

Motion Name: An Update to SU Byelaws to Align with Current Practice

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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 Byelaws 7 and 8 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 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 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:** The quorum of a Members’ Meeting is 1.5% of the Student Members

Byelaw 5, Clause 5 new wording: The quorum of a Members' Meeting is 250 Student Members

- c. **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 Article ? of the 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 1 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, 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. **Removal of the Byelaw 8 clause 31 section c**