Create a sustainable alternative to plastic cups in the student bars and clubs.

What we will do:

1. We will eliminate all unnecessary single-use plastic cups in all Students’ Association bars and clubs.
2. Single-use plastic cups will remain in use and on display for those who need them. There will be no tolerance of staff or the public questioning why people choose plastic cups over other options.
3. In searching for an alternative to single-use plastic cups, we will be mindful of the needs of disabled people and take into account their needs.

Background to this:

1. With the harmful effects of single use plastics so widely known now, I don’t think we should be using any at all. Getting rid of plastic cups in the bars and clubs would be a step in the right direction.
2. We dump eight million tonnes of plastic into the sea every year which is disastrous for marine life. Countless whales, turtles and seabirds have been found dead with stomachs full of plastic. In addition, plastic debris can get lodged in coral and affect the health of reefs.
3. Only 14% of global plastic packaging is recycled.
4. Last year the University of Edinburgh signed the ‘New Plastics Economy’ Global Commitment. This shows that the University cares about changing the way we use plastics for the better.
5. Disabled people often rely on single-use plastic cups due to their lightweight design and the hypoallergenic nature of plastic. To remove single-use plastic cups from Students’ Association venues would prevent disabled people from being able to use Students’ Association venues.

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. We should all be doing more to combat Climate Change, including reducing our plastic use since it plays such a huge role the destruction of our planet.
2. At student events drinks are nearly always served in plastic cups and every time someone buys a new drink there’s a new plastic cup.
3. Glass isn’t a practical option but the Student’s Union should be looking for more sustainable alternatives to single use plastics.
4. Seeing the stairs at the Big Cheese completely covered in plastic cups and bottles that people had thrown away, was one of the main reasons for writing this motion.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures in October 2019.