

## The AU Budget Should be Increased

Proposer: Harold Craston

Seconded: Tom Meaden

### **THIS UNION NOTES:**

- That the LSE Athletics Union is under increasing financial strain
- That this is mainly due to a significant increase in the number of LSE Athletics Union clubs over a period of years
- That some clubs are initially set up on Annual Fund finance, and then passed on to LSE Athletics Union management
- That the total budget of the Athletics Union (excluding social events) consists of £86821.90
- Both the publicised and less publicised instances of harassment and discrimination by members of the Athletics Union or at Athletics Union events<sup>1</sup>
- The testimonials of Union members that they experienced harassment or discrimination at Athletics Union events<sup>2</sup>
- The acknowledgement by the Football Club that behaviour displayed by its members during the Athletics Union's 'Take Me Out' event was 'completely unacceptable' and 'cannot happen again'<sup>3</sup>
- The guarantees given by members of the Athletics Union Executive on public panels<sup>4</sup> and in meetings with representatives of student societies that disciplinary procedures would be put in place for dealing with discriminatory behaviour.
- The continued lack of disciplinary procedures in place within the Athletics Union for dealing with discriminatory behaviour and failure by clubs to provide safe space for the Union's members

### **THIS UNION BELIEVES:**

- That the LSE Athletics Union is a key institution vital to the provision of sporting and social opportunities on campus

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thebeaveronline.com/take-me-out-makes-popular-return/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/sexismatLSE/posts/1381933395364972>  
<https://www.facebook.com/sexismatLSE/posts/1381258838765761>  
<https://www.facebook.com/sexismatLSE/posts/1381263932098585>  
<https://www.facebook.com/sexismatLSE/posts/1381288385429473>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.thebeaveronline.com/take-me-out-makes-popular-return/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/events/1432525240317963/?fref=ts>

- That the LSE Athletics Union plays a significant and positive role in the mental and physical health of students and staff on campus
- That the 2012-13 budgetary allocation to the LSE Athletics Union of £86,821.90 be increased by 15% to £99,845.19, in order to cope with the increased demands placed upon it, and to maintain the excellence of the services it provides;
- That it is currently underfunded
- That additional funds are needed to support the increasing number of clubs and maintain the excellent standard of sporting and social life which the LSE Athletics Union aims to provide
- That an increase in the AU's budget is appropriately in line with the Sabbatical officers' aim to win sporting facilities in new building acquisitions, as stated in their One LSE campaign.
- Clubs, societies and the Athletics Union have a duty to provide safe space for their members of our Union
- Clubs, societies and the Athletics Union can and should play a positive role in the lives of our Union's members
- When members of a club engage in discriminatory behaviour they should face suitable punishment

#### **THIS UNION RESOLVES:**

- That the Students' Union Executive is mandated to pursue this increase in AU funding at every opportunity, with the view of immediate implementation. This increase should come from a viable and sustainable source.
- That these additional funds be provided solely for sporting activities and not events.
- That the Athletics Union takes proactive steps to become more diverse and representative, organising liberation events in partnership with liberation officers.
- That the Athletics Union must provide details of how it used its budget to the Activities Assembly on at least an annual basis.
- The Union should continue its work in implementing procedures to allow for the reporting of discriminatory behaviour and severely punishing clubs who engage it up to and including financial penalties.
- The appropriate punishment should be decided by a panel of peers and school officials including members of the Sabbatical team, full time SU staff, the AU Executive and School officials

**Passed 6.2.2014**

**Yes: 588**

**No: 99**

**Undecided: 22**