

Five Things on a Friday – Better Forums

Read on to learn about LUU's Better Forums, one of the ways our members can use their voice to make change.

Better Forums



LUU's Better Forums are one of the ways in deciding what students want from their students union. As we're led by our members – every single student can make a change to what we do, how we do it & who represents them. The Better Forums are how members of LUU turn their Ideas into Policy. Policy is what guides the work of the Student Executive and staff at LUU, and gives us something to aim for in our quest to improve things for students.

What have Forums achieved previously?

[illegible]

What is brought to and passed at Forums reflects what students are concerned about, and what solutions they'd like to see. During the initial surge in inflation and the start of the "Cost of Living Crisis", we had Ideas focusing on key areas of student expenditure, with creative solutions e.g free exam breakfasts and Plus Programme

funding being made available for Clubs and Societies. Other key issues are around student safety, representation and further support for marginalised students.

Here are some examples of ideas which have passed in recent years;

- 24 hour libraries
- The introduction of Drug Testing Kits in the Union
 - Implementing a Free Exam Breakfast
- Plus Programme Funding being available for Clubs and Society membership and related costs
- The University changing their username system, aimed at combating University systems “deadnaming” trans students

It is the hard work of all Exec, and LUU staff that has seen the implementation of these policies (thanks everyone 👍).

Renting and Guarantors



A policy passed at March Forums referred to LUU campaigning for a fairer housing process for all students.

Alex Sobel who is the MP for Leeds North West tabled an amendment in Parliament on guarantorship. This new clause would prohibit landlords from requiring prospective tenants to provide rent guarantors or equivalent upfront payments, and prohibit them from prioritising prospective tenants who offer them over those who do not. This amendment was made to the third reading of the bill after work with different Exec Officers, particularly Rimsha, the International and Postgrad Officer.

If you want to download the speech [click here](#).

What's Next?



We have our last round of Forums for this academic year later in May. Staff who are interested can watch from the back of the meeting.

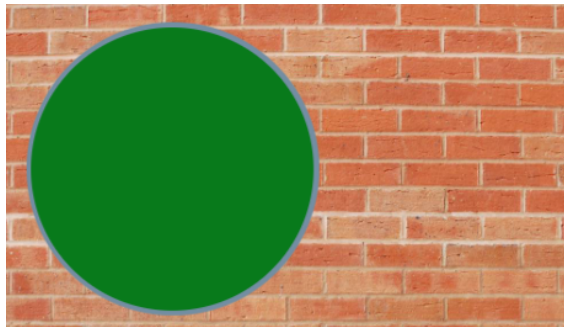
What: Better Union/University Forums

When: 20th (ideas that affect the Union) and 21st (Ideas that affect the University) May

Where: 5:30pm-7:30pm at Nathan Boddington Council Chambers, Parkinson Building for both forums

For a calendar invite, please email j.winterburn@leeds.ac.uk

Green Plaques



Keep an eye out for Green Plaques arriving on Campus from this week. According to Bethan, "The project mimics Blue Plaques across the country and aims to celebrate key student events and schemes that have been evolved by students for students. This will increase everyone's awareness of the student voice systems we have in place here. Whether it was a new space on campus created by Exec officers, or a policy created in the Better Forums that are now in place."

[Health, Safety & Wellbeing Resources](#) | [Employee Assistance Program](#)