

Permanent Space for Commuters

Proposer: UEA Commuters' Society Committee 2019/20 – Motion drafted by Ellie Nash (Union Council Representative, UEA Commuters' Society) and reviewed by Ashley Wise (President, UEA Commuters' Society)

Seconder: Tyler Bell, Non-Portfolio Office

Summary: This motion highlights the need for a permanent space for commuters on campus. As evidenced by the growing presence of our society, (30 members have joined since we formed at the start of this semester) a high proportion of UEA students are commuters. However, the experience of the committee and feedback from our members, strongly suggests that this community of students does not have any space at the university to feel included or relax. Where people who live on campus or in student housing locally can return home in their breaks, the survey drafted by Commuters' Society shows over 40% of our members commute from over an hour away and are often left feeling they have nowhere to go, and that UEA have not adequately appreciated the difficulties or social disruption of being a commuting student. Existing campus spaces, such as the Hive, Unio and the UEA library get full and it is stressful to find a seat, with some facilities not being large enough to accommodate the large influx of commuter students this academic year. In addition, there is no formal, permanent setting for commuters to bond and form connections with other commuters, something which is especially important in order to feel supported and involved in university life.

A permanent space for commuters would begin to tackle the issues faced by these students and is key in helping to form connections and find support with others who are having a similar university experience.

Council Notes

1. [No respondents said that they found it easy to find space on campus to relax or do work](#)
2. [A lack of adequate space can make commuting students feel that they lack a 'home' on campus and leave them struggling to socialise and make connections](#)
3. [100% of respondents feel a permanent, dedicated space to commuters would be beneficial](#)
4. [Other UK Universities have 'reserved spaces' such as common rooms which are imperative to commuter welfare](#)
5. [Other universities have recognisable representation for commuter students \(for example, Commuter Student representatives within SU environments\)](#)

Council Believes

1. There needs to be a permanent space provided for commuters to socialise and work, with adequate domestic and leisure / wellbeing facilities to accommodate these students during their day.
2. It is important to recognise the issues faced by students who commute.

Council Resolves

1. To provide a permanent space on campus that can be used by commuters for working and socialising