

POLICY PROPOSAL

Policy Title:	The introduction of Mature Students Reps	Date Policy Proposed:	20/04/15
Proposer name:	Cathy McGuire	Student ID Number:	1312303
Seconder Name:	Grace Anderson	Student ID Number:	

Union Notes:

1. Mature students are anyone who starts a course at or after the age of 21.
2. 40% of mature students are over 30 and have had work, mortgage or family responsibilities. (ucas.com, 2015)
3. At least 6674 students at ARU are classed as mature students and over 4000 of those are over 30 years old.
4. The NUS' Never Too Late to Learn study reported that 50% of mature students believe that student societies and clubs' social activities are held at inconvenient times, such as the evenings or weekends which often overlap with students' extra-curricular responsibilities.
5. 43% of mature students balance childcare responsibilities, family commitments and a demanding academic workload and the university provide very little information/support regarding this.
6. 40% of mature drop-out students cited low levels of social involvement at university for why abandoned their course.
7. Mature students are presently underrepresented within the Students' Union's executive officers team, none of this year's team, and the incoming team, are mature students.

Union Believes:

1. The Students' Union does not currently effectively represent the needs of mature students.
2. We need more activities/entertainment aimed at the over 30s or that is suitable for all ages.
3. Mature students need more support and guidance from someone they can relate to.
4. The University and Students' Union need to make mature students feel more included and encourage them to get involved to improve their student experience.

Union Resolves:

1. To include a Mature Students Rep role for each campus to the representation structure.
2. That these posts can only be filled by current mature students.