

Proposal: The Living Wage

This Union Notes:

- Low paid Staff often have to work long hours or work several jobs to make ends meet. This means they have to choose between living in poverty and spending less time with their families.
- To earn enough to support their family at the National Minimum Wage someone would need to work 48 hours a week (<http://www.citizensuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/The-Living-Wage-in-the-United-Kingdom-May-2011.pdf>).
- One in five children currently grows up in poverty despite living in a family where their parent or parents work.
- The Living Wage is £7.20 in Leicester.
- 595 University Staff are paid less than the Living Wage.
- This Union already has a Living Wage policy, but is not an accredited Living Wage institution.
- The Leicester University Living Wage campaign is underway.

This Union Believes:

- Paying the Living Wage will reduce poverty, household debt, stress and illness and improve family life for university staff.
- Paying the Living Wage will lead to greater productivity and improved quality of service from more motivated staff. It is also more efficient for the university with staff staying in their jobs for longer, saving on the recruitment and training costs.
- Paying the Living Wage is the right thing to do. Everyone should be able to afford what it costs to live and to bring up a family.

This Union Resolves:

- To mandate the relevant Sabbatical Officer to present a plan to the Board of Trustees to make the University of Leicester Students' Union an accredited Living Wage employer within a reasonable timescale.
- To support the Leicester University Living Wage campaign.
- To mandate the relevant Sabbatical Officer to make the Vice-Chancellor aware of the campaign and the campaign's desire to meet with him, at the earliest possible opportunity.

Proposed by:

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Chair, Labour Society

Seconded by:

James Farndon
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