

SU to officially oppose the new university regulations

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This Union notes:

1. In the academic year 2016/17 the university implemented a new set of regulations, asking students in second year and above to opt in or out. 2. First years were not given the option to opt out.
3. These regulations have introduced a cap at 40% for resits of summative assessment, replacing the previous system of taking the average of the first and second mark.
4. The logic behind this change is that it would 'encourage students to put more effort into their exam the first time.'
5. The changes to regulations were not checked with academics or students representatives before they were launched.
6. The Regulations Working Group, that the Education Officer sits on, are yet to meet to discuss the new regulations.
7. You were unable to enrol into the university until you had chosen to opt in or out.
8. Several Heads of Dept, including English and Comparative Literature who want to extend official support for this motion, didn't know about the changes to assessment until after they had been passed Academic Board.

The Union believes:

1. The new regulations will place a lot of pressure on students and exacerbate their anxiety around exams and assessment - rather than 'encourage students to put more effort in' this will make those students who do have to resit completely disengage with the subject and have the opposite effect.
2. They will put students with long-term mental health conditions under a lot of pressure, especially those who suffer with anxiety.
3. They unfairly impact students on practice-based degrees, such as Fine Art, Design, Computing, and English and Creative Writing. These kinds of degrees have large final assessments such as degree shows and final projects that make up a significant proportion of their final grade. If they have to resit these assessments their final classification will be seriously affected, and this in turn will have a knock on effect on the university.
4. These regulations were poorly advertised and have been pushed through unfairly with no consultation and advice.

The Union resolves:

1. To encourage all students to opt out of the new regulations if asked during online

enrollment.

2. To lobby the institution to remove the 40% cap on resits and reinstate the average of first and second mark.

3. To lobby the institution to seek consultation from academics and student representatives before implementing future policy and regulations that affect students' final grades.