

Introduction of a Democratic Procedures Committee to the Students' Union

The Union Knows

- There are measures in place to ensure fairness during the UWESU full time and part time officer elections, including a £60 reimbursement limit (policy: Cap on Candidates' Spending, 2014) and that the process is overseen by the returning officer and deputy returning officer.
- Other Students' Unions, including that of Nottingham University and the National Union of Students, have democratic procedures committees to oversee regulation changes and election processes and ensure fairness.

The Unions Believes

- There has been widespread disenchantment and complaints from the student body following the conduct of candidates and their teams in the 2015 UWESU elections, notably concerning the involvement of current sabbatical officers in campaigns and the disparity in spending between candidates.
- The current measures employed to ensure fairness in Students' Union procedures, particularly the election of the full-time and part-time officers, is not sufficient and has brought the union into disrepute during the 2015 UWESU elections.
- That the introduction of a democratic procedures committee would ensure fairness in all Students' Union procedures including validation of motions and election nominations, and probity of campaigns for any elections.

The Union Resolves

1. To introduce a Democratic Procedures Committee within UWESU to oversee AGM and Student Council motion submission, as well as the full-time and part-time officer elections, in order to ensure fairness of procedures and campaigns.
2. That seven registered students (to avoid tie decisions) must be elected on to the democratic procedures committee by the student body during the by-elections.
 - 2.1 Of these, four students must not be allowed to re-run for the first year of the introduction of the democratic procedures committee, to ensure that there is staggered entry and therefore constant flux of committee members (i.e. 4 elected one year, and 3 elected the next).
 - 2.2 Full-time and part-time officers will be allowed to nominate themselves for the democratic procedures committee, but no more than 2 shall be able to serve on the committee concurrently and as they must remain impartial, they may not re-run for any UWESU officer position or NUS delegate position. Should they wish to run for



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- these positions, they must resign from the democratic procedures committee and their places filled by another election.
- 2.3 The students elected to the Democratic Procedures Committee must elect a chair and deputy chair amongst themselves to chair meetings, take minutes of meetings, liaise with the returning officer and deputy returning officer, and make ruling decisions in the event of a tie.
- 3 That the democratic procedures committee will sit on the meeting to which Student Council and Annual General Meeting motions are submitted and ensure that all motions are considered fairly, but will have final decision, independent of other staff members present at the meeting, regarding motion acceptance.
 - 4 That a meeting will be established with the deputy returning officer (estimated 2 hours staff time) in which the Democratic Procedures Committee will review UWESU election nominations and ensure that all candidate nominations clearly outline how each candidate intends to address the responsibilities of the position applied for and that manifesto points have been investigated for their feasibility. Further, the returning officer and deputy returning officer may sit on any Democratic Procedures Committee meeting but may not vote.
 - 5 That the democratic procedures committee will oversee all expenditure, activities, and complaints throughout the UWESU election period (from nominations to results) alongside the returning officer and deputy returning officer.
 - 6 That the democratic procedures committee will be instated and the positions made available for application by September 2015.
 - 6.1 Candidates will have a spending limit of £30 for their campaigns to be elected to the Democratic Procedures Committee.
 - 6.2 All students elected to the Democratic Procedures Committee will receive training from the deputy returning officer and VP Education, involving familiarisation with the UWESU bye-laws, impartiality, and the structure and meetings in UWESU (estimated 2 hours staff time).
 - 6.3 All enrolled students who were elected to the Democratic Procedures Committee in the previous academic year will oversee the fairness of the next elections to the Democratic Procedures Committee, though there must be an odd number of voters in any given meeting.
 - 7 Resolves 1-7 will be written into the UWESU bye-laws.

The Union Chooses

VP Education

Proposer: Jamie Jordon

