

Proposal for Changes to Bye-Law 6

Purpose of proposed changes: to bring the Bye-Laws up to date with the realities of the new Student Ideas system; to remove uncertainty about the nature of different types of petitions and how these work with Student Ideas; to clarify the process for resubmission of Student Ideas; to allow DPC to rule on the nature of certain Student Ideas; to clarify the duration of Policy enacted as a result of Student Ideas; to clarify the power of The Executive to pass certain Ideas; to clarify the purpose and role of DPC in reviewing and holding The Executive to account.

1. STUDENT COUNCIL:

Student Council is established by the Articles of Association as having policy-making powers and oversight.

There will be three branches of Student Council and each will act as a check and balance against the others.

The three branches will be:

- The Student Executive
- The Legislature
- The Judiciary

1.2 The Student Executive

- Executes the instructions of the Legislature, by carrying out Student Ideas that have passed.
- Executes the instructions of the legal Executive (Trustee Board.)
- May veto or automatically pass Student Ideas
 - o But can be over-ridden by a two-thirds majority of the Judiciary when attempting to do so.
 - o Can only automatically pass a Student Idea if it can be carried out without opposition from or detriment to other students.
- Executes any authorised spending.
- Maintains the Officers' Code of Conduct.
- Frequency – Will meet at least 8 times per academic year • Quorum – 50%+1
- The following officers are members of the Democratic Executive:
 - o The President, VP Community and Welfare, VP Education, VP Societies and Communication, VP Sports and Health
 - o Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Officer, Disabled Students' Officer, International Students' Officer, LGBT Officer.
 - o City Campus Officer, Frenchay Campus Officer, Glenside Campus Officer, Gloucester Campus Officer
 - o Community and Welfare Officer, Education Officer, Societies and Communication Officer, Sports and Health Officer, Sustainability Officer, Post Graduate Officer

1.3 The Legislature

There are two branches of the Legislature:

- All students (who are full members of The Students' Union)
 - o Student Ideas - proposing and voting.
 - o Election Manifesto pledges - by voting in elections.
 - o Attend Student Council Meeting as observers and put forward cases for and against Ideas
- The Committees
 - o Student Ideas - proposing
 - o To elect committee members to Student Council Meetings.

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1.4 The Judiciary

There are two branches of the Judiciary:

- Student Council Meeting
 - o Facilitator – Facilitates the meeting **and shall normally be a member of the DPC**
 - o Council Meeting - Undertakes direct scrutiny of the Elected Executive.
 - o Council Meeting - May veto the Elected Executive by a two-thirds majority.
 - o Council Meeting - May veto Student Ideas with a passing score of a 2:1 by a two-thirds majority.
 - o Council Meeting - May veto Student Ideas with a passing score of a 2:2 by a 50%+1 majority.
 - o Quorum – 75%
 - o No member may hold more than one seat at Council Meeting
 - o Frequency of Meeting – At least 3 times per academic year.
- Democratic Procedure Committee (DPC)
 - o Ensure the legitimacy of the votes for Student Ideas
 - o Handle complaints about Student Ideas.
 - o Ensure Council Meetings are conducted in accordance to the Bye-Laws
 - o Propose Bye-Law 6 changes to Student Executive and Student Council Meeting based on student feedback. **DPC members interpret section 6 Bye-Laws and inform, recommend and advise members of The Students' Union and The Student Executive accordingly**
 - o Proposals will be treated as a Student Idea with a passing score of a 2:1
 - o To ensure that The Students' Union's democratic systems are engaging and inclusive.
o To provide democratic oversight of The Student Executive in order to aid accountability to the Membership.
 - o To hold periodic reviews with The Student Executive of their activities and priorities at a frequency of at least two times an academic semester for full time positions and at least one time an academic semester for part time positions.**
 - o To publish minutes of these reviews in a format accessible to the Membership.**
 - o Members remain impartial in all matters for the duration of their tenure.**
 - o Frequency of Meeting – At least 8 times per academic year.

2. POLICY CREATION:

Student Ideas may lead to the creation of new Policy within the Democratic Policy Bylaw.

2.1 Student Ideas:

Student Ideas **are the only form of petition that can create Policy at The Students' Union;** are those proposed by 25 students, **and approved positively by a minimum of 25 students,** ~~or petitioned by 25 students.~~ The Students' Union website **will** ~~can~~ gather the necessary approvals **to verify Student Ideas** ~~or petitions; although students can also supply a written or e-petition in any form; provided that at least 25 Full members of The Students' Union can be recognised as having signed.~~

Student Ideas will mimic degree classifications and will progress as follows:

- A 1st is an automatic pass, which cannot be vetoed.
- A 2:1 is a pass which can be vetoed by the Elected Executive or 2/3 Majority in a Council Meeting.
- A 2:2 is a pass which can be vetoed by the Elected Executive or 50%+1 Majority in a Council Meeting.
- A 3rd or below will not progress any further in policy creation.
- If any zero appears in an Ideas scoring, it will fail.

Ideas will be scored according to the following criteria:

- Voter numbers:
 - o Under 25 - scores 0

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- o 25 to 50 - scores 5
 - o 51 to 74 - scores 10
 - o 75 to 99 - scores 15
 - o 100 to 175 - scores 20
 - o 176 to 449 - scores 25
 - o 450 to 999 - scores 45
 - o 1000 plus - scores 50
- Mean Average:
 - o Less than 3.0 - scores 0
 - o 3.01 to 4.0 - scores 5
 - o 4.01 to 4.49 - scores 10
 - o 4.50 to 4.79 - scores 15
 - o 4.80 plus - scores 20
 - Majority:
 - o Negative - scores 0
 - o Simple Majority - scores 20
 - o Qualified Majority - scores 25

Resubmission of Ideas:

A Student Idea which has either failed to proceed to Student Council; or which has been vetoed by Student Council; or which seeks to achieve substantially the same outcome as an Idea which has either failed to proceed or has been vetoed may be resubmitted only once during the same Academic Year. The Democratic Procedures Committee shall make the determination as to whether a newly submitted Idea seeks to achieve substantially the same outcome as a previous Idea.

Contentious issues:

- Any matter which is directly locally, nationally or internationally 'party' political is contentious.
- Any Ban or Boycott is contentious.
- Any stance on international conflict is contentious
- Apart from matters that pass with a simple majority of more than 1000 students, any contentious Idea will drop a grade when scored.

Overriding Policy & Affiliations:

- Any Idea that would override current policy at The Students' Union or leads to disaffiliating with an External Organisation that The Students' Union is currently affiliated to requires a vote of at least 1000 students and will be decided by simple majority – where half, plus one; of the voting members is considered a majority.

Any Idea that has to have at least 1000 students participate in it shall be a referendum for the purposes of the Articles of Association.

When an Idea is passed it becomes policy of The Students' Union for a period of **a maximum of three years unless a shorter time frame is specified as part of the Idea**; after which time it will lapse unless approved through appropriate procedures.