



(Parking Charges at Athena Hall)

Proposer: (Kiki Otto- Netball President)

Seconded: (Bethany Crosson- Netball Social Sec)

Proposer and seconder need to be voting members of Student Council)

The Students' Union notes...

Include here the information you have in terms of facts related to the issue – what is the issue, how has it come about, what has changed etc?

Within the University, there are a vast proportion of students that are living at Athena Hall (the campus accommodation). The majority of these students live a long way from home- not to mention the fact that many must attend placements at unsociable hours for long periods of time, or may have caring responsibilities, which it is essential they have access to their car for. However, the parking available at the university is incredibly minimal, and is now almost completely impossible to fund. Whilst students can now park overnight at Athena Hall (a big issue last year leading to many students receiving multiple PCN's), the terms have changed- now stating students must pay for parking at weekends which was previously free with a UOS parking permit. Already, students were paying £10 weekly for parking (£2 daily, Mon-Fri). now, in addition to this, students are now being made to pay the full public price on Saturdays and Sundays. This is £4.82 daily, totalling £19.64 weekly- close to double the cost compared to last year. This means over the course of the year, students are now expected to pay almost £850 (excluding holiday breaks) just to park their car- something that is a necessity for a vast majority of students. If students don't pay the additional weekend charge, then they risk receiving PCN's- costing £60 each. As well as this, the option on RingGo (the method that students use to purchase parking sessions) to pay for multiple days' worth of parking at one time has been removed this academic year. This means students are having to go on the app and pay for parking every single day. Forgetting to do so for one day results in a £60 fine, increasing to £100 if not paid in 14 days.

The Students' Union believes...

What is the general student opinion about the issue?

The students believe this is an unreasonable price. As necessities (like food) are already incredibly expensive, students are having to choose between buying food for the week



or parking their car. It is not an option for some students to not have a car at university- for example, those on placement-requiring courses. The variety of shift patterns and unsociable hours/nights means that without a car, students would be forced to walk long distances at night and very early morning- hence posing a risk to student safety. There isn't reliable public transport available at these times as an alternative. This also jeopardises their wellbeing and performance- using those on shifts at Ipswich Hospital as an example, the 55-minute walk compared to the 8-minute drive means increased tiredness, where mistakes and accidents are more liable to happen- both during the day and on the walk home. The alternatives to parking around Athena Hall are on unsafe, public roads- which are also restricted times, meaning that students are still running the risk of receiving PCN's, as well as damage to their car from the public. Regarding the issue of paying for multiple sessions at once on RingGo, it is difficult for students to remember to do this every single day- especially on the few days they don't use their car. As Athena Hall is home to many students, it is easy to forget to pay daily in amongst the busyness of lectures and daily activities. However, this one slip then results in the students having to pay £60- which for many students, can be the equivalent to an entire month's worth of food. Many students may not even have £60 available to pay- however, if not paid in 14 days, then the cost increases to £100. This adds additional unnecessary financial stress for students.

The Students' Union resolves..

The actions you would like the SU to take – i.e. what officers of the SU would be mandated to do if approved by Council/Board

We wish for the SU to amend the parking terms and conditions at Athena Hall, in partnership with Ipserve and Collegiate (Athena Hall). We believe there should be a reduction in the cost for parking for residents of Athena Hall, as well as free parking at the weekends. This is achievable by a separate parking permit issues to residents at Athena Hall. Additionally, requesting for the reinstatement of the option on RingGo to enable students to pay for multiple days of parking in Athena Hall at once would result in a huge reduction in the number of PCN's received by students. Addressing the issues raised in this motion will enable students to feel safer, less stressed, and overall increase the wellbeing of UOS students.

28/10/2025

Motion No:



All motions must be submitted to su.democracy@uos.ac.uk by the papers deadline as noted on the SU website. If motions are submitted past deadline, they will be considered for the next meeting.