



STUDENT EQUALITY NETWORKS

TITLE:	BYE LAW NINE
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APPROVED:	STUDENT COUNCIL (26/11/25)

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1. Establishing Networks

- 1.1 Student Equality Networks (subsequently to be also referred to as Networks) are to be established in line with the protected characteristics as outlined by legislation the Equality Commission NI in advocating for under-represented student communities on a cross-campus basis. UUSU will consider a proposed Network based on these conditions as a channel in elevating the collective voice of students.
- 1.2 As a recognised channel for the respective student community the purpose of a UUSU Network is to:
 - 1.2.1 Empower - to build student communities that connect those who have similar values, beliefs, or lived experiences.
 - 1.2.2 Advocate - lobby for equality and endeavour for equity both on and off campus. To highlight systemic, behavioural, and institutional /social challenges, fostering a broader understanding and commitment to equity of opportunity within the University.
 - 1.2.3 Change - campaign for positive progress and the rights of those under-represented students that the Network represents.
- 1.3 A Network is student-led, UUSU will support formally affiliated Networks. Decisions, actions and positions taken by Networks remain that of the network and not of UUSU itself.

2. Regulations for Networks

- 2.1 The following stipulations must be adhered to when setting up a Network and its Constitution must include:
 - 2.1.1 The full name of the Network;
 - 2.1.2 The aims and objectives of the Network. These must not contravene the regulations set out within this bye-law or articles and bye-laws governing Ulster University Students' Union;
 - 2.1.3 The membership entitlement;
 - 2.1.4 The provision for calling regular meetings, the Annual General Meeting, and Emergency General Meeting;
 - 2.1.5 The provision for electing office bearers;
 - 2.1.6 Each campus committee should include:
 - 2.1.6.1 Chairperson;
 - 2.1.6.2 Secretary ;
 - 2.1.6.3 Equality and Wellbeing Lead
 - 2.1.6.4 Campaign and Advocacy Lead
 - 2.1.6.5 Additional roles may be created if agreed upon by the Networks Management Committee.
- 2.2 Network creation proposals should be filled out via the Proposal Form found on the 'Networks' section of the UUSU website (UUSU.org). Any submitted proposal is subject to approval from the Networks Management Committee and subsequent ratification by Student Council.

- 2.3 Any Network which, by additions to or deletion from its Constitution, Terms of Reference or by virtue of its activities on or off the campus, contravenes the Articles of Association or Bye-Laws of UUSU shall be investigated by the Network Management Committee and may be subject to the UUSU disciplinary procedures.

3. Networks Management Committee

- 3.1 Membership of the committee will include but not be limited to:
- 3.1.1 The Student Voice Coordinator (Engagement);
 - 3.1.2 The Student Voice Manager;
 - 3.1.3 Two elected Student Council members;
 - 3.1.4 The Vice President for Magee, Coleraine, and Belfast respectively and;
 - 3.1.5 The Vice President for Equality and Belonging.
- 3.2 The Networks Management Committee shall have the following responsibilities:
- 3.2.1 Affiliating new Networks within UUSU. Affiliations will only be considered on receipt of the Student Network start up form, and all relevant information has been received and approved by the NMC. Two Networks with the same objectives cannot be ratified within UUSU;
 - 3.2.2 Approving budget processes and allocations, delegating to other UUSU staff where appropriate;
 - 3.2.3 Approving ongoing ratification of a Network to UUSU.
 - 3.2.4 Review and approve the UUSU Student Equality Networks guidelines, delegating to other UUSU staff where appropriate.
 - 3.2.5 Support/Guide Networks to produce an annual report to appropriate Ulster University departments identifying key areas for improvement and areas of good practice.
 - 3.2.6 Networks Management Committee will be a recognised sub-committee of UUSU Student Council.
 - 3.2.7 Elected Student Councillor(s) to the Network Management Committee may not hold office bearing roles on a network committee.

4. UUSU Student Executive Responsibilities

- 4.1 The Vice President for Equality and Belonging shall be responsible for:
- 4.1.1 Providing support to each individual network committee.
 - 4.1.2 Report accordingly to Student Executive and other bodies as required.
 - 4.1.3 To support cross-campus Network activities, connections and campaigns.
- 4.2 The Campus Vice-President shall be responsible for on their campus:
- 4.2.1 Providing the campus connection and support for Network events and activities;
 - 4.2.2 Reporting accordingly to Student Executive and other bodies as required.

5. Finance

- 5.1 The overall budget for Networks will be decided upon by UUSU and administered by the Networks Management Committee.
- 5.2 Should additional funding become available for Networks outside of the standard funding streams, additional guidelines, and processes for how to access this will be approved by Networks Management Committee and dispersed to committee Network members.
- 5.3 No Student Equality Network shall be eligible to receive money from UUSU funds unless it has: An elected committee, consisting of the membership outlined in section two on the specified campus, who must be students currently registered at Ulster University and having submitted an application for funding to be approved by UUSU.
- 5.4 Any Network from which UUSU withdraws official recognition, shall, from the date of withdrawal of recognition, shall be dissolved and ineligible for funding from the UUSU.
- 5.5 In the event of a Network ceasing to exist, UUSU may decide what happens to any unused funds.
- 5.6 Each Network shall ensure that:
 - 5.6.1 A true record of the state of its current finances is maintained;
 - 5.6.2 No unauthorised expenditure is undertaken;
 - 5.6.3 It operates within the limits of whatever sums of monies are available to it.
 - 5.6.4 Management and delivery of external funding is the responsibility of the Network and failure to adhere to terms agreed with external partners will not be the responsibility of UUSU, who will not be liable for any action taken on the basis of none delivery.
 - 5.6.5 Any Network Committee member, who enters into any form of financial commitment without UUSU's prior authority, commits only themselves and in no way commits UUSU.

6. Network Recognition by UUSU

- 6.1 Statements made are the beliefs of the Network alone and will not be recognised as the official voice of UUSU. This should be noted within communications and statements made by the network.
- 6.2 Networks will be branded according to designs approved by the Network Management Committee.
- 6.3 Networks must to remain constituted submit a plan of action for the year as defined by the Networks Management Committee.

7. Disciplinary Procedures

- 7.1 Network Committee members are bound by the Office Bearers code of conduct and subsequent procedures as defined by the relevant bye-laws.[]