

Title: Societies should be afforded the option to purchase food from companies other than Sodexo.

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This Union Notes:

1. As it currently stands Sodexo hold the exclusive contract for catering at the University including all rooms at the Northampton Square campus and at City Bar.
2. Sodexo have the authority to manage their own prices.
3. Our initial research has shown Sodexo's prices on some items to be up to eight times more expensive than external catering suppliers with comparable overheads.
4. Societies primarily earn money from annual membership fees, which are on average £3-£10 per member.

This Union Believes:

1. If Sodexo are unable to provide food at a reasonable and competitive price, comparable to what can be provided by another company, then Societies should be permitted to bring food in from outside and self-cater their events, including those at City Bar in the Hideout Area.
2. This kind of monopoly is not conducive to the effective and economical operation of societies, who remain part of a charity and exist purely for the benefit of students and society members.
3. These benefits are greatly reduced and are detrimental to the members of the society as they are not getting the most for their money. This is especially detrimental considering the fairly limited financial status of students.

This Union Resolves:

1. For the Students' Union to advocate on our behalf to negotiate a better deal in relation to the contract currently held between the University and Sodexo.

UPDATE: Students' Union has liaised with Sodexo to create a societies menu with discounts. This is currently in place and available to all societies.

2. For this deal to include Societies being granted permission to self-cater their events and not be subject to extortionate and unfair prices that are not economically viable and conducive to the sustainable running of a society.

UPDATE: Students' union liaised with Sodexo to allow societies to bring their own food to the Courtyard Café. The Union also negotiated with Sodexo that if Sodexo is not able to provide a certain type of food, Societies are allowed to bring their own food to all rooms on Campus.