

Goldsmiths Students' Union Policy

Motion Title: Motion to campaign for a full-time BME Officer

Proposer: Bahar Mustafa (Welfare and Diversity Officer)

This Union Notes:

1. Goldsmiths SU passed policy to campaign for a full-time women's officer last year and is currently working toward this goal.
2. There is currently no policy regarding a BME Officer
3. There are still stark inequalities for BME people within higher education, such as the attainment gap whereby BME students are statistically less likely to achieve a 1st or a 2.1 as opposed to their white counterpart.
4. This is coupled with the fact that Black communities are dealing with being 7 times more likely to be stopped and searched by the police, and even killed in police custody, 50% youth unemployment, and an overrepresentation in prisons and psychiatric wards.
5. Black and ethnic minority women experience oppression through both racism and sexism.

This Union Believes:

1. Liberation is at the heart of Goldsmith SU's work and we have a duty to tackle the inequalities BME people face on our campus and across the country.
2. A part-time officer role is not sufficient enough to undertake all of this work despite the stellar effects of previous officers and support from the NUS Black Students' Campaign.
3. A full-time BME officer would allow Goldsmiths SU to prioritise issues like the Black Attainment gap and ensuring spaces are more accessible for BME students.
4. Goldsmiths SU cannot currently fund such a position but could campaign for more College funding in the future.

This Union Resolves:

1. For Goldsmiths SU to campaign for a full-time BME officer as well as a Women's officer.
2. To approach the College for an annual increase in the current block grant to fund the wages for these roles as well as a campaigns budget.
3. To explore other funding possibilities such as approaching charities or other funding bodies.
4. To edit the recent governance review to leave open the possibility for a BME sabbatical officer role upon receipt of funding.