**2021 W&E Motion Substance Misuse, addictive behaviours, harm reduction, promotion, and celebration of recovery.**Proposed by TU Dublin SU (Lesley seconded by Spud)

**Congress notes,**

The sphere of addictive behaviours and substance misuse is multifaceted and complex. Work is this area is predominantly focused on, prevention, education, and harm reduction with regards to alcohol and substances. For many people problems arise with other addictive behaviours including but not limited to gambling, pornography, sex, and nicotine.

**Congress further notes,**

There is currently several USI policies in place that mandate work in these areas. Multiple mandates have resulted in duplications and overlaps in the policy file. However, given the increase in ‘problematic gambling’ during the Covid 19 period (WOULFE, 2021), and the stigma faced by students in active substance misuse or recovery (SPENCER, 2017) this remains an important area of work.

**Congress recognises**,

The work USI have done to date in many of these areas and very much would like this work to continue. This can be done in line with the current national best practice approaches of reducing harms, supporting, and celebrating recovery.   
  
**Congress therefore mandates**USI VP Welfare to continue and strengthen the work in this area. Through awareness campaigns encompassing both educational aspects on addictive behaviours and harm reduction. Also, a strong focus on promotion of and celebration for the recovery journey from addictive behaviours and substance misuse. This area of work should include (but not be limited to) a minimum of two national campaign per academic year on; ‘Recovery’; Alcohol & substance misuse and dependency; and ‘Gambling’.

**Congress therefore repeals:**

15 WE 25 Gambling  
2018 WEL 11 Smoking cessation Campaign  
WEL 19-9 Second-hand Smoke  
20 WEL 3 Celebrating and Supporting Recovery Through Harm Reduction and Support  
20 WEL 6 Smoking Cessations  
20 WEL 7 Drugs and alcohol harm reduction campaign.

# Citations

SPENCER, K. M. (2017). Voices of recovery: an exploration of stigma experienced by college students in recovery from alcohol and/or other drug addiction through photovoice. *Journal of Addictive Behaviors and Therapy*.

WOULFE, J. (2021, January 18th). 'Frightening' rise in online gambling during Covid-19, reports Limerick treatment centre. *Irish Examiner*, p. online. Retrieved from https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40209329.html