Adopting the Coventry Food Charter: Integrating approaches to food sustainability

This Union Notes:

1. The efforts undertaken by the University of Warwick and the Students’ Union to further collaboration with and integration into the wider community and Coventry 1 2
2. The past and current projects by the Students’ Union and societies to tackle issues around food and food waste and improve environmental sustainability 3 4 5
3. The campaign priorities of the current Environment and Ethics Officers 6
4. The existence of the Coventry Food Charter, published by Feeding Coventry in June 2017 7
5. That the NUS supports issues around ethical eating and food through campaigns such as Student Eats 8
6. That no Students’ Union in the country has yet adopted a food charter

This Union Believes:

1. That issues around food and food waste need to be addressed on campus and beyond
2. That a strong connection to the local community is beneficial to students, because many of them are residents of Coventry and part of the community
3. That the Coventry Food Charter offers an integrative approach to issues surrounding food
4. That the Coventry Food Charter offers the opportunity to unify campaigns students continue to address around such as food justice, the reduction of food waste, social sustainability, as well as ethical business and social entrepreneurship, and put them into a coherent overall framework
5. That the Food Charter could serve as a guideline for future policy and projects in the Students’ Union
6. That adopting the food charter could facilitate deeper engagement with the NUS’ projects surrounding issues around food and the environment
7. That by adopting the Food Charter, the Students’ Union could take an important first step and inspire other students’ union to adopt similar policies, strengthening these issues in the national debate and the students movement in general

This Union Resolves:

1. https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/
2. https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/community/
3. https://www.warwicksu.com/about/environment/foodwaste/
4. https://www.warwicksu.com/about/environment/food/
5. https://www.warwicksu.com/societies/allotment/
8. https://sustainability.nus.org.uk/our-works
1. To add the Students’ Union to the list of signatories of the Coventry Food Charter
2. To mandate the Democracy and Development Officer as well as the Environment and Ethics Officer to oversee and support the implementation of the principles set out in the Coventry Food Charter, in collaboration with SU and University outlets across campus and in conjunction with the University estates and sustainability team and all other relevant departments of the university and SU, where feasible
3. To mandate the Democracy and Development Officer as well as the Environment and Ethics Officer to meet regularly with the aforementioned stakeholders to ensure that progress is made and the Charter is adopted
4. That all future policy relating to food adopted by the Students’ Union should comply with the principles set out in the Food Charter, where feasible
5. To mandate the Development Exec, the Democracy Exec, the Democracy and Development Officer as well as the Environment and Ethics Officer to check the compliance, where feasible, of policies and projects undertaken within the SU with this policy and the Food Charter

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