

9.1. R. 16 – A Motion to Lobby the University for Further Study Space

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILS NOTES:

1. The Main University Library has undergone a recent £14 million redevelopment and investment in its collections, providing additional study spaces (now 334 total), improved heating and lighting, a new café;
2. The Main University Library was designed in the 1960s and built in the 1970s, for a student population of 3,000;
3. The student population is now over 7,000;
4. The Main University Library was twice planned for further extensions out beyond the rear of the current building to provide additional study spaces, a variety of study environments, and more computers for student use;
5. Since its redevelopment, the Library has reported increases in footfall of approximately 50% with a daily average weekday count of more than 6,000 visits;
6. The Library has reported increased usage at the JF Allen and St Mary's College Libraries;
7. The University of St Andrews earned the lowest satisfaction rate with library resources of any Scottish higher education institution (HEI) in the most recent National Student Survey;
8. The University of St Andrews earned scores in the most recent National Student Survey for learning resources generally within the bottom half of all Scottish HEIs and was the only Scottish Ancient to do so;
9. The University recently opened the Martyrs Kirk facility and only permits research postgraduates and academic staff to use the facility in stated anticipation that the facility could not handle additional population demands; and
10. Various departmental study spaces for students have been threatened, relocated, or minimised to make way for staff or other expansions.

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL BELIEVES:

1. The University has a commitment to provide quality study spaces to promote independent learning amongst its student population;
2. The University is failing to provide adequate or sufficient study space for its students;
3. The University has undervalued the priority that the provision of study space should take within capital expenditure plans; and
4. The University is ultimately harming its own objectives of offering the best student learning experience.

THIS STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RESOLVES:

1. To oppose any further expansions of the current student population by the University until it provides substantial and proportionate investment into the provision of adequate and sufficient study spaces for independent learning;
2. To recognise the provision of adequate and sufficient study spaces for students as a priority area for the SRC Education Committee;
3. To lobby the University to establish the provision of study spaces for students as a key performance indicator and to incorporate the expansion of that provision as part of its strategy for the University;
4. To mandate the SRC Education Committee to undertake a campaign to demonstrate the urgency of this matter to the University and to clarify and report where the widest deficiencies between student expectation and actual provision lie; and

5. To authorise the SRC Education Committee's use of up to £250 of the SRC Discretionary Fund in supporting the campaign within this motion.

Without dissent, the motion was adopted.