

Bye-Law Amendments Summary

1. All Student Members Meetings

Current: All Student Members meetings are called at a minimum once every 4 weeks or twice per academic term

New: All Student Members Meetings are called only as and when are needed, decided by the Trustees, Executive Committee, 10 Volunteer Officers or 150 Student Members, through a SUGgestion to hold an ASM passing.

2. Annual All Student Members Meetings

Current: Annual All Student Members Meeting held once a year (additional responsibilities are approving a list of affiliations, approving the annual accounts, approving bye-law amendments)

New: Annual All Student Members Meeting removed and the above shall be passed as follows.

3. Affiliations

Current: Affiliations are passed at Annual All Student Members Meeting

New: A list of affiliations shall be placed online. An email to all students stating that the list of affiliations are online shall sent out. If 20 objections to the list an affiliation are received, an ASM shall be held.

4. Bye-Law Amendments

Current: There is currently no written governance in place to govern how bye-law amendments are proposed and approved.

New: Any student who wishes to propose an amendment to a Bye-Law should in the first instance contact the President of the Students' Union to discuss the proposed amendment. Proposed amendments to Bye-Laws should be submitted through the student ideas platform (SUGgestions). Bye-Laws shall be approved by the Trustees at the discretion of the Trustees in line with the Article of Association.

5. Petitions

Current: There is currently no written governance in place to govern how petitions occur.

New: A Petition may be started in the following ways:

9.4.1.1 Through a resolution by the Executive Committee

9.4.1.2 Through the proposal for a Petition being passed using the SU Ideas platform

9.4.1.3 Through the Proposal for a Petition being passed at an All Student Members meeting.

Petitions will be run through the Petitions platform on the Students' Union website. Student Members will be asked to electronically sign to agree to the Petition. The timescale of the Petition will be agreed between the proposer and the Executive Committee.

6. Procedural Motions

Current: There are a number of procedural motions - A change to the order of business, That a motion be now put to vote; That a motion be not put to vote; A vote of "no confidence" in the Chair; A challenge to the Chair's ruling; A temporary adjournment of the meeting of no longer than ten (10) minutes; A postponement or adjournment of a motion to a later specified meeting; A referral of a matter to the Trustees; A referral of a matter to a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Union for investigation and report; A referral of a matter back to a Committee or Sub-Committee for re-examination.

New: These have become 'Student Requests', and are decided through a discussion of the meeting.

7. Caution, Censure and No Confidence

Current: The terminology Caution, Censure and No Confidence is used

New: The above terminology is replaced with informal warning, formal warning and removal from post

8. Fast Track

Current: There is no written governance in place to govern fast-tracking SUGgestions

New: Through a unanimous vote by the Executive Committee, an idea may be 'fast-tracked' (implemented without a vote being held). Fast-Tracked ideas shall be highlighted on the ideas platform.

9. Standing Orders

Current: There is currently no time frame on how long students have to object to the approval of Standing Orders

New: The timeframe has been set at 2 weeks.

10. NUS Delegate Elections (excluding the Annual NUS Conference)

Current: The election of delegates to meetings and conferences of NUS, except NUS Annual Conference where the delegates will be the Sabbatical Officers elected in accordance with Bye-Law 7, shall occur on the Website.

New: The election of delegates to meetings and conferences of NUS, except NUS Annual Conference where the delegates will be elected in accordance with Bye-Law 7, shall take place in the relevant Campaigns Group or Forum, either through an online vote, or secret ballot cards.

11. Amendments to current policy

Current: There is no governance outlining making amendments to current policy

New: Existing policy can be overturned or amended through the passing of a Proposal for a policy which in its entirety replaces the existing policy, unless it has already been brought forward more than once in an academic term.

12. Volunteer Officer Accountability

Current: Volunteer Officers submit monthly reports which are voted on by the Student Body. If a report receives a net total of -25 votes, the report is sent to an Accountability Forum. The Accountability Forum can give a vote of caution, censure or no confidence.

New: Volunteer Officers submit monthly reports to the Executive Committee, who will be able to caution or censure a Volunteer Officer. Votes of No Confidence must go to an Accountability Forum.

13. Student Leader Accountability

Current: The full Student Leader Report is provided monthly for voting on, and all students must provide a comment to vote.

New: A summary of the Student Leader Reports will be published, with a link to download the full report. The need for providing a comment to vote is removed.

14. Motions

Current: The terminology 'motion' is used

New: The terminology 'motion' is changed to 'Proposal'

15. Chair's Powers

Current: There is no governance outlining Chair's Powers.

New: The Chair of the Executive Committee shall be able to use 'Chair's Powers' to make business critical or time dependent decisions outside the Executive Committee meeting. Chair's Powers may only be used upon recommendation from the Chief Executive Officer, for business critical or time dependant reasons as defined by the Chief Executive Officer. Decisions made using Chair's Powers shall be made reported to the Executive Committee at the next scheduled meeting. In the event of the Executive Committee not being satisfied with the decision made using Chair's power, then the Executive Committee can hold the Chair to account using the procedures outlined in Bye Law 5.

16. Co-opting

Current: There is no governance outlining the process of co-opting students into elected positions.

New: The process of co-opting students may only occur should an unsuccessful election occur, in which no candidates are elected. For the avoidance of doubt, should a Student Leader position become vacant the process of co-opting shall not occur and this role will be filled in line with bye-law 5.5.1.3. No candidate who has been unsuccessful in the election or bye-election shall be permitted to be co-opted into the role. The Executive Committee may co-opt students into a role on a temporary or permanent (for the remainder of the academic year) basis. Names of all students who have been co-opted into roles by the Executive Committee shall be placed online at LincolnSU.com. The Clerk to the All Student Members Meetings shall inform the students whom they represent via email that co-options have occurred, and ask for any objections to be raised. If twenty (20) objections are raised to the co-option of a student into a role, the student shall not take the role and a new student shall be co-opted into the role.

17. All Student Members Meeting Quoracy

Current: Quoracy is 50 Student Members

New: Quoracy is 50 Student Members but they may only send votes to referendum; A quoracy of 150 Student Members may pass policy.

18. Board of Trustee Agenda

Current: The following standing items were not formally included: Conflicts of Interest, Finance Report, BUCS report, Unapproved Reports from the Sub-Committees, Unapproved minutes from the Lincoln Students' Union Training Limited Board, Unapproved minutes from the Students' Union Management System Board, Health & Safety.

New: The above are added to the standing items

19. Exec Agenda

Current: The following standing items were not formally included: Weekly events, Any other Proposals, Time Analyses, Chair's Actions.

New: The above are added to the standing items

20. Sabbatical Officer

Current: The terminology 'Sabbatical Officer' is used.

New: The terminology above is replaced with 'Student Leader'

21. SUggestions – the ideas platform

Current: Can only be used to propose proposals for improvement, proposals to hold referenda and preferenda

New: Can also be used to submit proposals for petitions, proposals to hold ASMs, and proposals to amend bye-laws.