

## **Protect Faith on Campus**

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### **Union Notes:**

1. The University had decided to close the UEA Islamic Centre by 1st September, but has since decided to think more strategically about the decision by creating a long-term policy for faith on campus.
2. The University is currently consulting the UEA community over the provision of faith facilities and resources on campus at UEA.
3. Of the 19173 students registered at UEA for the academic year 2012/13, 8837 have registered as religious, which equates to approximately 46% of the student body.
4. The University has no legal responsibility to provide faith facilities.
5. UEA advertised the Islamic Centre in their prospectuses for this academic year.
6. UEA has had a multi-faith Chaplaincy on campus for a number of years.
7. The Union has policy stating that "The chaplaincy while aspiring to be 'multi-faith' appears much more like a conventional Christian Church than a Hindu, Buddhist or Sikh place of worship. This appearance can be discouraging to students of non-Christian religions" and that "Hindu students face an increased risk of religious and social isolation in Norwich."
8. Faith groups are any group of students that self-define as a particular faith/religion or undecided, questioning, or of no belief (such as Christian, Islamic, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Atheist etc).

### **Union Believes:**

1. Faith is central to the lives of many UEA students and for some will likely be a factor in their decision to come to UEA, and therefore the University has a moral obligation to provide faith facilities and resources on campus.
2. That differing faith groups have differing needs, and therefore the University's provision of faith should meet these needs and have equal value to each faith group. This does not necessarily mean that provision should be of equal resource.
3. The University should justify any changes to the provision of faith on campus to students and the UEA community.

### **Union Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Student Officer Committee to invite members of the UEA Executive Team to Union Council to discuss any significant changes to faith provision on campus.

2. To mandate the Student Officer Committee to lobby the University to provide faith facilities and resources on campus that meet the differing needs of faith groups on campus.