



Fair trade and supply chains discussion notes

SRS Staff and Student Workshop, Wednesday 13th April 2016

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the main discussion points from the fair trade and supply chains table which was part of the SRS Staff and Student Workshop.

Fair trade (brand)

- Thinking should be wider than the Fairtrade brand
- Assumptions behind the label should be questioned, effects it has researched
- Some suppliers may not be able to afford certification
- Remain an Fairtrade University, but think how to open to all
- Rather than on fair trade, focus should be on local
- Certifications (Fairtrade) negative impacts (ie. Percentage of FT vs Non-FT)

Fair trade @ the University

- Also about suppliers: treat them fairly
- Get best price, then stick to it (do not renegotiate the price you committed to)\
- Think holistically about the issues
- “End of life” cycle/ cradle to cradle approach
- “More focus on sustainability in products”

Communications and transparency

- Publicise the story behind the products, e.g. what happens with the premium,
- More info on outcome of the projects
- Information behind the label, i.e. what does the label mean
- Food labelling -> QR codes
- What do other schools and colleagues do?
- Events and opportunities for students should be more visible
- There should be more transparency over why a company was chosen, it's credentials and what it is doing
- Improve the awareness of issues

Relationship between costs and sustainability

- How to balance grant/school money with sustainability?
- Should we really always go for cheaper? E.g. MHSE granite slabs imported from China

Other issues

- Where possible, buy local
- Where do keep cups come from?
- Uni should lobby, if possible, on Modern Slavery issues