# Bye-Law 1 Democratic Procedures – Proposed Changes

## Introduction

This element of the document should be considered as a support document alongside the final draft presented documents for the associated bye-laws. Each section outlines changes to sections within the applicable bye-law, outlining the existing element on the left with the new proposed amendment on the right.

## Bye-Law One – Democratic Procedures

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| **Existing Element** | **Proposed Element** |
| 2.3.2 Student trustee: 2 years from the date agreed by the Appointments Committee; | 2.3.2 Student trustee: 1 year from the date agreed by the Appointments Committee; |
| 2.4 Student and External trustees can serve a maximum of two terms, so long as they are still eligible for the position. | 2.4 Student trustees can serve a maximum of three terms so long as they are ratified by Student Council for each of the subsequent terms. |
| 2.5 Student Officers can serve a maximum of three terms if elected for each of the three eligible years. | 2.5 External trustees can serve a maximum of two terms, so long as they are still eligible for the position.  All subsequent items numbering sequence increases. |
| 3.2 Positions will be filled through a cross-campus ballot and positions will be elected by those constituencies eligible to do so (i.e. by campus). The President will nominate a Returning Officer who will ordinarily be a member of staff. | 3.2 Positions will be filled through a cross-campus ballot and positions will be elected by those constituencies eligible to do so (i.e. by campus). The President will nominate a senior member of staff to oversee and ensure the integrity of the election. |
| 3.3 The exception to 3.2 above, will be societies, academic and sports representatives who will be elected through their own structures. | 3.3 The exception to 3.2 above, will be academic and sports representatives who will be elected through their own structures. |
| 3.4 Where positions remain unfilled, the President has the power to submit candidates to the selection of Student Council which would require a 50% + 1 vote in favour, of those members present, to co-opt on said candidates as members. Nominees will be required to attend the meeting of Council at which they are nominated, and members may submit questions to them as to their suitability before voting. | 3.4 Where positions remain unfilled, positions may be offered to unsuccessful candidates in other constituencies (eligibility withstanding) by the Returning Officer prioritised on the basis of votes received. If positions remain unfilled nominations may be submitted through the President to Student Council. Ratification of nominees will require a 50% + 1 vote in favour , of those members present, to co-opt on said candidates as members. Nominees will be required to attend the meeting of Council at which they are nominated, and members may submit questions to them as to their suitability before voting. |
| 3.7 A student councillor may be removed from their position if they fail to attend two consecutive meetings. The decision will be taken by a majority vote at Student Council meetings. They shall also forfeit membership of any committees or groups they have gained as a result of their role as a councillor. | 3.7 A student councillor may be removed from their position if they fail to attend two consecutive Council meetings, or meetings that are associated with their Council role, without a valid and approved reason. The removal decision will be taken by a majority vote at Student Council. They shall also forfeit membership of any committees or groups they have gained as a result of their role as a councillor. |
| 3.9 The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Student Council will be nominated at the first meeting of the academic year following a Student Council election. Hustings will take place at the first meeting and there will be a democratic vote of all councillors present to determine the holder of these positions for the remainder of the Council term. | 3.9 The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Student Council, and any other positions associated with Council membership, will be nominated at the first meeting of the academic year following a Student Council election. Hustings will take place at the first meeting and there will be a democratic secret ballot of all councillors present to determine the holder of these positions for the remainder of the Council term. |
| 3.10 The Clerk of Council will be a UUSU staff member. The role of the Clerk shall act as secretary to Student Council. They shall be responsible for taking minutes of any council meetings, drafting and dissemination of all required papers and notifying Student Council and the Chair of any factual Points of Information. Council will elect two Deputy Clerks to perform duties as required by the Clerk at the first Council meeting of the academic year. | 3.10 The Clerk of Council will be a relevant UUSU staff member as defined by UUSU. The Clerk shall act as secretary to Student Council and associated bodies. They shall be responsible for taking minutes of any council meetings, drafting and dissemination of all required papers and notifying Student Council and the Chair of any factual Points of Information. |
| 3.11.2 Sports Union Management (see Bye Law 4); | 3.11.2 Student Council Oversight Committee (see section four, below); |
| 3.11.3 Societies Management Committee (See Bye Law 5); | 3.11.3 Sports Management Committee (see Bye Law 4); |
|  | 3.11.4 Societies Management Committee (See Bye Law 5); |
| 3.11.4 Disciplinary Committee (see Bye Law 7). | Removed |
| New Element | 3.11.5 Networks Management Committee (See Bye Law 9); |
| 3.14 The Disciplinary Committee will be convened as needed. | To be removed |
| New Element | Section Four: Student Council Oversight Committee  **Student Council Oversight Committee**  The Student Council Oversight Committee (hereafter referred to as the Oversight Committee) is a student led body guiding the development of Student Council with the power of recommendation. This group will meet a minimum of three times per year in advanced of scheduled Student Council meetings to oversee the work and role of the Student Council and its associated Sub Committees.  4.1 Membership of the committee will include but not be limited to:  4.1.1 The Deputy Chair of Student Council;  4.1.2 Three additional elected Student Council members;  4.1.3 One member of the Student Executive as designated by the Student Executive Committee;  4.1.4 The Clerk of Council (Non-Voting)  4.2 The Oversight Committee shall have the following responsibilities:  4.2.3 Supporting the accountability process for the work of Student Council and its members.  4.2.4 Provide an oversight function for the associated sub committees, working groups and operations falling under the remit of the Student Council.  4.2.5 To produce an annual report to UUSU identifying areas for improvement in relations to the operations of the Student Council and it’s associated groups alongside areas of good practice.  4.3 Student Council Oversight Committee will be a recognised sub-committee of UUSU Student Council. |
| Equality Networks | Section to be removed |
| Section Four: The Student Executive  The Student Executive will be governed as specified in the Articles of Association and the UUSU standing orders in Bye-law Two. Their role, as defined by our Articles of Association is representation and campaign work, and the implementation of policy. | Section Five: The Student Executive  The Student Executive will be governed as specified in the Articles of Association and the UUSU standing orders in Bye-law Two. Their role, as defined by our Articles of Association is representation and campaign work, and the implementation of policy. Through collective decision making the Student Executive will also advocate for the rights of members and equity for those who remain underrepresented.  **All subsequent items to increase in number due to additional prior elements.** |
| 4.1.2 The VP Sports and Wellbeing; | 5.1.2 The Vice President Sport and Wellbeing[[1]](#footnote-1); from academic year 26/27 known as VP Sport  (Footnote - As of the 26-27 Academic year this role will be revised to be the Vice President for Sport and role descriptions updated accordingly.) |
| 4.1.4 The Vice President Equality and Belonging; | 5.1.4 The Vice President Equality and Belonging; from academic year 26/27 known as VP Equity and Inclusion  (Footnote - As of the 26-27 Academic year this role will be revised to be the Vice President for Equity and Inclusion and role descriptions updated accordingly.) |
| 4.2 Role descriptions and work plans for Officers will be reviewed annually, in addition to specific duties the Student Executive, will be generally responsible for: | 5.2 Role descriptions for Officers will be reviewed annually, in addition to specific duties the Student Executive, who are a collective decision making body, accountable and responsible for: |
| 4.2.1 Encouraging member participation in all aspects of UUSU activities; | 5.2.1 Ensuring that collective representation structures are meaningful in valuing and empowering student opinion in effectively advocating on the issues raised within the student membership.  Encouraging member participation in all aspects of UUSU activities; |
| 4.2.2 Encouraging members to attend internal and external meetings as required; | Remove element |
| 4.2.3 Furthering the aims and objectives of UUSU; | 5.2.2 Furthering the aims and objectives of UUSU; |
| 4.2.4 Presenting the policy of UUSU to external organisations and meetings as appropriate; | 5.2.3 Developing the student led policies of UUSU advocating change to relevant stakeholders to create change as appropriate; |
| New Element | 5.2.4 Engaging with the membership both in person and within the digital environment, with a view to encouraging student participation and input |
| New Element | 5.2.5 Be the accountable body around raised and identified member campaigns, increasing awareness of the aims of objectives of such. |
| 4.2.6 Submitting their Yearly Plan to the first meeting of Student Council for ratification; | 5.2.6 Submitting their Yearly Plan to the first meeting of Student Council for ratification; |
| 4.2.5 The production of an end of year report outlining the progress against milestones and achievements whilst in office; | 5.2.7 The production of an end of year report outlining the progress against the yearly plan and highlighting achievements whilst in office; |
| 4.2.7 Gathering and disseminating information regarding the student voice and collective student opinion; | 5.2.8 Gathering, analysing and disseminating information regarding the student voice and collective student opinion; |
| 4.3 Full time positions on the Student Executive will be given an annual living allowance. | To be deleted. |
| 4.8 Any full member of the Students’ Union who are deemed by the University as being in good academic standing is eligible for nomination, to propose candidates and to vote in elections, provided that they are a member of the constituency for which that election is being held. | 5.8 Any full member of the Students’ Union who are deemed by the University as being an active student is eligible for nomination, to propose candidates and to vote in elections, provided that they are a member of the constituency for which that election is being held. |
| New Element | 5.10 The Student Executive will have a appended terms of reference that it follows which will be reviewed annually. |
| New Element | 5.11 The Student Executive shall meet formally at least once a month but may meet informally to discuss ongoing operational matters. |
| New ElementN | 5.12 The meeting record (minutes) of Student Executive will be shared via the following platforms (online and to relevant stakeholders) to encourage the ongoing transparency and accountability of SE and Student Council to the wider membership. Some of the meeting record may be redacted or condensed to protect others and meet compliance needs. |
| New Element | 1. In exceptional circumstances, Student Council may approve an incoming Officer to commence or offer support pertaining to the vacant role. |
| 4.13 All Student Executive must declare if any conflicts of interest arise and be absent from any part of a meeting that could be discussing issues affecting those bodies. | 5.16 Each member of Student Executive must declare if any conflicts of interest arise and be absent from any part of a meeting that could be discussing issues affecting those bodies. |
| 4.15 Any full member of the UUSU can submit a motion of censor or complaint to the President in relation to the Student Executive Officers. Bye Law 7 outlines the full complaints and disciplinary process for office bearers. | 5.18 Any full member of the UUSU can trigger the relevant complaints procedure for Student Officers or in relation to other members Bye Law 7 outlines the full complaints and disciplinary process for office bearers. |
| 6.1 Student Member Meetings are to be held annually and are open to all members to attend. For quorum to be met there must be at least 30 students present. | 7.1 Student Member Meetings are to be held annually and are open to all members to attend. For quorum to be met there must be at least 30 members present. |
| 7.1 UUSU shall be affiliated jointly to the National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (NUSUK) and the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and shall pay such affiliation fees as are democratically decided by NUSUK and USI. This affiliation shall be put to a Referendum as standard every three years or where the referendum process is triggered in line with the relevant Byelaw. | 8.1 UUSU shall be affiliated jointly to the National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (NUSUK) and Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn (AMLÉ) (formally the Union of Students in Ireland (USI)) and shall pay such affiliation fees as are democratically decided by NUSUK and AMLÉ. This affiliation shall be put to a Referendum as standard every three years or where the referendum process is triggered in line with the relevant Byelaw. |
| 7.2 Representatives to the conferences of NUSUK and USI Annual Congress and NUS/USI Conference shall be elected by cross-campus ballot. If positions are not filled through this method, the President shall have the power to co-opt students to the positions as they see fit. The President is a delegate ex-officio. | 8.2 To ensure rounded membership participation and representation at the conferences of NUSUK and AMLÉ Annual Congress and NUS/USI Conference, 50% of places will be reserved for general membership and shall be elected by cross-campus ballot. If positions are not filled through this method, the President shall have the power to co-opt students to the positions as they see fit. The President is a delegate ex-officio. |
| 7.3 No delegate sent to any conference and/or organisation as a representative of UUSU shall vote on any policy/motion/election unless it has been deliberated by Student Council and has received a Mandate on voting. | 8.3 No delegate sent to any conference and/or organisation as a representative of UUSU shall vote against an active Union policy or position. |
| 7.4 If such a situation arises upon which a motion/policy arises and there is no time to seek a mandate from Student Council, the delegate lead will have the decision as to whether to abstain or to afford delegates a free vote on said matter; | 8.4 If such a situation arises upon which a motion/policy arises which we do not have a Union policy or position and there is no time to seek a mandate from Student Council, the delegate lead will have the decision as to whether to abstain or to afford delegates a free vote on said matter; |
| 7.5 Any delegate that finds that they cannot carry out the mandate as set by Student Council must resign their position immediately or at the first possible opportunity. If this is not possible as the delegate is at a conference session, then said delegate that finds they cannot carry out the mandate as set by Student Council or the Delegate Lead must abstain from the vote in question. | 8.5 Any delegate that finds that they cannot carry out the mandate as set by Student Council must abstain from the vote in question. |
| 7.6 Any delegate that finds that they cannot carry out the mandate as set by Student Council must resign their position immediately or at the first possible opportunity. If this is not possible as the delegate is at a conference session, then said delegate must abstain from a vote. | To be deleted |

1. As of the 26-27 Academic year this role will be revised to be the Vice President for Sport and role descriptions updated accordingly. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)