

Title of Motion: No Third Year Modules at Masters Level

Proposer: Ieuan Smith

Seconder(s): Kate Beresford

Is this a Standing Policy or Permanent Policy?: Standing

Facts & Opinions:

- There are some Masters courses at Keele that offer third year modules to Masters students.
- In some cases these are exactly the same modules (in certain cases with teaching alongside third year students) but with a different assessment.
- In some cases, students who have studied at Keele previously cannot do modules in areas they are interested in because they had already studied that module whilst an undergraduate at Keele.
- This leaves students with limited choices on what they can study, often being limited to areas outside of their interest.
- Keele students have expressed that they would not have paid for the course had they known that the content would be identical to their third year.
- We feel that this is not an acceptable postgraduate experience and is not what Masters students have come to Keele for.

Actions:

- The KPA Committee are to lobby the University for the removal of all Level 6 (third year) modules at Level 7 (Masters level).

Title of Motion: Communication, Communication, Communication

Proposer: Kate Beresford

Seconder(s): George Blake

Is this a Standing Policy or Permanent Policy?: Standing

Facts & Opinions:

- A number of Postgraduate Students have not been receiving emails from the Students' Union
- This has resulted in Postgraduate Students not being informed about Student affairs
- This has resulted a lack of Postgraduate Student engagement
- Some students have reported that they would have stood for positions in the recent SU by-election, but were unaware that the election was taking place as they did not receive any communication about it
- Furthermore, some students did not receive emails informing them that they could vote in the recent SU by-elections
- Apart from the problems with student engagement and demonstrating that the SU cares about the Postgraduate community, this is a major problem with SU democracy if a number of their members were not informed about an election
- The SU have failed to fully investigate the problem, and to date these same students continue to not receive emails from the SU.

Actions:

- KPA to lobby the SU to fully investigate exactly who and how many students have not been receiving SU emails
- KPA to lobby the SU to address the issue and ensure that all students are receiving SU emails

Title of Motion: Not All Masters Students Are Postgraduates

Proposer: Ieuan Smith

Seconder(s): John Wootton

Is this a Standing Policy or Permanent Policy?: Permanent

Facts & Opinions:

- A Masters level qualification is defined by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and they are deemed to be Level 7 qualifications (Level 8 are research qualifications such as PhD's).
- QAA highlights that you can obtain a Level 7 qualification either from an independent Masters course or an integrated undergraduate Masters course.
- The KPA Constitution defines a full member of the Association to be either a registered postgraduate student and/or Trustee of the Association.
- An integrated Masters student does not meet either of these conditions as they are undergraduates, not postgraduates, as they have not yet graduated.
- This means there are students at Keele that, in their fourth year of study, are undertaking postgraduate level studies (Level 7) but are not receiving the postgraduate representation and support the KPA provides.
- We in the KPA pride ourselves on providing postgraduate specific support but are currently excluding students that could benefit from that support. At the moment, integrated Masters students interests cannot be represented by the KPA and they cannot have access to KPA resources; this includes (but is not limited to) the KPA Bursary, KPA events, KPA funding.
- It is known that Integrated Masters students, on occasion, attend the same modules as postgraduate Masters students. The KPA could represent a postgraduate Masters student with any issues on that course however the integrated Masters student could not contribute to or vote on this representation as they are not members.
- An extension of the membership will, however, require constitutional change and may have some legal conditions that must be met as well (such as informing the Charity Commission) and may require University input.

Actions:

- The KPA is to extend it's full membership to include integrated Masters students when they are studying their Level 7 (Masters) component of their course.
- To achieve this, the definition of a member of the KPA should be amended to 'any registered student on a Level 7 or 8 qualification at Keele University'.
- The KPA Committee must ensure these changes are enacted within any legal or University regulation constraints (ie they must not break the law or University regulations).
- The KPA Committee is to ensure that if the full membership is to rise due to the inclusion of integrated Masters students, the grant it receives from the University should also rise proportionally in line with this rise of full membership.
- Updates on the progress of this work and the constitutional change must be brought to KPA General Meetings.