

**STUDENT COUNCIL NOTES:**

We have a newly established Islamic Society which is based on multiple campuses.

- The university has recently conducted a catering survey to monitor the food requirements of their students which was instigated by the newly established Islamic Society.
- The University already provides prayer rooms for those of any religion to use at any time of the day.
- Halal and Kosher foods are basic necessities for those who practise the Islamic or Jewish religions.
- Halal and Kosher foods are currently not provided for on campus
- Ulster University hosts almost 200 international students on just the Belfast and Jordanstown campuses alone – some of which are from countries which practise these religions such as Turkey and Ghana.
- Student Council has already recently passed a policy on vegan and vegetarian options on campus.
- The UK and Ireland has some of the highest rates of Gluten Intolerance and Coeliac disease across the globe
- Many of our students have Gluten Intolerance or Coeliac Disease
- Shops and catering outlets close in the mid afternoon
- Many courses, particularly postgraduate courses, can run on until the early evening or later.

**STUDENT COUNCIL BELIEVES:**

Whilst recognising the controversial background to the production of this type of food, we also recognise that there will be an increase in demand for this type of food as:

- o Ulster University is always striving to welcome more international students to the university.

- Ulster University hosts a number of these international students in accommodation where the one corner shop doesn't provide food options such as this.
- With the rise of refugees coming to Northern Ireland, it is inevitable that there will be an increase in demand for food like this in Northern Ireland and in our universities as adults may attend university and their children could grow up to attend university in Northern Ireland.

**STUDENT COUNCIL BELIEVES:**

- UUSU values its students and welcomes students from all backgrounds.
- Students should not be forced to guess whether or not an item in a vending machine has gluten, dairy or any other ingredient in it and allergy/religious listings should be made available for each item before purchase.
- UUSU lobby the university to add more Gluten-free, vegan and dairy free options among others to their vending machines
- UUSU lobby the university food providers to add allergy listings of each item to their vending machines

**STUDENT COUNCIL RESOLVES:**

- Kosher and Halal options should be provided on campus for students to purchase and consume.
- Kosher and Halal ingredients should be made accessible for students on campus to cook in their own homes (there is currently a Tesco taxi that leaves every fortnight for students on campus to buy groceries – there should be one for students to go to Lisburn Road shops which sell this style of food too.)

Name of Proposer: *Nicole Parkinson-Kelly*

Name of Seconder: *Mark Francos*

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*Policy renewed on 26th April 2023*

