



UU matters

Policy name: Keep Wednesday Afternoon's Free

Approved by Council: 09.02.22

Student Council notes:

The previous KWAF policy has been implemented with various degrees of success among the campuses and courses. While we appreciate the support and efforts of staff and lectures in implementing this policy, our research has found there is still a significant minority who follow the letter of the policy rather than its spirit.

The original policy addressed issues such as the lack of set time within a student's timetable that they could set aside purely to take part in sporting or social activities.

After having consulted with the sports bodies of other universities, along with the other officers of NUS-USI, USI and NUS UK, we have determined Wednesday afternoons continues to be the optimum time for implementation of the policy.

Although, significant work has been done between UUSU and the university, some courses remain scheduled for Wednesday afternoon and council recognises several instances of classes scheduled as seminars, project work or workshops instead of as a lecture to avoid this policy.

While we approve of students using this time to do university work, we are opposed to this being mandatory class time.

Student Council believes: UUSU should lobby the university in order to extend the current university policy of keeping Wednesday afternoon's free to cover other scheduled class time eg. Workshops, seminars and project work.

Keep classes between 9:15am and 1:15pm, on Wednesdays, in order for the wider student body to be able to take part in university enhancing and career- developing activities without the fear of missing classes.

By doing this, students will have the opportunity to enjoy at least one afternoon a week where they are able to partake in activities they may not have done so in the past.

The wording of this policy should also be extended from being solely sport orientated to include other ways KWAF can benefit students and staff pertaining to having dedicated free time to get involved in societies, caring responsibilities, counselling, part-time work, family commitments, and many other opportunities.

In the case of certain courses requiring Wednesday afternoon for class time such as in the Healthcare profession, UUSU should lobby for their course time on Wednesday to be limited to finishing at 5pm.

Student Council resolves: UUSU should work with the university in keeping Wednesday afternoons free for students and staff for them to get involved in activities such as those listed above. This in turn will also increase the number of students taking part in UUSU related clubs, societies and sports across all Ulster University campuses.

Further Reading

www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/keep-wednesday-afternoons-free-sus-making-the-case

<https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/keep-wednesday-afternoons-free-sus-making-the-case>

Campaign summary - <https://studentopportunities.nus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Keep-Wednesday-Afternoons-Free-campaign-summary-16-17.pdf>

Campaign Guide - <https://studentopportunities.nus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Keep-Wednesday-Afternoons-Free.pdf>

Goldsmiths SU win - <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/kwaf-goldsmiths-su-wins-on-keeping-wednesday-afternoons-free>

Rise in college students skipping lectures to go to work because of financial struggles (thejournal.ie) - <https://www.thejournal.ie/college-costs-student-survey-4769005-Aug2019/>