

## **SUARTS POLICY | STUDENT MENTORING**

### **This Union Notes:**

1. That the 1<sup>st</sup> year a student spends in Higher or Further Education should be enjoyable, fun, supportive and challenging.
2. That, currently the 1<sup>st</sup> year experience at University of the Arts London can be unsupportive and isolating for new students.
3. That there is no continuity of experience across the University, Colleges or even courses.
4. That there are specific student groups who could be deemed more 'at risk' of having a bad 1<sup>st</sup> year experience if adequate support is not provided, most notably International Students.
5. That a bad 1<sup>st</sup> year experience can have a significant impact on the retention of students at University of the Arts London

### **This Union Believes:**

1. That it is important that 1<sup>st</sup> year students are encouraged to interact with other students across the University, both formally and informally.
2. That though there is good practice within the University of courses implementing programs that support students there is little or no information of where this good practice is.
3. That the University need to take a University wide approach to supporting students, ensuring that all students can access similar levels of support.
4. That 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students are in a good position to offer some support to new students, either within the academic perimeters or recreationally.
5. That student-mentoring schemes do exist with in the colleges, yet there is no continuity or even formality to some of the schemes.

### **This Union Resolves:**

1. To explore the possibilities and feasibility of a University wide student mentoring scheme
2. To lobby the University to conduct research of what student mentoring schemes are currently running in the colleges and examine this good practise
3. That e-mentoring also has potential as an interim scheme and all aspects of this should be explored by the Students' Union executive members with responsibility for Educational affairs
4. That students already taking part in mentoring schemes should be fully trained and supported in this and the Students' Union has an active part to play in this support
5. To collaborate with and engage the University and Colleges in discussions about Student Mentoring.

Date Passed May 2009 | Date Expires May 2012