Student Council Motion

Date of Meeting: *Wednesday 5th February*

Paper: *SC-8.1 Creating Communities Through Networks*

Proposer: *Amy Holloway-Smith (VP Education)*
Seconder: *Rida Shafqat (President)*

What issue is your proposal going to address?

As a Students' Union we strive to represent all students.
Throughout the year we do many survey's asking students about the SU, and when we break the feedback down into themes, we see students don't always feel fully represented by the SU.
We want to help address this and create Representative Networks.
Networks are community builders.
Students' Union Representative Networks are groups specifically designed to help represent students of various backgrounds and identities. They tend to be demographic based or for modes of study which are underrepresented. For example, we could create a Women's Network, Mature Student Network, Postgraduate Network or Apprentice Network.
They are a great way to bring students together socially, get talking and help feedback to the Union about issues facing that group of students. This will help us better focus our campaigns, help you become more involved in campaigns and help you love your time at Herts.

How does this impact students here at Herts?

Herts has an extremely diverse student population, with many different modes of study and demographics. Not everyone always feels represented, this way Herts students can start to create communities and be represented in the best way possible
Every year we have many students wanting to be elected representatives, whether it's to become a full-time officer or a society committee member. This gives opportunity for more students to get involved and represent their specific group of students which in turn means more voices are being heard.
Finally, we know how important it is to have support while at University, and sometimes you just need some peers who will truly understand what you're going through and a bit of likeminded support. Networks will help you connect with these people, while being able to make and support change relating to key issues.

What would you like the SU to do?

Identify and develop at least 8 Networks to launch in the 2020/21 academic year.

Add to Students' Union governance and bye laws, along with a code of conduct for network committees. Making sure to include the process for adding a new network and a disciplinary process for any network breaking policies and the code of conduct.

Use the rest of the 2019/20 academic year to come up with an operational and strategic plan to make sure that Networks will run effectively and sustainably. As well as creating and offering extensive training and development opportunities for these groups.

Develop an incentive scheme for committees and look at other opportunities to reward networks.