

Report on official motions discussed at LSE Branch

Motion title: Protection Against Sexual Violence

Date and type of General Meeting / Session: Branch Meeting 17 May 2024

Status: Passed

Motion text:

LSE UCU notes

1. Recent reporting in The Beaver has highlighted severe concerns around the handling of complaints regarding allegations of sexual harassment and assault.
2. Moreover, this case has revealed that this is a structural issue with staff and students from other departments disclosing similar allegations through whisper networks and on social media.

LSE UCU believes

1. Considering the failure of the university in protecting staff and students against sexual violence, it is necessary to introduce radical structural changes to the relevant reporting and investigatory mechanisms.
2. The university has failed to provide the protections it has promised, including
 - a. entrusting the conduct of the investigation to an expert on sexual violence
 - b. properly enforcing protection of the victims against the accused
 - c. transparency over the process and sharing the results of the investigation and
 - d. adhering to its own processes of inquiry.
3. This structural failure poses a danger not only to staff but also students, to both of whom the School owes a duty of care.

LSE UCU resolves

1. To ensure the School provides the option for students to avoid pastoral contact with any member of staff they wish in related cases, including facilitating the option to change course or supervisor.
2. To demand an independent review of LSE's support for survivors of gender-based violence as well as its reporting and investigation processes in this area, to be conducted by a King's Counsel. This would follow the examples of reviews carried out at [Trinity Hall Cambridge](#) in 2021, [Glasgow University](#) in 2022, and [Herriott Watt University](#) in 2020.
3. Installation of a reviewed complaint process through collaboration with the 1752 Group and the independent review.

4. Statement of full cooperation with the Office of the Independent Adjudicator in Higher Education, who are attempting to review the process of complaint that students referred to in the Beaver article were subject to.
5. In the instance that this review finds evidence of malpractice the branch calls for the follow action:
 - Full transparency afforded to the UCU and student representatives.
 - A reinvestigation of formal and informal complaints made against the academic referred to in the Beaver article, both on counts of sexual harassment and victimisation, using material and evidence collected during the prior investigation.
 - An immediate apology to survivors and members of staff.
 - Accountability from Senior Management, up to and including the resignation of Vice-president and pro-vice-chancellor (Faculty) and Director of HR at the time of the investigation for their dereliction of duty and their responsibility for an ineffectual complaints process.

Amended: Yes.

Total votes:

- In favour: 49
- Abstained: 2
- Against: 0

Notes: (if any)