

Assistive Technology on Campus

Proposer: Chloe Tear – Disabilities Officer

Union Notes

1. There are now 56% more students with a known disability since 2010-11¹ in Higher Education
2. The proportion of graduates without a disability who achieve a first or upper second class degree is 80 per cent, whereas for disabled graduates - whether in receipt of DSA or otherwise - it is 77 per cent. The gap between graduates without a disability and disabled graduates, whether or not in receipt of DSA, has remained at three percentage points from 2013-14.²
3. Assistive Technology plays an important role in ensuring that disabled students are able to participate effectively in Higher Education
4. As it stands the university has limited assistive technology available
5. The university does not effectively signpost the few pieces of technology which are available
6. For example only one computer in the library has screen reading technology (Jaws)

Union Believes

1. As more and more disabled students enter higher education it becomes increasingly important to provide appropriate Assistive Technologies
2. Disabled Students are an integral part of our student community and should have equal access to Higher Education
3. Widely available and well-advertised assistive technology is absolutely integral in allowing disabled students to thrive and to have equal access to the opportunities of higher education
4. Equal access to education stems from assistive technology that suits a wide range of needs and is of a sufficient standard
5. There is clearly room for the university to expand its provision of assistive technology
6. Advertising must be as clear as possible, as many students who require assistive technology have a visual or sensory impairment

Union Resolves

1. To set up a meeting consisting of at least the President, the Disabled Students Officer and the University Disability Services, to discuss how best to work together to improve both provisions and advertising
2. To mandate the President, Vice President and Disabled Student officer to work together to see how LTSU can help the university to promote the assistive technology currently available on campus
3. To ask the university to increase the number of computers with Screen Reading technology and to update the Lupin system
4. To lobby the university to appropriately promote the services they have available to students
5. To work with the university to help them create a long-term strategy to ensure that appropriate assistive technology is always available on campus

¹ <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/analysis/HEinEngland/students/disability/>

² <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/differences-in-student-outcomes/disability/>