available online.

Submitted By: Richard Crawshaw & Johannes Huber

YUSU will ensure that all Documents relating to members of the Union are publically

available, defined as;

- Easily available online in a single well publicised and defined location
- Physical copies available to members for reference and for personal use
- Easily accessible for scrutiny by the Policy & Review Group

All documents relating to members is defined as:

- Elements of the Constitution
- Bye-Laws and Appendices
- Codes of Conduct
- Network Terms and References
- Charters governing YUSU members behaviour

[The full motion can be found here.](#)

Policy Expires: 17/05/2019

9. YUSU should make the following change to By-Law 4 to ensure a handover of PRG materials

Submitted By: Richard Crawshaw & Johannes Huber

YUSU will work with the Policy Coordinator to ensure that all documents used and/or generated by the Policy and Review Group must be made available to future Policy and Review Groups.

[The full motion can be found here.](#)

Policy Expires: 17/05/2019

10. YUSU Should Remain Affiliated With the NUS

Passed at Referendum, 10/06/16

Students were asked the question “Should YUSU remain affiliated with the NUS?”, and voting was as follows – with a 5% quorum (872 students) required for a result to be binding;

Yes: 1461

No: 1233

Abstain: 46 (and 1 Spoilt Ballot)

Total Votes Cast: 2741

YUSU’s existing affiliation with the NUS will be renewed for a further 3 year period

at the end of the 2016/17 Academic year.

[The full Returning Officer Report can be found here.](#)

Next NUS Affiliation Referendum due: By the end of the 2018/19 Academic Year

11. Referendum on YUSU Incorporation

Students were asked to vote on the new legal structure proposed by YUSU. Students were asked: 'Do you agree that YUSU can change its legal structure to incorporate as a charitable company limited by guarantee?'

Yes: 1066

No: 150

Abstain: 76

[The full report of the returning officer can be found here.](#)

13: YUSU's policy and actions on domestic abuse

Submitted by: University of York Women's Rugby Club (UYWRUFC)

YUSU should raise the awareness of domestic abuse and domestic abuse services and support on campus.

[The full briefing can be found here.](#)

