

Bye-law amendments to bring in an elected council, reform Suggestions and reform the Executive Committee

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The Union Notes;

1. The present dual system of policy making via "SUGgestions" and the All Student Members Meeting (ASM).
2. The fact that the ASM to date requires 50 members and has only been quorate for the entire duration of a meeting once (being quorate on one other occasion for only approximately fifteen minutes).
3. That despite more than 30 "Suggestions" being put on the SU website this year, only three have, in fact been acted upon, with two in the process of being acted upon.
4. That presently Academic Reps are obliged by contract to attend All Members Meetings without holding any special responsibility or mandate for making Union policy.
5. That out of an Executive of 9 student officers, 6 have resigned over the course of this year, leaving only one with voting rights.

The Union Believes;

1. That the present system puts far too much strain and responsibility on the Executive Officers for making and implementing policy.
2. That the method of guiding policy primarily through an online suggestions box is arbitrary, undermines democratic processes and centralises too much power in the hands of the Executive, leading to considerably increased pressure on its members.
3. That the present system bizarrely forces school reps, who are elected to deal with academic representation, to attend policy making sessions for which they have no mandate and no special powers.
4. That policy making should be made and scrutinised by a dedicated and fairly elected Student Council.
5. That volunteer officers should have an enhanced role implementing policy, as agreed through Council, at the top of the Union.
6. That their inclusion would also ensure the continuity and effectiveness of the Executive throughout the year.
7. That these reforms will allow for a smoother and more fluid systems of policy making in Lincoln SU.

Elected council

- Delete all mentions of 'All Student Members meetings' in the bye-laws and replace with 'Student Council meetings', except where the phrase refers to additional or annual All Students' Members meetings.
- Delete all mentions of 'Student members' in Bye-law 2.9 and replace with 'elected councillors'.
- Bye-law 2.2.5- delete 'Student members' and replace with 'elected student councillors'
- Bye-law 2.2.7- add to the end: 'For the avoidance of doubt, they need not be elected councillors.'
- Delete bye-law 2.14.1 and replace with 'Only elected councillors, elected in accordance with by-law 7.5, shall be eligible to vote on any business in Student Council meetings'. This shall still be by-law 2.14.1
- Delete all mentions of 'Volunteer Officers' in bye-law 2.14.2 and replace with 'elected student councillors'.
- Add in a new bye-law numbered 7.2.1.3 reading 'Elected councillors, whose role shall be to sit on student council, vote in student council meetings and be the policy-making body of the union' And renumber subsequent bye-laws as necessary.
- Add in a new bye-law numbered 7.5 reading '7.5 The election of student councillors. 7.5.1 There must be at least 40 and no more than 60 student councillors, to be divided into constituencies so that each college has a constituency per year group (1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year, postgraduate). 7.5.2 The number of councillors per constituency will be based on the proportion of the overall student body that constituency represents. 7.5.3 The number of councillors per constituency will be assessed every 3 years and any proposed changes will have to be approved by student council. 7.5.4 The election method for electing student councillors shall be STV. 7.5.5 An elected councillor may not also be an academic rep, or a volunteer or full-time officer' and renumber subsequent bye-laws as required.

Streamline policy-making

- Bye-law 2.1.5- At the end of this bye-law add the following: 'Whilst on the website all members of the union shall be able to comment and express their opinion on motions, after which they shall be voted upon at Student Council by the elected councillors present.'
- Bye-law 2.2.2- delete 'seven (7) clear working days' and replace with 'fourteen (14) clear working days'.
- Delete all mentions of 'idea' or 'Idea' from Bye-law 3 and replace with 'motion to student council'. Delete all mentions to 'ideas' and 'Ideas' from Bye-law 3 and replace with 'motions to student council'.
- Delete all mentions of the 'President' in bye-law 3.1.3
- Bye-law 3.1.3.1, delete 'to be placed on the Website to be voted upon' and replace with 'to be placed on the Website to be considered by the student body'
- Bye-law 3.1.3.2- delete 'option' and replace with 'opinion'. Then delete (what should then read) 'if in the Chair's opinion' and replace with 'if in the proposer/s' opinion', delete 'but the President disagrees' and replace with 'but the Chair disagrees', delete 'President shall refer the matter' and replace with 'the proposer/s may appeal' and delete 'invite the Chair to attend as observer. The proposer of the idea shall be notified of the referral to the Board of Trustees.' and replace with 'and invite the proposer/s and the Chair to attend as observers.'

- Bye-law 3.1.3.4- delete 'and the President' and delete 'taking into account matters such as (but not limited to)' and replace with 'this discretion should be strictly limited to the following criteria'.
- Bye-law 3.1.3.4.1- delete 'the' and add in 'demonstrable damage to' at the start of the bye-law so that it reads 'demonstrable damage to the reputation of the Union'
- Bye-law 3.1.3.4.2- delete 'and any other issues relating to governance of the Union'
- Delete bye-law 3.1.3.4.4 and add 'whether a similar idea has been debated by council in the current academic year' as the new bye-law 3.1.3.4.4
- Delete bye-law 3.1.3.5
- Bye-law 3.1.3.6- after '*voted upon under bye-law 3.4.1*' add '*this procedure shall also be followed if an appeal is rejected by the Board of Trustees*'. In '*The Chair may in their discretion give reasons to the proposer of an idea*' delete 'to the proposer of an idea' and replace with 'on the website' and delete 'on the Website' at the end of this sentence. Delete '*Subject to the power of the Trustees under Bye-Law 3.1.3.5, the Chair's determination on whether or not an idea should be published on the Website and/or voted upon in accordance with Bye-Law 3.1.4, shall be final.*'
- Delete bye-laws 3.1.4.1 and 3.1.4.2 and replace with 'The chair shall publish all motions to Council on the website at least 7 days prior to council meeting. All students shall have the opportunity to comment upon, suggest amendments and express approval/disapproval or general opinions on the motion. At the end of this 7 day period, the motion shall be debated and voted upon at the council meeting by elected councillors.' This will be motion 3.1.4.1- renumber subsequent bye-laws as necessary.
- Bye-law 3.1.6- change reference to bye-law 3.1.4.2 to a reference to bye-law 3.1.4.1

Changing how chair is elected

- Bye-law 2.3.1- delete 'shall be elected by cross-campus vote' and add 'shall be elected from amongst and by the elected councillors at the first student council meeting of the academic year. The Clerk shall chair the election process, and once the Chair is elected the Chair shall take over the chairing of the rest of the meeting and subsequent meetings thereafter'
- Bye-law 7.2 Delete 'Union Chair (who shall chair Accountability Forums and All Student Members' meetings);' and replace with 'Student councillors (who shall comprise the Student Council, the policy-making body of the Union)'
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Reforming executive committee

- Bye-law 4.1.1.2- delete 'Up to four (4) elected part time college officers, elected by a cross-campus election held in accordance with Bye- Law 7 to represent their college' and replace with 'all college, liberation and postgraduate officers and community reps'
- Delete bye-law 4.2.1.8 'Review and (if appropriate) authorise to be voted upon, ideas proposed by Students on the Website in accordance with Bye-Law 3.1.3.'
- Bye-law 7.2.1.1- After 'The Executive Committee is made up of full-time officers known as Sabbatical Trustees who are remunerated members of the Union's Board of Trustees' add: ', and all college, liberation and postgraduate officers and community reps, whom shall have speaking but not voting rights at Executive committee meetings'.