



Proposal: Reforming the Representation and Implementation of Students' Faith Needs on Campus

Background

1. The City University Chaplaincy Team "aims to offer support to everyone of all faiths and none, and is provided to all members of the University."
2. Students were not consulted regarding the make-up of the Chaplaincy Team and its representation of various faiths at City University London.
3. As a result, students' faith requirements and needs are not properly and democratically represented.
4. The Students' Union Faith societies however, are led by democratically elected students and comprise of a high number of student members, therefore representing the faith needs of students solely.
5. The City University London are amongst a very small minority of Universities that manage prayer facilities/arrangements, instead of the Students' Union.
6. Some faith societies are finding it increasingly difficult to work with parts of the Chaplaincy Team in trying to fully implement the requests of its students.
7. Many decisions made by the Chaplaincy Team directly affect the experience of students on campus and beyond.
8. The Students' Union nevertheless welcomes and is greatly appreciative of other parts of the Chaplaincy Team who happily engage with student's needs and requests.



Principles

1. Democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, including student and their faith and City University London.
2. The Students' Union and its relevant faith societies should be able to freely practice their democratic mandate in representing the religious and faith needs of students on campus.
3. All faith facilities and arrangements (including prayer) made by City University London should reflect the needs of students represented by the Students' Union and not solely by individual(s) in the University Chaplaincy Team.
4. Faith plays a key role in students' lives and experiences on campus, so it is vital that City University London appreciates the needs of students are being accurately reflected on all fronts.

Idea/proposal

1. The Students' Union will lobby City University London to ensure the Students' Union and its relevant faith societies are involved in the central management of current and future prayer facilities arrangements, as is the case in the majority of all other London Universities.
2. The Students' Union will lobby City University London to ensure the introduction of a system whereby all decisions concerning students made by the Chaplaincy Team, pass through the students' Union for approval using its democratic mandate in representing the faith needs of students.
3. The Students' Union will lobby City University London to ensure that students of relevant faiths are closely consulted before the appointment of religious figures in the Chaplaincy Team.
4. The Students' Union will lobby City University London to have overall robust procedures in place to ensure that all of its faith services reflect the needs of students referring to the Students' Union democratic mandate.