

CREATION OF A MENTAL HEALTH LIBERATION OFFICER

PROPOSER: ARIANA SADR-HASHEMI (MENTALITY PRESIDENT)

SECONDER: LLOYD JAMES (RCSU PRESIDENT)

UNION NOTES

- Liberation officers exist in order to represent and campaign for underrepresented students, support the DPW in their work and facilitate student involvement within the union who they represent.
- Currently, there is no Mental Health Liberation Officer. The Disabilities Liberation Officer is responsible for representing students with mental health issues.

Answer	Responses	%
I have never suffered a mental health condition	156	15%
I have experienced some mental stresses but do not feel I have a mental health condition	413	39%
I feel I have a mental illness but haven't been diagnosed with a mental health condition	170	16%
I have been diagnosed with a mental health condition and feel this diagnosis still applies	153	15%
I have been diagnosed with a mental health condition in the past but feel this no longer applies	57	5%
Would not like to say	12	1%
I have a friend/family member who has experienced a mental health condition	89	8%

Taken from the [Mentality Survey 2015](#)

UNION BELIEVES

- The current situation does not provide appropriate representation for all students with mental health issues.
- The current remit of the disabilities officer is too broad, covering both long and short term issues related to both mental and physical health.
- It is not necessarily appropriate to put short term mental health issues (e.g. grief, stress) in the same category as more long term mental and physical disabilities.
- Mental health issues directly impact a large proportion of students; the scope of representation needed for these students is therefore sufficient to warrant its own position

UNION RESOLVES

- To create a Liberation Officer for Mental Health, to be elected for the 2017-2018 academic year.
- Their role would be to work with the DPW in supporting mental health campaigns, liaising with Mentality to facilitate engagement of students with mental health issues in Union activity and represent students with mental health issues in Union Council and the Community and Welfare Board. They would be a dedicated student officer addressing the issue of mental health and a clear contact for concerns regarding how students' mental health is supported.
- Their role would also involve scope to liaise with the Disability Advisory Service, Departmental Disability Officers and Mental Health Advice Service. This would be to ensure students are directed to get the help they need, that all relevant staff are informed of the existing framework for student support and students can transition smoothly between all university services to get the most suitable help for them.