

Affordable Gym & AU Membership

2016/01

Policy Origin: **Students**

Approved by:
Board of Trustees – 5th May 2016

Expiry:
May 2019

Having been at this university for four years i have met some fantastic student athletes who all love to represent the University of Liverpool across the country and perform to the highest standard possible whilst wearing the Liverpool colours. However students i have spoken to all share the same grievances about the cost of joining the gym at the start of the year. A student pays £208 yearly for gym membership with an extra £35 added on top of that for AU membership. While i realise the maintenance of a gym and a sports ground is not cheap I do feel that after having paid £9000 a year to get my undergraduate degree some money from that can definitely be funneled into funding university sports and making gym membership just that little bit cheaper. £208 may not seem like a huge sum of money however when we compare this yearly cost to Newcastle's £110, Durham's £120 UCL's £160 and Manchester's £165. We can see that other big university's offer gym prices much cheaper. I've heard the university no longer funds sports development, perhaps they should reconsider that decision and stop forcing students to bear the brunt of the cost. University is all about trying new things and one of the best ways to get involved is through sport it would be a shame to exclude someone just because they can't afford it.

OUTCOME OF SUMMIT

Summit made further suggestions to improve the gym and AU offering such as:

- Two together discounts
- AU membership at a flat rate so as to lessen the financial impact on students who join multiple sports teams
- Membership payment instalment in line with student loan payments.
- 24 hour gym opening
- Gym provision in University Managed halls to improve overcrowding issue.

Summit members alerted us to the following issues regarding gym and AU membership:

- University should not encourage student to join before they arrive as they are not aware on local alternatives
- AU members should not be required to pay for entry in order to represent the university in fixtures.