Take a Stance on Cyber-Safety

What will we do:
1. Incorporate disciplinary procedures for electronic harassment and bullying into the new Students’ Association Discipline structure.
2. Lobby the Activities Executive to include electronic harassment in the Societies Code of Conduct.
3. Lobby the Sports Union to include electronic harassment in the Sports Code of Conduct.

Background to this:
1. There has been a significant increase in the amount of time young adults spend online – people are on average online for 24 hours a week, twice as long as 10 years ago. (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/08/01/decade-smartphones-now-spend-entire-day-every-week-online/).
2. A study in 2018 found that 41% of women and 22% of men have experienced online sexual harassment and 43% of young people have reported that they have been bullied online. (http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/resources/2018-national-sexual-abuse-report/). (https://gettinggenz.com/2016/12/20/gen-z-unplugged-cyber-bullying/)
3. 73% of teenagers have access to a smartphone or devices with connection to the internet, and so our incoming students are a lot more digitally advanced than ever before. This means that everything is beginning to move from in-person interaction, to online interaction, including harassment, and so we need to be proactive when it comes to online safety, not reactive. (https://gettinggenz.com/2016/12/20/gen-z-unplugged-cyber-bullying/)

Beliefs and Motivating Actions:
1. With an increasing amount of time spent online, students are more likely to encounter electronic harassment.
2. All students have the right to a safe and secure environment, on campus, at home and online. Creating a safe space for our students is incredibly important.
3. To protect our students against online harassment it makes sense to have clear policy against it in the disciplinary procedure

Submitted by Association Executive