

Motion Title: Care Leaver and Estranged Student Officer PT

Proposer: Thomas Ankin

Secunder: Mollie Kneath

Motion Text:

This Union Notes:

That Goldsmiths has had a consistent number of care leavers apply, and enrol each year. It is currently difficult to estimate the number of estranged students due to minimal opportunity for students to declare, and often a lack of support from SFE when applying for funding as an estranged student. Though these numbers remain consistent, the amount of representation that these students have is minimal and has not clearly improved over the last few years. The statistics that the university has calculated have demonstrated that more than 50% of care leavers who declare upon arrival are 21 years and older upon enrolment. This means that the Union and the college have a responsibility to ensure that the support which is offered to these students is not only targeted at those under the age of 21.

This Union Believes:

Though we acknowledge the struggles of care leavers and estranged students not enough is being done to support them in the college or the Union at present. The college and the Union should not assume the types of support that care leavers need, or want, and this should be decided by the care leavers and estranged students themselves. Furthermore, by increasing representation within these groups, we will improve the well-being of our students and thereby positively impact on their academic success.

The Union Resolves:

To develop a Care Leaver and Estranged Student Part Time Officer. This position should be available for nomination for this year's SU elections. The Union and the Sabbatical officers should actively promote this new position to the student body. The new role should be directly supported by one of the full-time officers who is able to offer the appropriate amount of support to the student in this role. If the role is not filled, the sabbatical officers are mandated to continue the newly developed care leaver and estranged student support network and to actively promote the role to students in the event of a by-election.