

# **Motion for the SU to demand action in light of the University's Transformation Programme**

## **This Union Notes:**

On 02/11/2023, the Warden wrote to students explaining that Goldsmiths is looking at a shortfall on the budget they have planned for this academic year, and that the leadership team at Goldsmiths is working to develop and deliver an action plan to overcome this shortfall.

In the above mentioned letter the Warden stated that "We are absolutely committed to ensuring that these financial challenges do not impact students' learning or time at Goldsmiths, and I want to give you my assurance that you will continue to receive all opportunities promised to you when you chose to study with us."

Goldsmiths has since announced to all staff that they are facing a £14.2 million shortfall on their planned budget, and they need to reduce their operating budget by £20 million to establish a new financial baseline for the College.

Goldsmiths has also introduced 6 workstreams which are responsible for delivering the transformation programme.

In a motion passed by GUCU on 10/11/2023, it is stated that "For any proposals and solutions to be effective, senior management must seek to engage – through active consultation, participation and input – all stakeholders across the Goldsmiths community. Engagement is contingent upon clear and consistent communication at all stages (particularly 'high level' preliminary stages) of proposal development."

The SU is Currently in the process of circulating a Survey to students to hear their specific demands and ideas on the transformation programme.

## **This Union Believes:**

At Goldsmiths, it is widely understood that our community stands for and with an unwavering commitment to a vibrant, inclusive, transformational and holistic educational experience.

Today, we stand at a pivotal moment in the history of our College due to severe and urgent issues with our financial position, leading to the development of an operational restructure with the necessity of immediate execution within this academic year. This endeavour has the potential to dramatically reshape the landscape of our institution causing an upheaval of the core values and historical legacy of Goldsmiths, placing a disproportionate burden on students, staff, and academic quality.

## **This Unione Resolves:**

Based on student feedback and the SU's perspective in terms of securing student rights and wellbeing, we present the following demands. We request that the following be approved and prioritised within plans to mitigate the financial position of the College and/or 'transform' the College. We also ask that The College recognises its commitment to students in terms of student experience, rights and outcomes, as well as staff rights, and does not deem these demands in any way 'too low level' to be critical and important:

1. Extenuating circumstances of a minimum 7 working days be made automatically applicable twice per term to every student until the end of the 2024/25 Academic Year.
  - a.
2. Enhanced support framework for marginalised groups, including weekly (or at least bi-weekly) special drop in stations in RHB and PSH buildings staffed by representatives from the following, with potential collaboration with the SU:
  - a. Wellbeing Service
  - b. Library Subject Librarians
  - c. Careers Service
  - d. Immigration Service
  - e. School Hubs and Registry
3. Open access to free academic resources, including subject librarian sessions, research materials, and facilities/laboratories, even if changes in department structures occur. Including some resources and content from CALL, so students do not have to pay for it.
4. Financial adjustments and/or compensations for students who may experience delays in their academic progression due to structural changes.
5. Create emergency funds to assist students who face unforeseen financial challenges due to structural changes, such as unexpected relocation expenses or technology needs for remote learning, available to international students as well. An emergency funds committee should be set up that is responsible for reviewing Students' applications and the review process should not take more than 10 working days.
6. Allow students and alumni to complain up to 1.5 years after graduation.
7. Establish a formative essay and assessment guidance for all modules as this is crucial especially for first years/international students in understanding how to write university accepted essays.
8. Commit to a full transparent review of Student Appeals processes with student consultation embedded into the review.
9. Implement the edits suggested by the SU in response to the proposed Student Protection Plan (SPP) 2024.<sup>1</sup>
10. The College should take on board additional actions requested by students in their response to the survey as long as they are reasonably practicable, while also publicly

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19dE3o66chE5H1irDHvMg6EB-MZ2YBIZi/view?usp=sharing>

committing to transparency and meaningful consultation with the SU and GUCU throughout the entire transformation program process.

The Student Union will promote a boycott of the National Student Survey (NSS) 2024 if the above demands are not met by Goldsmiths as a matter of urgency. This may include:

1. Refusing to promote the NSS or have any pro-NSS material on SU grounds or with the SU logo on;
2. Working with UCU to discourage academics from promoting the NSS and to encourage them to actively inform students about the boycott; creating and promoting materials, such as posters, leaflets, and social media content, aimed at discouraging student participation in the NSS throughout the period that it's open.