

Item for discussion: Ability for RUMS to produce new sports clubs and societies

What would you like the Union to do?

Ever since the merger of the medical schools in 1997, RUMS have been unable to produce new sports clubs or societies which are already represented at UCL.

I believe this policy to be unfair and out of touch and hope to see it reversed.

Why would you like to do this?

RUMS only has a handful of clubs and societies, and we have seen this policy reduce RUMS further over the years. In the past, RUMS Squash, and now potentially RUMS Badminton are facing disaffiliation by the union. There is no option for RUMS students in the future to restart these organisations, and thus this policy has degraded RUMS in favour of UCL sports clubs and societies.

Without the ability to at least recreate RUMS clubs previously in existence, this policy may degrade the RUMS community further in future years.

There is great interest in restarting RUMS Squash, and we have received over 50 interested students and have only advertised to a couple of years. However, policy would have to change for us to produce a “new” club.

How will this affect students?

RUMS as a community offers a unique and important home for medical students and beyond.

This policy change would allow students the opportunity to create new spaces within RUMS and grow it further as a community.

I appreciate the Students' Unions previous concerns that this would generate competition between UCL clubs and new RUMS clubs - potentially weakening UCL clubs. However, this competition already exists between the current RUMS and UCL clubs, and in fact I believe it strengthens both. Students have the opportunity to find the club that best fits their needs, in the sport or social activity they love. Medics and Non-Medics alike play for either the RUMS or UCL team, depending on what is a best fit for them. Often these clubs offer a different level of sport, or different emphasis on social membership, which caters to different students' needs. Furthermore, there is collaboration between many RUMS clubs and their UCL counterparts (e.g. hockey and rugby) and this drives both clubs to improve.

I can see no way in which the ability for RUMS to produce new clubs (or at the very least revisit previously disbanded clubs) would weaken any UCL clubs, and in fact a policy change would mean we could reverse the reduction of the number of RUMS clubs since 1997.

Thank you for considering this policy proposal.