

City Students' Union: Policy Proposal

Name of Policy: Signatory membership of United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Accord

Proposer: Annette Yunus Pendrey, SU Ethics and Environment Officer

Seconders: Tuna Kunt, SU VP Education

This Union Notes:

1. That the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. In 2015, 193 countries, including the UK, signed up to the SDGs, with the aim of achieving these global goals by 2030.
2. The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) is the sustainability champion for universities and colleges in the UK. The EAUC represents 194 UK institutions with over 2 million students and nearly 400,000 staff with a spending budget of over £25 billion. City, University of London, is a member of the EAUC.
3. In 2017, the EAUC established the SDG Accord which:-
 - seeks to inspire, celebrate and advance the critical role that education has in delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the value it brings to governments, business and wider society
 - is a commitment learning institutions are making to one another to do more to deliver the goals, to annually report on each signatory's progress, and to do so in ways which share the learning with each other both nationally and internationally. An objective is that sector SDG reporting metrics will be presented at the annual UN High Level Political Forum.
4. City, University of London is currently not an Accord signatory.
5. City's membership of the Accord has been tabled as an agenda item for discussion and approval at City's Sustainability Committee on 24 October 2018.
6. The Executive Committee and Student Council's approval of this proposal for City to become an Accord signatory would signal their favourable position towards this initiative to City's Sustainability Committee.

This Union Believes:

1. City, University of London's signatory membership of the SDG Accord will be beneficial:-
 - to global society by helping higher education member institutions of the EAUC contribute towards meeting the SDGs by 2030
 - to City, University of London, by enhancing its reputation as a sustainability leader.
2. City, University of London's signatory membership of the SDG Accord will complement current related initiatives that City, or its Schools, is involved in including:-
 - being the top ranked London university and 10th ranked university nationally according to the 2017 People and Planet University League

- Cass Business School's Champion-level membership of the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Management and Education (UNPRME).
- 3. City, University of London can minimise the use of resources involved in the annual SDG Accord signatory reporting exercise by benefitting from the learning and expertise of others, such as Cass Business School's annual PRME reporting and by integrating its SDG report at the university level with the business school level annual PRME report.

This Union Resolves:

1. To approve this proposal in favour of City, University of London, becoming a SDG Accord signatory.