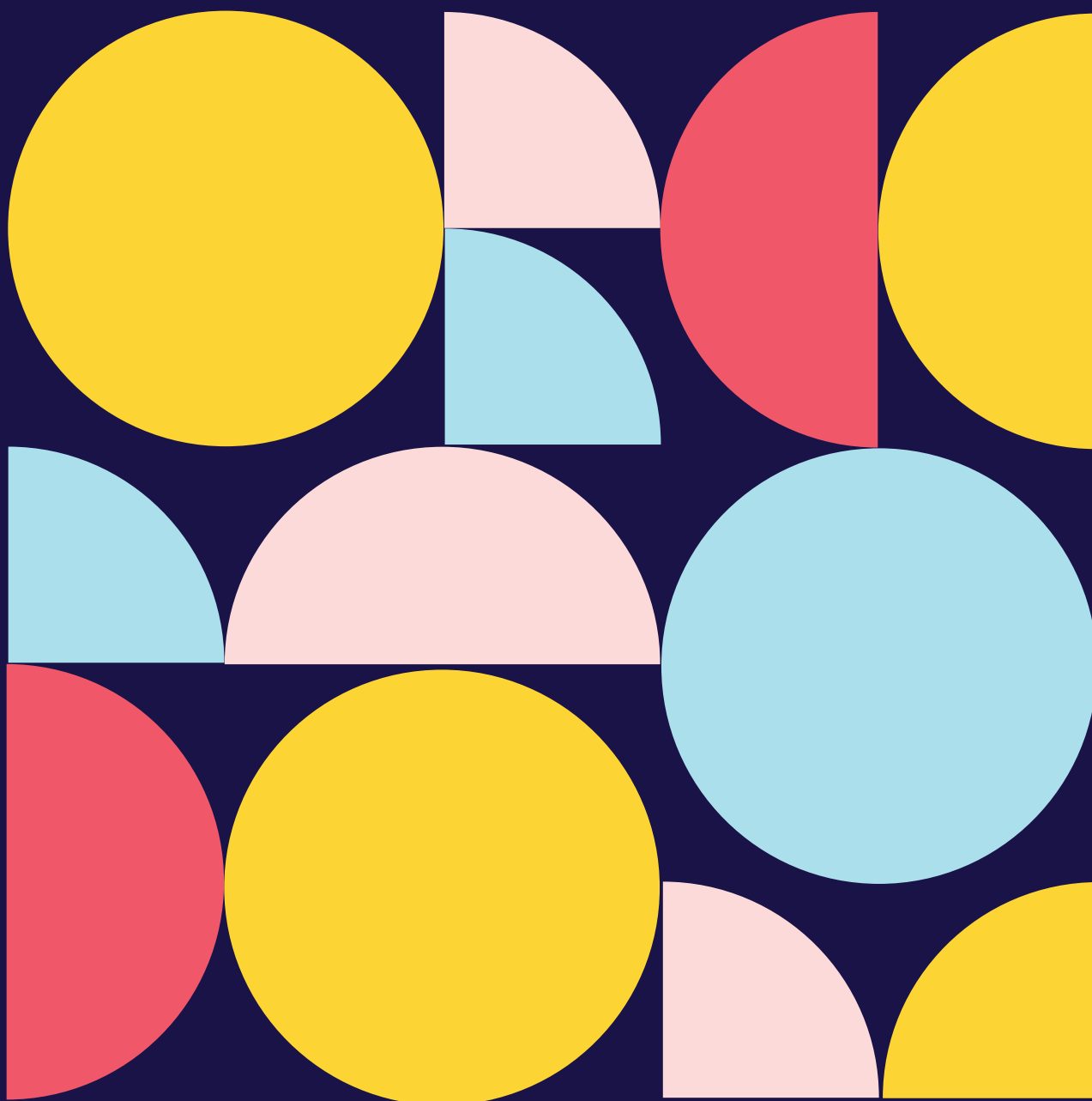




Student Council

Bristol SU's Guide to Student
Council



Student Council is your chance to make a difference and set the agenda to improve students' lives! If you're interested in learning more about democracy at Bristol (and eating free pizza) then come along!

At Bristol, Student Council is the main representative forum of the Students' Union.

During the event, members discuss and vote on items (called motions) submitted by you (students)! Any motions that pass become active SU policy for three years. These policies then direct the focus for our team of seven SU officers.

So, don't miss out on the opportunity to have YOUR say and exercise your Democratic Rights!



Meeting Agenda

- A Welcome from the Chair
- Explanation of Council and Slido
- Updates from the Full-Time Officers and Questions

MOTIONS

All timings on the Motions will vary depending on how many rounds of debate are called for by the Chair.

- Motion 1: Stopping Mandatory Sub-Group Subsidisation in Student Groups (16:30-16:45)
- Motion 2: A Plant-Based Students' Union (16:45-17:00)
- Motion 3: Supporting trans and non-binary students & campaigning for Gender Justice (17:00-17:15)

BREAK (17:15-17:30)

- Motion 4: An Update to SU Byelaws to Align with Current Practice (17:30-17:45)
- Motion 5: Clarifying Elections Process and the Role of Democratic Standards Committee in Elections (17:45-18:00)

Meeting Agenda

BREAK (18:00-18:10)

- Motion 6: Ensuring support for Full-Time Officers (18:10-18:25)
- Motion 7: PGR as Staffs, Not Just Students (18:25-18:40)
- Close/Any Other Business (18:40-18:45)

Digital Voting

As part of our efforts to make our democratic events more accessible, and easier to take part in, we're trying something completely new...**Digital voting!**

This means that if you're a **current-year student rep** you'll be able to cast your vote on motions online. This will be done using **Slido** – an interactive Q&A and polling platform for live and virtual meetings and events.

If you can't join Student Council in person, we will be running the audio and video feed for the meeting through Teams. You will then be able to vote using Slido.

Those wishing to speak for, or against a motion and any amendments **must join the event in person.**

However, **voting will be done via Slido for everyone** – whether you're joining online or in person.

Joining Student Council Online

So, how do you go about attending Student Council online?

- Well, we'll be running an audio and video feed from the Student Council meeting through Teams. If you're eligible to join you should receive an email link.
- You can then head over to Slido on your computer, or phone, by going to slido.com The meeting code is #1786 817.
- Enter your University of Bristol email address (the one that looks like ab12345) and then check your email for a secure pin.
- Input the pin into Slido and you're in! You can use the Q&A function to ask questions during the meeting or vote to support, oppose and abstain on motions once voting opens for each one.

Joining Student Council in Person

If you'd like to speak for or against a motion, or just like the vibe of in-person democracy and free pizza (we know we do!), then come along to **The Anson Rooms in the Richmond building**. **You'll still vote using Slido**, but you don't need to join the Teams call.

- Please note, you'll need to bring a device (a phone, laptop or tablet) with an internet connection, and access to your University email inbox.
- Head over to Slido on your computer or phone by going to slido.com and using the meeting code #1786 817.
- Enter your University of Bristol email address (the one that looks like ab12345) and then check your email for a secure pin.
- Input the pin into Slido and you're in! You can use the Q&A function to ask questions during the meeting or vote to support, oppose and abstain on motions once voting opens for each one.
- Has Slido told you you're not able to join the event? Go and chat with our tech team at the helpdesk and they'll get you in.

Ask the Officers



Student Council is your chance to find out if officers have implemented their manifestos and plans for change and to question their responses to reactive challenges this year.

Have their intentions created results? Are there other changes you would like to have seen?



Izzy Russell: Student Living Officer

This role represents you in all areas related to living in Bristol, including your accommodation, health and wellbeing, finance, and interaction with the local community. As part of this, this Officer will work to make sure that you have access to good advice in these areas and are represented to student support services.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/student-living

Responsibilities include:

- Working for the SU and university buildings (including housing) to be sustainable and accessible.
- Fighting for student rights.
- Making sure that students' interests in health and well-being are represented within the University support services.
- Supporting and developing the Sustainability Network, Fundraising and Volunteering Network, Wellbeing Network, and other Networks as appropriate.

Example of a question someone may ask them at Student Council:

“Do you have an example of when you have fought for student rights, especially in terms of accommodation?”





Adam Michael: Union Affairs Officer

This Officer represents you and your interaction with the SU. This involves making sure that our communication and services are effective, accessible, and relevant for everyone. This officer also works to represent the interests of all students to university executive management.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/union-affairs

Responsibilities include:

- Looking after democracy and representation in Bristol SU.
- Making sure that students are at the heart of Union decision-making.
- Responsible for how students interact with the Union, including effective communication channels and oversight for Union services such as those provided for societies, and volunteering & fundraising (RAG).
- Helping to chair and convene the SU Board of Trustees Finance, Risk and Governance Committee.
- Working to explore the development of student societies.

Example of what you could ask them at Student Council:

“What have you done this year to increase the informal way SU officers receive feedback?”





Saranya Thambirajah: Equality, Liberation, and Access Officer

So that everyone is represented at our SU and Uni, this Officer works to make sure that all students, particularly underrepresented or marginalised groups, are represented on issues related to their experience at the University. This is so that these interests can then be addressed in the development of Union and University policies.

Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**: bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/equality-liberation-and-access

Responsibilities include:

- Working to ensure that Bristol is an inclusive, safe, and accessible university for all students.
- Giving a platform to the voices of students from marginalized backgrounds and identities.
- Working with networks and societies to centre student experiences in the SU and the university. For example, supporting and developing Women's, Black Students, BAME, LGBT+, Trans, Disabled Students, Multifaith, and Widening Participation Networks.
- Supporting students on issues relating to the Bristol SU Equality Policy and overseeing Bristol SU's equality objectives.
- Working with the Sport and Student Development and Union Affairs Officers to support campaigns, activities, and research into diverse student experiences to ensure any barriers to participation are removed.

Example of a question someone may ask them at Student Council:

"What work have you done to champion the voice of students from marginalized backgrounds? Have they felt heard as a result?"





Lucy Matthews: Sport and Student Development Officer

It is important to develop the opportunities that you and your peers have, to make sure that you can engage in a variety of sports. For this reason, this Officer liaises with the University Centre for Sport, Exercise, and Health and oversee the organisation and promotion of sports clubs, the varsity series and sports participation activities.

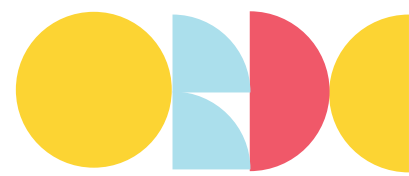
Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**: bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/sport-and-student-development

Responsibilities include:

- Representing sports societies and student groups and their members who are represented throughout the university community, in the SU, and beyond.
- Ensuring that students have access to recreational sporting opportunities.
- Representing the interests of students on matters of personal development.
- Promoting the importance of co-curricular participation and skills development.
- Working with the Equality, Liberation and Access Officer and relevant Chairs of Networks to ensure that the Union's Equality Policy is upheld in all Member-led sporting activities and to ensure any barriers to participation are alleviated.

Example of a question someone may ask them at Student Council:

“Have you created any sporting opportunities for individuals that normally face participation barriers? Did it work and have they continued to participate in activities they wouldn't have before?”





Nicole Antoine: Undergraduate Education Officer

This Officer represents your learning and teaching experiences if you are an undergraduate student. They will also make sure that you receive sufficient academic and welfare-related support. As well as this, they will lead and empower undergraduate Course and Faculty Reps so that their own interests are represented within the University Student Services. Check out the full officer description [here](#).

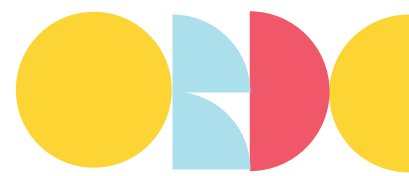
Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/undergraduate-education

Responsibilities include:

- Representing undergraduate students on academic and welfare matters
- Ensuring that undergraduate students are represented at every level of Bristol SU and the University.
- Leading and empowering undergraduate academic elected representatives (Course and Faculty Reps).
- Working with the Postgraduate Education Officer to represent, empower and champion academic societies.
- Supporting and developing the Education Network and other Networks as appropriate.

Example of a question someone may ask them at Student Council:

“How have you increased student awareness of important academic advice that is available to them?”





Lu Macey: Postgraduate Education Officer

This Officer works to represent you, if you are a postgraduate student, to the Uni and SU - especially in terms of research academic and welfare matters. This officer will make sure that all postgraduate students are represented at every level of the SU and university.

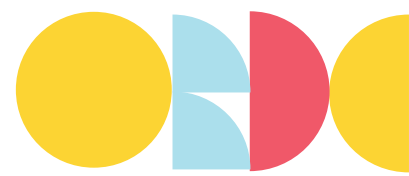
Check out what the current officer has been up to **here**:
bristolsu.org.uk/voice/officers/postgraduate-education

Key responsibilities:

- Representing postgraduate taught and research students on academic and welfare matters
- Ensuring postgraduate students are represented at every level of the SU and university.
- Supporting the postgraduate student network to offer a variety of social environments to postgraduate students
- Helping to shape and inform regulations for Postgraduates within the university
- Shaping a more inclusive across the SU for postgraduate students

Example of a question someone may ask them at Student Council:

“Have you conducted research into how the cost-of-living crisis affects Post Graduate Research? If so, what did you find and what will you be doing to help?”



How does Student Council actually work?



Student Council is a chance for you to get your voice heard directly and help set the agenda of your Students Union!

It happens twice a year, once in TB1 and again in TB2. Ahead of both of these meetings, you can submit your ideas/suggestions (which are called motions). These then get debated in council.

Although all students can submit motions and attend the meeting, **only course reps, faculty reps, network chairs, society presidents, volunteering project coordinators, or club captains can vote on motions.**

All Bristol students can attend Student Council to watch the debates and see which motions have been voted in (passed). These motions are designed to improve students' lives.

In previous Student Councils, students have passed policies to create: Black Students' and Parents, Carers, and Mature Students' Networks, to better support pregnant students, to support the climate strike campaign, and to adopt a harm reduction approach to drugs and alcohol.

This is your chance to make a long-lasting and far-reaching change at Bristol.



What happened in the run-up to Student Council?



In weeks preceding the meeting, a window opens for idea submissions, or '**motions**', and these will get debated between you and other course reps, faculty reps, network chairs, society presidents, volunteering project coordinators, or club captains during the meeting.

After this, an amendments window was opened, which allows other students to change the actions (of a motion) if they didn't agree with them, or if they felt the wording was not quite right. You will now get a chance to vote on these amendments.

Student Council is your student, democratic space. No matter who you are, if you are a Bristol student, you get to have your say about what the SU cares about!



What is a motion?

Sadly, we're not referring to the nightclub on this occasion.

At Student Council, a motion is the formatted way that a student's idea comes to us. It will include a background explaining why they are sending it, a purpose to describe its intent, and any actions that give clear guidance on how we can enact the idea. The motion is then sent to Democratic Standards to be approved by Student Council!

At the meeting, these actions will be displayed on a PowerPoint for each motion that is discussed.

While we are here, you may find it useful to check out the **following terms**:

- **Policy** – when a motion is passed by students, it becomes policy. This is in place for 3 years at the Students Union and can be renewed at the Annual Members Meeting.
- **Amendment** – a suggestion from another student to a student's motion, which can “amend” what exactly the motion may enact. You'll vote on this before you vote on the motion because it'll change what it says!
- **Chair** – the person at the front leading the meeting.
- **Democracy Desk** – a group of elected students, Democratic Standards Committee, who you can ask procedural questions to any time.



More useful terms!

- **Abstain** – When you decide not to vote for or against a motion. Your abstention won't be counted as a vote.
- **Action** – What a motion is setting out to do if it passes.
- **Byelaw** – One of the important governing documents for the SU, advising how to go about doing things as a Students' Union.
- **Democratic Standards Committee** – A student committee elected by you, that makes decisions on the procedures for our Democratic Events.
- **Proposer & Seconder** – At Student Council, it is vital that all motions have two students. A proposer is the person who “proposes” a motion, and the seconder is the second student who supports it.
- **Quoracy** – The minimum amount of students/voting members we need to conduct a Student Council or make a vote on something.
- **Referendum** – Should a student wish, they can take a motion's actions to an all-student referendum. This has to be requested by Democratic Standards Committee during Council.
- **Speech For** – When someone speaks “for” the motion in support.
- **Speech Against** – When someone speaks against a motion.



How is the meeting structured?



Firstly, those who introduced the motion ideas get to speak to Student Council attendees to propose and convince others to pass the motion.

Then, the Chair will allow someone to speak against the motion if they don't agree with it.

If you didn't propose it, you will be able to ask any questions you have about the motion to its proposer, but mainly just to further clarify the idea – not to deliver an opposition speech against it! This is then rinsed and repeated until we need to hold a vote!

There might be a chance that the Chair thinks there needs to be another round of arguments. This is because sometimes an idea might be quite complex, so they want to make sure it's heard fairly.



Breaking a motion into parts

When you're looking at the Actions displayed on the PowerPoint, you might notice some things that you want to happen – but not every action that is listed. If so, you can speak to the **Democracy Desk** before the vote has started, and ask for a motion to be broken into parts. This means Council will vote on each action separately rather than all together.

Here's an example:

The Motion: *“A Warmer University”*

The Actions:

- **Action 1:** To give everyone a free hat so they're warm in the winter
- **Action 2:** Make sure heating is on in all student study spaces during the day
- **Action 3:** To ensure university halls remained heated

You might think that two of the actions make sense but think **Action 1** is *a bit silly*.

So, you can approach the Democracy Desk so that everyone votes on each Action, not all of them grouped.



Why it is important to debate?

Imagine if the SU suddenly decided it was against their practice to ever support the football or to never host events past the month of March. It would feel pretty unfair, right?

You can have your say and change this decision through debate – which is designed as a chance to hear from everyone. This way, we can carry on being a Union for all Students!

Even if a motion that is a ‘good thing’ is proposed in the meeting, it may take SU time away from other valuable things. So, the debate is a great opportunity to establish current SU priorities.



Will there be a referendum?

If something is seriously contentious, and you think that it needs even more students to help make a change, then might you propose it goes to Referendum. This means you have to:

1. Have this voted on by Council/AMM attendees
2. Have a question agreed with Democratic Standards Committee
3. The question must be in a “Yes/No” binary

Hopefully, this handy guide has answered some of your questions about Student Council and what to expect. But it's a confusing topic!

If you ever have any further questions or would like to find out some extra info that hasn't been included, then send an email over to

bristolsu-democracy@bristol.ac.uk

Also, feel free to check out our Democratic Events webpage, which provides even more detail about Student Council!



Student Council Motions: May 2023



A Plant-Based Students' Union

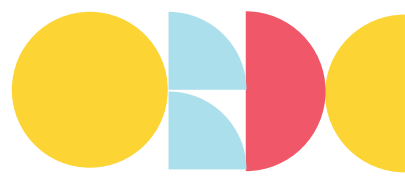
Proposer: Jesse Prince

An Update to SU Byelaws to Align with Current Practice

Proposer: Adam Michael

Clarifying the role of Democratic Standards Committee during Elections

Proposer: Adam Michael



Student Council Motions: May 2023



Ensure academic support in place for all Full-Time Officer Candidates

Proposer: Lucy Matthews

PGR as Staff, not just Students

Proposer: Lauren Hennessy

Stopping Mandatory Sub-Group Subsidisation in Student Groups

Proposer: James Forster

Supporting Trans and non-binary students & campaigning for Gender Justice

Proposer: Saranya Thambirajah



A Plant-Based Students' Union

Proposer: Jesse Prince Second: Izzy Russell

Background

1. In 2019, our university was the first in the UK to declare a climate emergency[1]. In 2020, we cut all investments in fossil fuels. Divesting from animal agriculture is the next logical step. It's responsible for at least 18% of global emissions[2] and limiting global warming to 1.5°C will require drastic carbon dioxide removal (CDR) from the atmosphere. The most effective route for this in the UK is the restoration of our native forests[3].
2. Should we transition to plant-based farming, the UK could free up 51% of its land for rewilding and carbon drawdown[4]. As such, the University of Stirling has recently passed an SU motion to go 100% plant-based by 2025 in response to the climate crisis[5].
3. A similar transition at Bristol is something our student union could be really proud of. Demonstrating this is our multiple endorsements from both vegan and non-vegan groups conscious of the climate emergency and enthusiastic to act. Plant Based Treaty, a national grassroots campaign working with councils to become more sustainable, have stated their support for our motion: *'Plant Based Treaty is fully supportive of the student climate leaders who understand the alignment of climate science and ethics in their bold demands for a fully plant-based university.'*

Purpose

1. Undeniably, the subsidy schemes in the UK favour animal products, as does the private/fast food sector. This is why meat and dairy-based partnerships are much more convenient and popular.
2. However, universities educate the leaders of our future and are the sites where much of our research and understanding of the climate crisis emerges. Some of the most compelling research on agriculture and climate comes from universities, including Oxford¹ and Harvard. The literature is showing that, regardless of production method, plant-based agriculture is inherently less resource-intensive than animal agriculture. This highlights the importance of institutional divestment in mitigating climate disasters.



3. Plant-based catering is a necessary step in the development of a more sustainable food system. It can be achieved without detriment to any particular persons and can be nutritionally sound and inclusive of all faiths and religions.

4. The Student's Union is responsible for setting an example. Its principles and actions can inspire students to think critically and act more in alignment with their values on environmental justice. This motion is an opportunity to show students that, in an era of climate anxiety, young people can actively help to create a more sustainable future for themselves and their community.



Actions

1. For the Students' Union to officially endorse the Plant Based Universities Campaign, and for SU Officers to lobby internally for university-wide affordable, fully plant-based food at UoB.
2. For the Students' Union to aim for 100% plant-based catering as far as is practically and financially possible. This will first manifest through the improvement and expansion of plant-based options at union-run and union-catered events, with the target of 50% plant-based and 100% meat-free by the 2025-26 academic year.
3. For the Students' Union to explore creating a sustainability accreditation and grant by 2025 for student groups that commit to offering 100% plant-based food at their events.
4. For the Students' Union to lobby for the on-campus vending machines to go 50% plant-based by 2025 and 100% plant-based by 2027.



Sources

- 1.) New estimates of the environmental cost of food | University of Oxford
- 2.) Eating Away at Climate Change with Negative Emissions. Repurposing UK agricultural land to meet climate goals
- 3.) IPBES-IPCC C-Sponsored Workshop. Biodiversity and Climate Change
- 4.) UoB becomes first UK university to declare climate emergency. Bristol Live. 2019
- 5.) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2006) Livestock's Long Shadow: Environmental Issues and Options. (p. 271)
- 6.) Repurposing UK agricultural land to meet climate goals
- 7.) Eating Away at Climate Change with Negative Emissions. Repurposing UK agricultural land to meet climate goals
- 8.) University of Strirling to go 100% plant based in UK first



An Update to SU Byelaws to Align with Current Practice

Proposer: Adam Michael Second: Lu Macey

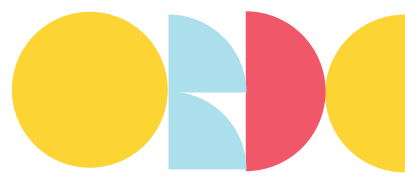
Background

1. Bristol SU is governed by its Articles of Association and Byelaws, which are documents laying out many of our rules and procedures.
2. Over time these documents have been amended in minor ways and this has resulted in inconsistencies particularly with regards to the SU Byelaws' clauses.
3. There are also clauses which are too open ended or aren't coherent and this results in confusion for when the SU needs to make decisions on them.
4. Bristol SU's Staff, Officers and Trustees reviewed our Byelaws in 2021 to identify changes that need to be made. They did an extensive review.
5. There have also been minor changes to the representative structures such as the addition of Network Committee roles and change in the role of Junior Common Room Presidents being a part of the Students' Union representative structure .
6. The Union Affairs Officers has helped to explore what changes need to take place working with SU Staff.



Purpose

1. To correct any inconsistencies that are in Bristol SU's Byelaws that have arisen with updates
2. To ensure all cross-referencing between Byelaws are accurate and up to date
3. To clarify any wording that has made the practice of the Union's governance unclear at any stage as identified by review



Actions

1. To amend the Byelaw 2 in the following ways:

a. Original Text: Policy remains active for three Academic Years; thereafter it lapses unless renewed by the Annual Members' Meeting.

Byelaw 2, Clause 4 new wording: Policy remains active for three Academic Years; thereafter it lapses unless renewed.

(a) Renewal will take place the third year of the active policy when it was due to expire (b) Once expired it would be renewed at the next Annual Members Meeting that takes place.

2. To amend Byelaw 3 in the following ways:

a. Byelaw 3 Clause 1 to include a section G, and to amend the wording on sections B and F:

i. "g. Student Trustees: as defined by Byelaw 8, elected annually by cross-campus ballot"

ii. **Original text:** "b. Chairs of Networks: defined in Byelaw 8, elected annually by a ballot of the Student Members or, in the case of Liberation Networks, as defined by Byelaw 7, by a ballot of the Student Members self-identifying into the Liberation group."

New wording: "b. Chair of Networks: as defined in Byelaw 7 and 8 they are elected annually by all student members unless the Network requires a level of self-identification which will restrict the ballot to those who self-identify under that category."

iii. **Original Text:** f. Democratic Standards Committee: as set out in Byelaw 6, elected annually by a ballot of the members of the Student Council in the first term of the Academic Year.

New wording: "f. Democratic Standards Committee: as set out in Byelaw 6, elected annually by a cross-campus ballot of Student Members in the first term of the Academic Year."

b. To amend Byelaw 3, Clause 3:

i. **Original Text:** 3. The Returning Officer is appointed by Student Council or the Democratic Standards Committee with the approval of the Board of Trustees or designated sub-committee for the purpose of administering elections.

New wording: The Returning Officer is appointed by Student Council or by the Democratic Standards Committee, with a notification to the Board of Trustees or relevant designated sub-committee for the purpose of administering elections.



3. To amend Byelaw 5 in the following ways:

- a. **Original Text:** 1. The Annual Members' Meeting is responsible for creating Policy and holding Union officers to account.

Byelaw 5, Clause 1 new wording: The Annual Members' Meeting is responsible for creating Policy and holding Union Officers to account. (2) It is open to all Student Members

- b. **Original Text:** 7. The Full-Time Officers should take all reasonable steps to ensure that University teaching is suspended at the time of the meeting.

Byelaw 5, Clause 7 new wording: The Full-Time Officers should take all reasonable steps to ensure that University teaching is suspended at the time of the meeting as far as possible with timetables restrictions

4. To amend Byelaw 6 in the following ways:

- a. **Original Text:** 1. Student Council undertakes the following roles: a. Scrutinises the work of the Elected Officers, Chairs, Faculty Representatives and Networks.

Byelaw 6, Clause 1 section A new wording: Student Council undertakes the following roles (a) Scrutinises the work of the Elected Officers

- b. **Original Text:** b. Creates, amends, renews, and disposes of any policy or mandate of the Union, except where such policy has been set by a referendum or cross-campus ballot in accordance with Articles of Association.

Byelaw 6, Clause 1 section B new wording: b. Creates, amends, renews and disposes of any policy or mandate of the Union, except where such policy has been set by a referendum or cross-campus ballot in accordance with the Articles of Association.

- c. **A removal of Byelaw 6, Clause 6 section D on the grounds that Networks are created via motions to Council rather than the process outlined.**

- d. **To add Clause 3, section B:** The Chairs of Networks, as defined in Byelaw 8, or a nominee from their Committee as outlined in their Standing Mandates.

- e. **To remove Clause 4, section C** as Junior Common Presidents are no longer representatives within the Students Union structure



5. To amend Byelaw 7 in the following ways:

a. **An addition to Byelaw 7, Clause 7 of a Section A to read as follows:**

Any Student Member may attend the meeting to observe and speak with the Chair's approval.

(a) Any non-voting member who has submitted a motion will be automatically invited to speak for the motion

b. **Original Text:** Liberation Networks may elect delegates to NUS liberation conferences. (a) If an election cannot be held in the usual way, via an online ballot, because of problems identifying relevant electors, the vote will be held at a meeting of the relevant Network and publicised well in advance. (b) If an election is being held at a meeting of a Network, the candidates are subject to the same regulations as candidates for other elections.

Byelaw 7, Clause 8 new wording: Liberation Networks Chairs (as defined in Byelaw 8) will be approached as the first port of call for representation as delegates to the NUS Liberation Conference.

(a) If the Chair of Network is unavailable then the offer will be extended to committee

(b) If the committee is unavailable then Society Presidents of relevant self identifying societies will be approached

(c) the Full-Time Officers will also be offered a space on the delegation

c. **Original Text: Networks must submit reports to Student Council and its Standing Committee as requested by the Student Members**

Byelaw 7, Clause 14 new wording: Networks must give a report to Standing Committee as a verbal and/or written update

6. To amend Byelaw 8 in the following ways (clauses 2, 7, 8, 9, 29-31 section C):

a. **Original Text:** All Union Officers will be elected by cross-campus ballot.

Byelaw 8 Clause 2 new wording: Union Officers will be elected by cross-campus ballot, with the exception of the Chair of the Education Network (who is elected by Faculty Representatives), and any other Union Officer that is elected via self-identification.

b. **Original Text:** All Union Officers are accountable to the following channels: a. Annual and Extraordinary Members' Meetings. b. Student Council. c. Relevant Union Networks

Byelaw 8 Clause 7 New Wording: All Union Officers are accountable to the following channels:

a. Annual and Extraordinary Members' Meetings.

b. Student Council.

c. Relevant Union Networks

d. Standing Committee (as a sub-committee of Student Council comprised of Student Leaders)

c. **Original Text:** In accordance with Byelaw 3, the delegates are elected by cross campus ballot in the first term.

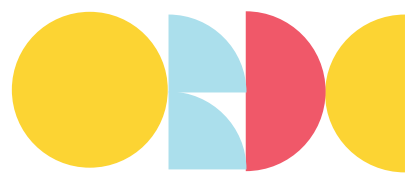


Byelaw 8 Clause 29 new wording: In accordance with Byelaw 3, the delegates are elected by cross-campus ballot in the first term. This also should be in accordance with any quota specifications from the NUS from time to time

d. **Original Text:** In addition, a Full-Time Officer is automatically elected as an ex-officio member and leader of the delegation, which comes from the annual delegation. The decision as to which Full-Time Officer attends rests with the Union Affairs Officer.

Byelaw 8 Clause 30 new wording: In addition, a Full-Time Officer is automatically elected as an ex-officio member and leader of the delegation, which comes from the annual delegation. The decision as to which Full-Time Officer attends rests with the Union Affairs Officer

e. **Removal of the Byelaw 8 clause 31 section c**



Clarifying the Role of Democratic Standards Committee During Elections

Proposer: Adam Michael Second: Lu Macey

Background

1. Students' Union Elections are monitored by the Deputy Returning Officer, with an external Returning Officer to offer any final rulings (Byelaws 3.4, 3.5)
2. Election and Referenda Rules are set out by Democratic Standards Committee, who are democratically elected students (Byelaws 3.3, 3.8, 4.7, 10.8)
3. In reality the SU carries out rulings on elections via the Deputy Returning Officer, using the election rules, and the Returning Officer is consulted if there is a major rules breach which needs to be escalated
4. Bristol SU allows self-nomination in our elections, but the byelaws make reference to requiring nominees to have nomination support from their peers. This is an outdated and an unnecessary barrier to students hoping to stand in our elections
5. There is also confusion on the timeline of elections, the roles that students can stand for as well as what roles they can vote for.



Purpose

1. To clarify the role of the Democratic Standards Committee on how they set and approve election rules
2. To clarify the role of the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer to align with current practices
3. To ensure a clear referral to the Appeals on Elections Complaints Procedure



Actions

1. To change the relevant Byelaw 3 and clauses under Elections to reflect current practices for the Deputy Returning Officer and Returning Officer

a. **Original Text:** 4. The Returning Officer is the sole competent official to adjudicate on elections decisions except for appeals to their decisions.

Byelaw 3, Clause 4 - new proposed wording: The Returning Officer is the ultimate competent official to adjudicate election decisions except for appeals to their decisions. Their appointed Deputy will help deliberate and operationally deliver election rulings

b. **Original Text:** 6. The Returning Officer has the power to appoint deputies and other election officials from staff of the Union, Members and appropriate external people. Any external appointments must be notified to the Board of Trustees. All staff appointments must be authorised by the Chief Executive.

Byelaw 3, Clause 6 - new proposed wording: The Returning Officer has the power to appoint deputies and other election officials from staff of the Union, Members and appropriate external people. Any external appointments must be notified to the Board of Trustees. All staff appointments must be authorised by the Chief Executive. The Deputy shall serve as executive decision maker for most of

Elections with the Returning Officer approving major decisions such as the disqualification of a candidate.

c. **Original Text:** 8. The Returning Officer is responsible for producing the election or referendum regulations, which must be approved by the Democratic Standards Committee prior to the commencement of the election process. See Appendix 1 for current regulations.

Byelaw 3, Clause 8 - new wording: The Returning Officer is responsible for approving the election or referendum regulations which are set out by the Democratic Standards Committee (as defined in Byelaw 6). Sanctions will be determined by the Deputy Returning Officer and approved when necessary by the Returning Officer

d. **Original Text:** 11. Notice of elections must be given a minimum of seven days before nominations open. Nominations must open at least fourteen days before the opening of polling. Polling must be at least for one day and no more than ten days.

Byelaw 3, Clause 11 - new wording: Notice of elections must be given a minimum of seven days before nominations open. Nominations must be open for at least fourteen days before the opening of polling. Polling must be open for at least one day and no more than ten days. This will be amenable for any relevant by-elections that needs to take place outside of usual election periods.

e. **A removal of Byelaw 3, Clause 15** (“Members require at least two and not more than five other Student Members to nominate them for a position.”)



2. To amend Byelaw 10, Clause 8:

Original Text: “In the event that a Student Member is found to have breached elections regulations, the Returning Officer may instigate sanctions as approved by the Democratic Standards Committee prior to the commencement of the election.”

New wording: “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”
3. To clarify in Byelaw 10 regarding Student Appeals that 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)

4. To amend Byelaw 8, clause 4 sections A and B:

Original Text: “In the situation that a Union Officer were to vacate their role, voluntarily or involuntarily, their roles and responsibilities are not to be left vacant once the legal procedure to terminate their contract is completed. Their replacement may take two forms:

- a) If there are more than 6 months left of tenure: A Full-Time replacement, under the same paid conditions, is to be found via the process of a by-election, following all of the Union’s formal election rules.
- b) If there are less than 6 month left, part-time replacements are to be put in place – this could take the form of the relevant Chairs of Networks, Faculty Representatives (in the case of the UG and PG Education Officers), the remainder of the Full-Time Officer team and/or Union staff. Undertaking this role would not result in an increase in pay for the other Full-Time officers, or SU Staff, and would not lead to those students holding part-time representation roles receiving the salary that the Full-Time Officer, had they remained in their post, would have received. However, holding these additional responsibilities, shall not incur a cost on those taking them on, and they shall be reimbursed for any costs associated with their role, as a Full-Time Officer would be.”



New wording: “In the situation that a Union Officer were to vacate their role, voluntarily or involuntarily, their roles and responsibilities are not to be left vacant once the legal procedure to terminate their contract is completed. Their replacement may take two forms:

a) If there are more than 9 months left of tenure: A Full-Time replacement, under the same paid conditions, is to be found via the process of a by-election, following all of the Union’s formal election rules.

b) If there are less than 9 months left, part-time replacements are to be put in place – this could take the form of the relevant Chairs of Networks, Faculty Representatives (in the case of the UG and PG Education Officers), the remainder of the Full-Time Officer team and/or Union staff. Undertaking this role would not result in an increase in pay for the other Full-Time officers, or SU Staff, and would not lead to those students holding part time representation roles receiving the salary that the Full-Time Officer, had they remained in their post, would have received. However, holding these additional responsibilities, shall not incur a cost on those taking them on, and they shall be reimbursed for any costs associated with their role, as a Full-Time Officer would be.



Ensure Academic Support in Place for All Full-Time Officer Candidates

Proposer: Lucy Matthews Second: Adam Michael

Background

1. Election seasons requires full commitment however there are circumstances which students might feel limit their commitment to running in the elections. This could be assignments, lectures, or meeting scholarship requirements.
2. With Industrial Action affecting the student academic experience, students may be less inclined to miss teaching over elections week.
3. Full-Time Officers re-running in an election are not allowed to participate in working commitments giving them more flexibility throughout elections.

Purpose

1. To better support the personal development of Bristol Students by minimising barriers for running in elections
2. To advance the education of Bristol Students by ensuring educational opportunities are not tainted because of elections

Actions

1. The 7 Full-Time Officers to lobby the university for academic regulation changes over election week including extensions and extenuating circumstances.
2. The FTO team to present a paper on this to a relevant University Committee such as Student Experience committee. 3. The SU to continue to promote resources available to candidates throughout election week including academic advice and wellbeing



PGRs as Staff, not just students.

Proposer: Lauren Hennessy Second: Conor Macisl

Background

1. The university values its postgraduate researcher (PGR) community and their contribution to the institution's core mission and values and wishes to ensure that PGRs are supported, trained, and enabled to fully participate in the university community.¹
2. Despite the above many PGRs must work unpaid hours beyond what is contracted to meet requirements²
3. The UCU campaign "PGRs as staff, not students" released a manifesto to tackle these issues by setting out demands. It can be found here³

Purpose

1. There should be improvement and consistency in the way PGRs are treated in relation to their research work, and any teaching or research assistant work they undertake.
2. Precarious HOUR PAID TEACHING contracts and RA contracts impact equity, reproducing inequalities in relation to race, gender, and disability, as well as impacting stress and well-being.
3. Bristol SU policy should support the plight of PGRs, in line with other SUs such as Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, and others.

Actions

1. To lobby the University of Bristol to ensure that PGRs, in their primary research capacity, are recognised for their contributions by way of paid remuneration for attending and contributing to staff meetings, projects, and initiatives.
2. To lobby the University of Bristol to ensure that PGRs who teach are given fair and stable HOUR PAID TEACHING contracts. These contracts should include clearly stipulated conditions, an expectation that all teaching, marking, and related duties is paid, and received before commencing work.
3. To lobby the University on behalf of PGRs to meet the demands of the "PGRs as Staff" campaign by way of the following: a dedicated budget for additional financial support as required (such as paid sick leave and maternity leave), the paid inclusion of PGRs at staff research events and meetings, and the inclusion of PGRs on relevant staff mailing lists.



Stopping Mandatory Sub-Group Subsidisation in Student Groups

Proposer: James Forster Second: James Short

Background

1. Currently, many Student Groups subsidise some of their Sub-Groups using other Sub Groups, especially subsidising upper Sub-Groups using lower Sub-Groups, often without telling the lower Sub-Groups and without their permission.
2. This is against the equality, diversity, and inclusion principles of the BristolSU. Specifically this is unfair toward the Sub-Groups' members unknowingly or unwillingly subsidising other Sub-Groups.
3. It is unfair to make people in lower Sub-Groups pay more than they have to in order to join a club simply because they are joining a lower Sub-Group.
4. This is not to say we shouldn't support students joining Student Groups, however, it shouldn't come at the mandatory expense of other members.
5. The Activity Hardship fund exists for this purpose, however if a Student Group wishes to add additional support it could still do so via non-mandatory donations, which this motion does not oppose.

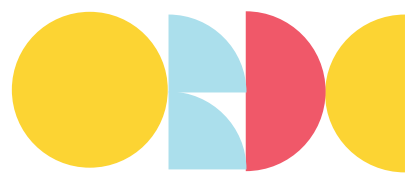
Purpose

Stopping Mandatory Sub-Group Subsidisation in Student Groups, yet still Allowing Non-Mandatory Sub-Group Subsidisation.

Actions

1. Update Bylaw 9 to add the following clause between 19. and 20. under the section "Memberships, Data & Fees":

"Affiliated Student Groups may not mandate members to subsidise Sub-Groups by using other Sub-Groups' membership fees. If Affiliated Student Groups would like to offer Non-Mandatory payments they may do so as long as such payments are not required for Sub-Group membership."



Supporting Trans and Non-binary Students & Campaigning for Gender Justice

Proposer: Saranya Thambirajah Second: Isobel Russell

Background

1. Transgender people in the UK face constant discrimination, marginalisation and material disadvantage, reinforced by the media and the government placing them at the centre of a vicious culture war.
2. According to Stonewall's LGBT in Britain Report (2018) 41% of trans people have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their identity, 48% don't feel comfortable using public toilets due to fear and 70% experienced transphobia when accessing healthcare
3. 36% of trans students at university have faced discrimination from university staff due to their identity. .
4. Only 47% of trans people feel able to be open about their gender identity to their family, with 51% hiding their identity at work for fear of discrimination.
5. The current government's blocking of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill in Scotland represents a further regression in the rights of trans people and signifies an uphill battle to stop their marginalisation.
6. Transgender people in the UK have very limited access to appropriate gender affirming healthcare, greatly impacting on their quality of life and ability to live openly according to their identities.
7. The SU does not currently have active policy to support trans students in the issues that are specific to their community.
8. Trans students at Bristol have been campaigning for better support, most notably in relation to healthcare, for many years with requests for SU support often coming through the Trans Network, LGBT+ Network and LGBTQ centred student groups.
9. The Student Health Service does not offer gender affirming care for trans students.



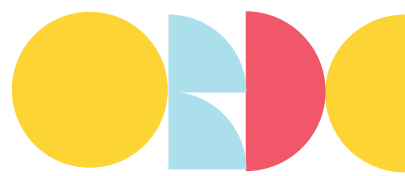


Purpose

1. To promote the welfare of students who identify as transgender or outside of the gender binary.
 2. To ensure the SU is clear in its stance on gender justice and works as an active ally to the transgender community.
 3. To further and support the SU's core value of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
 4. To support the national fight for transgender rights and oppose the marginalisation of a minority group.
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Action

1. The SU, lead by the ELA Officer, to create a vision or strategy that aims to further gender justice within the organisation and within UoB.
 2. The SU to ensure that trans students and representatives are involved in this process of creating the above vision/strategy.
 3. The SU to lobby the Student Health Service to provide improved gender affirming care for trans students, including lobbying for the provision of shared care agreements.
 4. The SU to lobby the university to provide funding for trans students to access private healthcare when NHS waiting lists are unsustainable and significantly impacting an individual's wellbeing and ability to study.
 5. The SU to lobby the university to maintain its commitment to working with Stonewall and other LGBTQ+ organisations.
 6. The SU to lobby the university to provide more gender neutral toilets and facilities across campus.
 7. For the Sport and Student Development Officer to continue to develop an approach to sport at Bristol inclusive of all genders, particularly our trans students. This includes:
 - a. campaigns by using sport as a way to open up conversations as well as to continue lobbying the University to provide gender neutral facilities at Coombe Dingle, the Indoor Sports Centre and the Swimming Pool.
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Bristol SU