

A name change of the title of SRC member for Special Needs Students to SRC member for Students with Disabilities is necessary to help show the change in the approach to disabilities, long and short term illness, and mental health issues. This change will hopefully be ratified at the first meeting back after the break, as I have recently learned how to formally bring something up at Council. The change in the title of the position is important as members of the student and support system feel that "Special Needs" is nonspecific, old fashioned, and even negative. Though Special Needs can be understood as a person with a disability it puts an emphasis on the student's inability to fit into the system of education and community (special=difference). A shift has been taking place allowing for interposition of a student according to a social model of disability. In this case by using the word disability the educational difficulties experienced by a disabled student are not necessarily caused by their individual differences as attached to the word special, but are rather the result of a poorly-structured education system that is not equipped to meet the needs of a diverse student population.

This SRC notes that the current title for the member responsible for representing special needs students is called "SRC member for Special Needs Students".

This SRC believes that "Special Needs" is no longer the best way to describe the people that the position is meant to represent, and there for the title of the position should change.

This SRC resolves to change the title of "SRC member for Special Needs Students" to "SRC member for Students with Disabilities."

Motion prepared by:

Emma Arenson SRC member for Special Needs Students

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emma Arenson".

Seconded and forwarded by:

Tom d'Ardenne - President, St Andrews University Students' Association