# Motion: Catering for Dietary Requirements at Student Group Events

## This Union Notes

1. 1 in 100 people have a food allergy (Coeliac UK, 2011)
2. 3 in 4 people (worldwide) have a Dairy intolerance (Coeliac UK, 2011)
3. 1 in 3 people have Yeast sensitivity (Coeliac UK, 2011)
4. 1 in 7 people have Gluten sensitivity (Coeliac UK, 2011)
5. 1 in 3 people have Fructose or Sugar sensitivity (Coeliac UK, 2011)
6. One in a hundred people in the UK have Coeliac disease (one in ten amongst families where the condition already exists) (Coeliac UK, 2011)
7. Dietary requirements are a commonly occurring condition in modern society, and that the younger demographic group, many of whom are students are entering University either unaware they have these conditions or as recently diagnosed sufferers of them.
8. That conditions such as intolerance to lactose, gluten, nuts and numerous other products as well as auto-immune conditions like Coeliac disease need to be well catered for, as their effects can be severe, lifelong and even fatal in some cases. Even a slight contamination of food during preparation can have these effects.
9. Difficulties in finding suitable food can severely limit the quality of life and the student experience for sufferers. Social ostracism due to a lack of appropriate catering is a major cause of depression among sufferers. (Addolorato et al. 1996)
10. Those with dietary requirements often have a higher cost of living due to the premium placed on suitable foods.
11. Student pressure at the University of Leicester led to dramatic improvements of their catering provisions for those with dietary requirements. In 2013, they were awarded Coeliac UK accreditation.

## This Union Believes

1. Student group leaders in general do not have sufficient understanding of the issues facing those with dietary requirements.
2. The ability to eat safely and be healthy as a student is not only integral to an individual’s studies and their student experience but, more fundamentally, is a human right.
3. No student should be penalised for having a dietary requirement.
4. Sufferers of dietary requirements are rarely appropriately catered for at student group events.

## This Union Resolves

1. To mandate student groups to collect dietary requirements information from their members before hosting a catered event.
2. To provide additional support for student groups who can prove they are making every effort to cater for the dietary requirements of their members.
3. To mandate the Vice President (Welfare & Diversity) to maintain a list of venues where student groups have successfully found free-from catering and to make this list readily available for other student groups to make use of.
4. To mandate the Co-President (Societies & Media) and the Co-President (Sports & Development) to raise student group leaders’ awareness of dietary requirements, the issues they present and the appropriate remediation strategies.
5. To mandate the Co-President (Welfare & Diversity) to work with the proposer to investigate the occurrence of dietary requirements related issues within the Students’ Union and the wider college with special emphasis to be placed on catered accommodation.

## References

* Coeliac UK [Accessed 2011]
* Addolorato G, et al. 1996. Anxiety and depression in adult untreated celiac subjects and in patients affected by inflammatory bowel disease: a personality "trait" or a reactive illness? Hepatogastroenterology 43, 1513-1517

Proposer

* Alex Clarke

Seconders

* Sam Pickering,
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