

Item for Discussion: Improve the management of the UCL Clothes Swap event

Outline your idea for discussion:

I attended the UCL clothes swap event today and was very disappointed by the management of it. A majority of the clothes were in very poor condition (stained/ripped/soiled). I believe this is a direct result of tokens being given out based on quantity not quality of the clothing, and there being no check whatsoever about whether the clothing is in a fit state to be worn. Clothing is not sorted by size/type but piled in a heap, which is not nice to go through considering the state of many of the items. The organiser (Ryan) was also letting people who had not brought in any clothes in to pick up items, which does not encourage contribution. I brought in over 20 high quality, barely worn items, which went very quickly, but was unable to find anything near of similar quality to swap with myself. None of these policies encourage people to contribute to or use this event as a legitimate way to pick up clothes they would otherwise buy new. This is such a shame because I believe this idea has real potential. I was also surprised to hear this is a company you hire to put on the event, when it could be run much better by a small group of students/volunteers, possibly as an off-branch of one of your existing volunteer groups. I would be very happy to volunteer at this event but would be reluctant to do so whilst it is being run the way it currently is. I think tokens should be given out based on how worn the item is, the brand/quality of the item, and the type of clothing (e.g. coat/t-shirt).