

Update to Byelaw 10 following Code of Conduct Review

UPDATED BYELAW:

Byelaw 10: Conduct and Complaints

1. The Bristol SU Member Code of Conduct sets [out standards of conduct and expected behaviors for all Members \(including all membership categories that are in place at any time\).](#) Bristol Students' Union Trustee Board oversees the Code of Conduct and will review it annually to ensure it is fit for purpose and being applied effectively. (All students at the University of Bristol (UoB) are also subject to the University's regulations and procedure, as well).
2. The Bristol SU Group Code of Conduct [sets out standards of conduct and expected behaviors for all affiliated student groups, group leaders, associated people \(coaches and instructors\) and supporters.](#)
3. The Bristol SU Member Disciplinary Policy and Procedure sets out the framework for managing allegations of misconduct made against members of the Students' Union and for ensuring that disciplinary action, where necessary, is applied fairly and consistently and that there is a right of appeal.
4. Complaints to the SU will be handled according to the Bristol SU Complaints Policy. Complaints can be made by anyone that may have cause to complain about SU services, activities, student groups or members. The process that follows may depend on the relationship to the SU e.g. student, University colleague, member of the community etc and on the nature of the complaint. (Students' Union employees or officers should refer to the Staff Grievance Procedure to raise any concerns or complaints).

Elections

5. Election Rules breaches are to be dealt with through the Elections Complaints Process set out in the Election Rules and the Returning Officer's decision pertaining to them is final.
6. All candidates, voters, members and staff are still bound to the relevant codes of conduct if the complaint or breach extends beyond the Election Rules.

ORIGINAL BYELAW:

Byelaw 10: Discipline and Appeals

Disciplinary Procedure

1. Serious breaches of University of Bristol rules or procedures or conduct constituting misconduct will be referred to the Vice-Chancellor of the University or to a person or persons nominated to act on their behalf as stated in the University's Student Disciplinary Regulations.
2. Student Members and its Student Groups may also be subject to the Union's internal disciplinary action for any breach of the Byelaws or Policy. Student Members and non Student Members should bring allegations regarding breaches of the Byelaws or Policy in accordance with the Union's Complaints Policy. Should the Union become aware of conduct (whether by act or omission) that may constitute a breach of the Byelaws or Policy, it may investigate that conduct as though it were reported through the Union's Complaints Policy.
3. Complaints relating to the conduct of Members and/or Student Groups will be investigated in accordance with the Union's Complaints Policy. The investigation will include the opportunity for the Member and/or Student Group to put forward any evidence.
4. In the event that a Member or Student Group is found to have breached any of the Byelaws or Policy, disciplinary sanctions will be decided by a review group in accordance with the Code of Conduct and Complaints Policy
5. The Member or Student Group committee about which the complaint has been made, or any person who brought the initial complaint under the Union's Complaints Policy, may appeal any decision taken under Byelaw 10 in accordance with the Union's Complaints Policy Disciplinary Procedures during Elections
6. Members and non-Members should bring allegations regarding breaches of elections regulations as described in Byelaw 3 in accordance with the Union's Complaints Policy. Complaints relating to the elections will usually be investigated by the Returning Officer as the appropriate person under the Union's Complaints Policy. If the complaint relates to the actions of the Returning Officer, the Board of Trustees will designate an alternative appropriate person.
7. Complaints and appeals regarding breaches of elections regulations should be submitted prior to the close of voting in the relevant election. Complaints and appeals submitted after the close of voting will be investigated as described in Byelaw 10.1-5 but will not affect the outcome of the relevant election.
8. In the event that a Student Member is found to have breached elections regulations, the Deputy Returning Officer may instigate sanctions. Should a student wish to appeal these sanctions they may appeal to the Returning Officer.

- a. This specifically refer to appealing of any Election Rulings, rather than appeals of Code of Conduct breaches.
 - b. Should a student wish to appeal a decision regarding a Student Code of Conduct breach they must follow the process laid out in the Union's Complaints Policy
9. The Member and any person who brought the initial complaint under the Union's Complaints Policy may appeal any decision taken under Byelaw 10 in accordance with the Union's Complaints Policy.
10. A Returning Officer's decision may be appealed in accordance with the Union's Complaints Policy Procedure. The appeals process for Elections will be outlined in the Election Rules unless relevant to student member conduct (the purpose of the student appeal process).