



## Motion to Improve Recycling at UPSU

### **UPSU Notes:**

- 1) This year Plymouth University has dropped from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> on the People & Planet University Green League tables. Reasons for failure include:
  - a. Scoring just 10% in student union progress towards environmental sustainability
  - b. Recycling only 37.4% of its waste
  - c. Scoring 50% in staff and student engagement
- 2) Plymouth University's own environmental policy 2015-18 aims to promote resource efficiency by improving waste and recycling
- 3) Bins are being contaminated – a walk through the SU survey found;
  - a. Of all 15 recycling bins spotted, 7 were contaminated with foreign waste

### **UPSU Believes:**

- 1) There is not enough awareness of how to recycle on campus. Students are unaware of the fact that the contents of a contaminated bin cannot be recycled and will be sent to landfill.
- 2) That bins are not marked clearly enough to encourage proper use.

### **UPSU Resolves:**

- 1) To improve signage above bins to indicate exactly what can be recycled and what can't, these resources are readily available through Plymouth City Council
- 2) To survey students to find out why they don't use the bins effectively, and whether they would like additional recycling facilities on campus
- 3) To see unification of colour coding with clearer labels for the different types of recycling available at each bin
- 4) To develop better online resources to deal with recycling at home/in halls as well as on campus
- 5) To raise awareness for recycling in Societies and Sports Clubs

Proposed by: Bryce Mendonca

Seconded by: Kannee Hamilton

## Excerpt of the minutes of the UEC meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017

### Improving recycling motion – See appendix 1

Bryce Mendonca and Kannee Hamilton attended the meeting as representatives of EnviroSoc and proposer and seconder of the motion respectively.

Bryce gave an overview of the motion and reiterated the need for clear, well signed recycling facilities.

Omar Abu-Seer – BAME Forum Chair, asked if the intention of the motion was to get new bins or just to improve signage. He added that recycling facilities all over the campus varies, with different styles of bins and differing options at various locations.

Kannee noted that ideally, all locations would offer options for all types of recycling and have uniformity in bins and information given. However, this motion focuses on UPSU for the moment.

Bryce added that with the opening of the incinerator locally it is an easy option to send all waste there, including contaminated recycling, rather than addressing the issue of contamination. He further noted that the motion is not looking for UPSU to get new bins but for clear and consistent signage.

Kannee suggested that the proposed improvements could be implemented by UPSU as a pilot scheme, and if successful in increasing recycling rates and reducing contamination, it could be presented as a model for the university to use.

Lowri Jones – President noted that she and Harry Barrat – Environment & Sustainability Forum Chair, sit on the university's Sustainability Advisory Group and the feeling that a lot of the university staff have is that students are not interested in recycling more so it would be great to have evidence that they are interested.

Chloe Mills – VP Welfare, asked what the next steps are in terms of implementing the motion. Bryce noted that he is unsure of the process but he expressed the willingness of the society to progress this matter.

Sarah Davey – Deputy Chief Exec/Director of Membership Services, explained that motions that are submitted to Student Voice are then shared with the Chief Exec and herself. If the motion is successful, then the relevant members of staff are informed so they can effectively support students to achieve their aims. Sarah has already notified the UPSU Facilities Manager that this motion has been tabled, so he is aware of it already.

Motions can inform operational decision making and student feedback is always considered, but it is not appropriate for motions to strictly define a specific course of action regarding the operational running of the venue, students can influence but not dictate. The best course of action will be agreed collaboratively by interested students, exec officers and staff.

Sarah noted that there are several members of staff with the relevant expertise that will need to be involved, including the Insight Manager who oversees all surveys to ensure that they are as effective as possible, as well as analysing the results.

There were no further questions regarding the motion so the Chair moved to the vote.

**For: 8**

**Against: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Voting figures will be updated following the email vote of absent members**

***Following email voting by absent members voting numbers were as follows:***

***For: 12***

***Against: 0***

***Abstention: 0***