

Five Things on a Friday – PET Takeover (Political Engagement (not cats this time))

Hi everyone! We are the Political Engagement Team, and we are here to tell you a bit more about us and the work we do 😊

Here's the Team!



The Political Engagement Team covers two areas of work; Democracy and Liberation. This covers everything from elections (LeadLUU & NUS Delegates) and Better Forums (our student led policy creation process) to supporting our underrepresented students (LISN - Liberation & International Student Network) in creating change.

Our [Democracy & Liberation Calendar](#) outlines our annual work (minus the impromptu support for students organising protests, vigils and campaigns).

Liberate LUU



Think Liberation

Are you 'Thinking Liberation'? As part of Liberate LUU, Rachel Cantlow is introducing a very useful 'Think Liberation' Team Planning [Guide](#). If you want to know more then send over an email or pop by.

Liberation and International Student Network (LISN)

[LISN](#) will play a key role in LUU's inclusion delivery and help shape the direction that LUU takes to best serve these student groups. If you have a project that could benefit from student voice, direction and advocacy then bring it to LISN.

Liberation Hub

The [Liberation Hub](#) will provide a much needed space for our diverse liberation groups. Accessible and inclusive by design, it is where they experience freedom; of expression, from judgement and to engage.

External Speaker Process

As of May 2023 the **Freedom of Expression Bill** was passed into law and all universities and unions must comply with the act. Official guidance won't be published until January 2024, if it's not postponed, and so we're in a bit of a limbo of trying to toe the line until we've been given more robust guidance on how to abide by this confusing bit of legislation while avoiding legal, reputational or financial risks. Yes, it is that tricky!

How does this affect you?

Inviting a trainer to deliver training in LUU? **Inviting a connection** to speak to students? **Paying a guest speaker** to motivate staff members?

Anything that involves someone from outside of LUU coming in to speak to a crowd or train staff or students needs to go through the External Speaker Process. **Sadly, there are no exceptions unless they're an LUU staff member.** The process for UoL staff is slightly more complicated so check in with Denica Shute.

Due to the high risk nature of external speakers please check in with Denica if you're ever in doubt about whether someone needs to go through the External Speaker Process; d.shute@leeds.ac.uk

[Launch an External Speaker Application here.](#)
[Read the UoL Freedom of Expression Protocol in full here.](#)

Better Forums



The Better Forums, LUU's student-led policy making process is back in full swing at the start of the academic year. **We're encouraging students who have Ideas on creating change within the Union, the University and Leeds as a city to submit them for other students to discuss and vote on.**

Past achievements that the Student Exec have worked on in the past year as a result of Forums Policy includes drug testing kits for students, the Laidlaw Library being open 24 hours outside of term time, and exploring a working definition of Islamophobia by facilitating a roundtable with student and staff stakeholders at the University.

If you're working with a student and they see something they think should be changed, please ask them to submit an [Idea](#) or get in touch with the team at LUU.PET@leeds.ac.uk

Policy Workbook

ID	Policy	Status	Forum	Passed	Expires
1	LUU should offer financial support to all societies that had to pay for external space due to Covid-19	Completed & Published	Union	23/11/20	23/11/23
2	LUU should update the Student Executive roles	Completed & Published	Union	23/11/20	23/11/23
3	LUU should update the Trustee Code of Conduct	Completed & Published	Union	23/11/20	23/11/23
4	LUU should work with the University in order to enable performing arts societies to rehearse on campus	Completed & Published	Union	23/11/20	23/11/23
5	Leeds City Council should introduce food waste bins in Hyde Park	Completed & Published	Leeds	23/11/20	23/11/23
6	LUU should implement a Sustainability Strategy, developed and endorsed by the Student Sustainability Advisory Board	Completed & Published	Union	23/11/20	23/11/23
7	The University should cover the cost of a new visa application for international students impacted by Covid	Completed & Published	Uni	24/11/20	24/11/23
8	The University should give compulsory consent and healthy relationships classes	Completed & Published	Uni	24/11/20	24/11/23
9	The University of Leeds should provide safe and accessible library services for all students	Completed & Published	Uni	24/11/20	24/11/23
10	The University should make subtitles mandatory for pre-recorded content	Completed & Published	Uni	24/11/20	24/11/23
11	The University of Leeds should commit to a reformist institutional-wide approach to sexual violence that is victim-survivor centred and human rights based	Completed & Published	Uni	24/11/20	24/11/23
12	SkillsLibrary in the University should provide more academic support to students	Completed & Published	Uni	16/03/21	16/03/24
13	The UoL should encourage students to display pressures on University accounts	Completed & Published	Uni	16/03/21	16/03/24

Here is the Workbook in which all Better Forums policy is stored.

On the back of feedback from staff and the Exec, one of the improvements we wanted to make as a team over the summer was to create a more legible system for the policies created at Better Forums to be stored. We have migrated from the old workbook to [Airtable](#) for better legibility!

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

