

Committee Title	Student Voice
Date of Meeting	8 th April 2024
Title/Subject	Fossil Free Careers Motion
Paper Presenter	Gracjan Walaszewski, Ethical and Environmental Officer
Brief Summary of Issues/Topic	<p>GCU Students' Association notes:</p> <p>1 That the operations of the oil, gas and mining industries¹ cause immense environmental harm, by accelerating the climate and ecological crisis², polluting the water³ and permanently destroying landscapes.⁴</p> <p>2 That these extractive operations also cause direct social harm, by displacing people from their homes and lands,⁵ destroying livelihoods,⁶ demolishing sacred indigenous sites,⁷ and leaving workers and communities with severe health problems.⁸</p> <p>3 That graduates are increasingly turning away from the oil and gas sector. A 2017 study showed the number of graduates taking jobs in the industry had dropped by 60% in four years.⁹</p> <p>4 That young people see oil and gas as the most unappealing sector to work in.¹⁰ They associate it with responsibility for the climate crisis, and believe there is no future for jobs in the industry.¹¹</p> <p>5 The University Careers Service does not have a publicly accessible policy that excludes the promotion of careers in the oil, gas and mining industry through its website, careers fairs, emails to the student body and other recruitment events.</p> <p>6 There are now seven UK universities that have ended oil, gas, and mining industry recruitment on campus, and a further 20% of all UK universities have made similar exclusions for other industries, including the tobacco, sex, and gambling industries.¹²</p> <p>7 The university has made a public ethical and sustainability commitment. This includes a commitment to fully removing its investments in fossil fuel companies and to go carbon neutral by 2040.</p> <p>GCU Students' Association believes:</p> <p>1 Inviting oil, gas, and mining companies to advertise with the careers service adds legitimacy to the idea that these companies are an acceptable part of our society and our future.</p> <p>2 The University Careers Service should ensure that its recruitment activities and events are in line with the university's publicly stated ethical principles of sustainability.</p> <p>3 The university's careers service has a responsibility to its students to promote jobs with a future.</p>

4 Ending this university's complicity in career pipelines into the oil, gas, and mining industry is an effective method of showing solidarity with communities affected by these companies' operations.

GCU Students' Association resolves:

1 To publicly support the Fossil Free Careers campaign,¹³ and demands that our university career's department:

1.a Refuses all new relationships with oil, gas or mining companies.

1.b Declines to renew any current relationships with oil, gas or mining Companies and the banks that fund them after the contractually obligated period ends.

1.c Adopts a publicly available Ethical Careers Policy that explicitly excludes oil, gas and mining companies from recruitment opportunities.

2 To mandate the relevant full-time and part-time officer(s) to actively work with the Fossil Free Careers campaign group and People & Planet to ensure that Union work is linked up with grassroots campaigners.

3 To mandate the relevant full-time and part-time officer(s) to help set up meetings relating to the Fossil Free Careers campaign with relevant university staff, and include student campaigners where relevant.

4 To use relevant SU social media channels to amplify petitions, statements and other calls to action from the Fossil Free Careers campaign.

5 To send out a press release and website statement announcing the passing of this motion and the support of the union for this campaign.

6 To never allow oil, gas, or mining companies access to SA-organised events, or to lend the SA name, logo or endorsement to events which include these companies.

7 To refuse the presence of oil, gas and mining companies in any SA-controlled physical or digital space.

Footnotes

¹ For a precise definition of the companies we refer to when we say 'oil, gas, and mining companies' see the Fossil Free Careers Targets page.

² Revealed: the 20 firms behind a third of all carbon emissions

³ Impacts of copper mining on people and nature

⁴ Revealed: Trump officials rush to mine desert haven native tribes consider holy

⁵ The Dark Side of Coal

⁶ CUT AND RUN: How Britain's top two mining companies have wrecked ecosystems without being held to account

⁷ Rio Tinto blasts 46,000-year-old Aboriginal site to expand iron ore mine

⁸ Cerro de Pasco: The city built around a mine

⁹ Oil industry has a millennial problem as talent pipeline trickles

¹⁰ Millennials at work

¹¹ How do we regenerate this generation's view of oil and gas?

¹² Fossil fuel recruiters banned from UK university careers service

¹³ People & Planet's Fossil Free Careers Campaign

Recommendation(s)	Information		Discussion		Approval	X
	Any member can ask a question by raising their voting card and being recognised by the Chair to speak.					
	Student Voice are asked to approve the motion					
Who have you consulted when developing the paper?	People and Planet Fossil Free Careers Campaign					
Staff/Student Protocol	Yes		No	X	N/A	
Will any decision approved directly affect the work of staff?						
Should the paper be submitted to any other committee following its consideration/approval at this meeting?	N/A					
If yes, please state the committee and proposed date of submission.						