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From: Ruqaiyah Javaid, Vice President Education

Subject: Students' Union No Detriment Paper

Status: Final version

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Sponsor: N/A

Executive summary

The Union would like the University to adopt a No Detriment or Safety Net Policy and have submitted this paper to support their case.

Action(s) required from the Committee:	The Union would like Senate to note and discuss the report.
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The table below outlines which committees/groups have already seen the report and the resulting outcome/action from discussions.

Committee date	Committee title	Outcome/action	Action date	Paper version number

No Detriment or Safety Net Policy

The Sabbatical Officer Team submitted a motion calling for a No Detriment policy to be adopted throughout the COVID-19 period to better understand the student demand for this and to demonstrate our mandate in calling for the policy to be reinstated. This was preceded by a group complaint by 150 LLB3 students who mentioned No Detriment in their demands. Our No Detriment motion passed at the Student Members Meeting on Tuesday 24th November with 95% of over 160 attendees voting in approval. The motion can be found appended below. This motion was submitted to address student dissatisfaction with the discontinuation of the no-detriment policy the University installed during the summer of 2020. This motion is part of the Sabbatical Officers' response to reports from students that they feel the University's current approach to facilitating their academic success has been inadequate and leaves many students feeling neglected and unsupported in unprecedented remote learning conditions.

Our proposal is for the University's No Detriment policy to be extended into Term 2 to cover at least the January assessment period. The No Detriment policy was originally adopted with the intention to be implemented 'throughout the pandemic'. For the majority of students, the difficult circumstances they found themselves in at the time of the initial implementation of the No Detriment policy have remained unchanged from an academic perspective (i.e. online teaching, reduced contact time with academics, limited or no access to resources and elements integral to their course) and a personal perspective (e.g. bereavement, familial illness or personal illness). In a number of cases, these conditions may have indeed worsened due to the continued spread of the pandemic in the UK and the introduction of a second lockdown. The University has a duty to fairly consider how best to continue to support students in their academic performance in the context of the pandemic and its related challenges. We believe that the reinstatement of the University's No Detriment policy would serve as a good first step in this process. We further propose that a generic mitigation process be installed where 'generic mitigation' is defined as an uncapped second attempt at all assessments for all students in the case of first-attempt assessment failure. In the case of second or third attempt failure, we support offering further attempts with marks capped at pass. These measures will help recognise the disruption that students have experienced in relation to COVID-19.

We would like this proposal to be considered in conjunction with the proposal passed at the recent meeting of Student Council which called for the implementation of an additional examination period for students who have had to delay sitting their examinations due to unforeseeable circumstances such as bereavement or severe illness.

We intend for this policy to be applicable to both undergraduate and postgraduate (taught and research) students.

We acknowledge the concerns from the University around maintaining academic integrity. It is fortunate that a No Detriment policy was in place at an earlier time at City, so many of the logistics will have already been worked out. We maintain that our call for a No Detriment policy is not an isolated proposal and has precedent in best practice across the UK. The University of Brighton, The University of Surrey and The University of West London have responded to calls from their own SU and student body and have committed to extending their No Detriment policies.

Proposer: Ruqaiyah Javaid

Seconder: Shaima Dallali

Motion title: 'No Detriment policy'

This Union notes:

- A 'No Detriment' policy would mean that students will not be penalised for any dip in performance on assessments undertaken during Covid-19 circumstances. Final grades cannot fall below a previous average as long as they achieve a pass but can still improve their grades based on their performance on this round of assessments.
- A student petition was raised in March, where 600 students requested that City adopt a No Detriment policy.
- Covid-19 has had a significant impact on all students' ability to fulfil their academic potential for various reasons, not limited to bereavement, stress and anxiety. Submitting evidence for extenuating circumstances claims is an added burden for students who are already facing significant challenges.
- Earlier this year, City University implemented a 'No Detriment' or 'Safety Net' policy, which meant that the results of assessments taken after 16th March would not negatively affect students' degree classification. Students' capabilities need to be fairly assessed within the context of a pandemic and this means extending the No Detriment policy.

This Union believes:

- The University must do all it can to support students through these challenging times and take steps to ensure students are engaged in their assessments and are not negatively impacted.
- Universities such as Brighton University have extended their No Detriment policy to support students through the pandemic. Various other SU's are lobbying for their No Detriment policies to be extended.
- That the pandemic has been a very difficult time for all students, both personally and academically. Students deserve to be given a fair chance of succeeding so that they do not miss out on being able to achieve their potential.

This Union resolves:

- To lobby the University to establish a 'No Detriment' phase two policy which would be applicable to future assessments taking place under Covid