

28/05/20

Dear Professor Sir Chris Husbands,

On 29 April, the elected Officers and Reps of SHSU voted to endorse a campaign for a Hallam Safety Net – a revision of the University’s existing no detriment policy that would provide greater security for the grades students had earned prior to the unprecedented disruption caused by Covid-19.

Since that date, 4366 Hallam students have signed the petition calling for the implementation of this Safety Net. Over 1400 left detailed comments highlighting their concerns with the University’s current policy, with issues ranging from mental health to employability and value for money. 145 members of Sports Clubs and student societies have signed separate letters of support for the campaign.

The University’s current policy lacks clarity on key issues and does not provide the level of support and grade security offered by many other Higher Education institutions. We have a number of concerns with the policy and attempts to resolve them via Officer meetings with senior University staff have yet to yield satisfactory responses.

We recognise that the University has attempted to avoid detriment to students’ grades, including things like a freely available 10-day extension, and we know its intention is to help students succeed without undermining the value of their degree. But on an issue that will so significantly impact one of the most expensive things they will ever invest in, students’ views must be taken into consideration – and it is clear how strongly many students feel that the current approach simply does not go far enough.

We strongly believe the safety net we are proposing is the final piece missing from the University’s approach, and are keen to work with the University to support its implementation.

We are therefore formally submitting the petition to the Sheffield Hallam University Leadership Team, and requesting:

- A formal response from the University to our petition.
- Written answers to our questions regarding the University’s current approach (please find attached separately).
- A meeting with one or more members of the University’s Leadership Team to discuss the issue and identify a collaborative way forward.

Yours sincerely,

SHSU elected Officers, Representatives, and the Hallam Safety Net Campaign.

CC:

Ms Deborah Harry
Mr Joe Rennie
Ms Alison Wells
Mr Richard Calvert
Professor Roger Eccleston
Professor Alison Metcalfe
Professor Chris Wigginton
Professor Kevin Kerrigan
Dr Helen Best
Dr Neil McKay
Dr Eileen McAuliffe
Dr Toni Schwartz
Professor John Francis
Dr Sam Giove

Dr Julie Brunton
Dr Rebecca Hodgson
Mr Leopold Green
Dr Geff Green
Ms Susan Wakefield
Dr Robert Wilson
Ms Elaine Buckley
Dr Claire Cornock
Ms Catriona Hynes
Dr Elizabeth Freeman
Dr John Freeman
Dr Rebecca Mallett
Dr Christine O'Leary
Dr Vishal Parikh
Dr Lucian Tipi
Dr Emma Heron
Ms Diane Burkinshaw