



**Bye-Laws  
Version 6.3**

## Background

- A. The University of Lincoln Students' Union (the "**Union**") is a company limited by guarantee.
- B. These Bye-Laws are made by the Trustees and Student Members pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Union ("**Articles**").

## Definitions and Interpretation

- C. Words and phrases used in these Bye-Laws have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Articles, unless the context requires otherwise.

## Amendment powers under the Articles

- D. Article 49 of the Articles provides that the Trustees may make, repeal or amend Bye-Laws as to the management of the Union and its working practices from time to time, provided that the Bye-Laws are not inconsistent with the Articles and that, where applicable, approval to those changes is given at a Student Members' meeting.

# Bye-Law 1

## Membership of the Students' Union

### 1.1 Conditions of membership

1.1.1 The privileges of all categories of membership of the Union shall be subject always to the requirement that in exercising those privileges, members do so in a manner which is:

1.1.1.1 Consistent with the requirements of the Articles and any policies of the Union; and

1.1.1.2 In compliance with any additional conditions approved by the Trustees (and, where applicable, Student Members' meetings) from time to time.

1.1.2 The Trustees and a Disciplinary Panel as prescribed in the Student Disciplinary Procedures Policy (available at <http://lincolnsu.com/your-union/how-we-are-run/policies>) shall have the power to suspend or to withdraw all or any of the privileges of membership in the event of a member failing to comply with the requirements and conditions of membership.

### 1.2 Classes of Membership

1.2.1 In addition to the classes of membership detailed in the Articles, Trustees may admit to and remove from Associate Membership of the Union such persons as they deem appropriate. An application for Associate Membership shall be made via the Students' Union Reception or Students' Union website. The Chair of the Executive Committee and Chief Executive shall be entitled to exercise their discretion when considering all applications, on behalf of the Trustees. Associate Membership shall be subject to such rights and obligations as the Trustees consider appropriate, provided always that such Associate Members shall not be Members for the purposes of the Articles or the Companies Acts and shall not be entitled to vote on any matter.

- 1.2.2 Associate Membership shall take the following forms:
- 1.2.2.1 Membership (including life): Former students having successfully completed a full-time or part-time course at the University, on payment of the appropriate fee as determined by the Trustees.
  - 1.2.2.2 Honorary Life Membership: As granted to individuals who are nominated by a current student member of the Union and/or the Executive Committee, and who the Trustees (delegated to the Executive Committee) consider to have aided significantly the Union, or Students, during their time at the University and whose dedication deserves special reward and recognition; as well as Members of the Students' Union Board of Trustees and former Executive Committee members who have graduated from the University.
- 1.2.3 Temporary Membership: The following persons are entitled to the privileges of temporary membership:
- 1.2.3.1 Members of other students' unions
  - 1.2.3.2 Persons whom the relevant Student Leader has approved as a guest of a Union standing committee, club or society;
  - 1.2.3.3 Coaches of sports teams and/or societies;
  - 1.2.3.4 Staff of the University; and
  - 1.2.3.5 For the duration of their studies, students enrolled in the University of Lincoln International Study Centre (ULISC).
  - 1.2.3.6 Staff of the University of Lincoln International Study Centre (ULISC)

### 1.3 Privileges of Student Membership

1.3.1 The privileges of full membership of the Union (which, for the avoidance of doubt, does not include Associate Members or Temporary Members) shall be:

- 1.3.1.1 To utilise the social facilities administered by the Union;
- 1.3.1.2 To have access to the service and support facilities provided by the Union;
- 1.3.1.3 To be eligible to join registered clubs and societies of the Union, subject to the conditions of membership of such clubs and societies;
- 1.3.1.4 To be eligible for participation in Union committees and the committees of clubs and societies, subject always to their rules of governance;
- 1.3.1.5 To be eligible to vote in such elections and Referenda as are conducted by the Union, subject always to the regulations governing the conduct of elections and Referenda set out in Bye-Laws 7 and 8 respectively;
- 1.3.1.6 To be nominated as a candidate for such offices of the Union as are subject to election, subject always to the rules governing the conduct of elections; and
- 1.3.1.7 To be represented by the Union on academic and welfare issues.

1.3.2 The privileges of Associate Membership and Temporary Membership shall be:

- 1.3.2.1 To utilise the social facilities administered by the Union; and

1.3.2.2 To be eligible to join registered clubs and societies of the Union, but not to hold office in such, subject always to the rules and regulations governing such clubs and societies.

1.3.3 All Associate and Temporary Memberships are limited by the period of membership, as defined at the time of joining, or by the holding of the entitling role, position or status.

#### 1.4 Fees

1.4.1 Trustees shall have the power to set membership fees in the case of Associate and Temporary Memberships. Such membership fees shall be subject to review by the Trustees from time to time.

#### 1.5 Opting Out

1.5.1 Students who have exercised their right not to be a member of the Union under Section 22(2)(c) of The Education Act 1994 shall, notwithstanding such opting out, be entitled:

1.5.1.1 To utilise the social facilities administered by the Union subject to any fee, which shall be decided by the Trustees;

1.5.1.2 To have access to the Advice Centre and support facilities provided by the Union.

15.1.3 To be eligible to join registered clubs and societies of the Union but not to hold office in such, subject to the conditions of membership of such clubs and societies.

1.5.2 The exercise of the above entitlements shall be subject to the same conditions of conduct as apply to Student Members of the Union. A complaint about any Student will be subject to the Union's Complaints procedure. Disciplinary matters are subject to the Disciplinary

Procedures Policy. The Disciplinary Panel (the constitution of which is outlined in the Student Disciplinary Procedures Policy referred to in Bye-Law 1.1.2) and/or the Trustees, shall have the power to suspend or to withdraw any entitlements set out above in the event of a Student failing to comply with such conditions of conduct.

# Bye-Law 2

## The Rules for the Conduct of Student Members' meetings

### 2.1 Procedure

- 2.1.1 Student Members' meetings shall be subject to the Articles. For the avoidance of doubt, such meetings are not general meetings of the Union (at which only Company Law Members may attend and vote).
- 2.1.2 Student Members' meetings may be called by any one of the following methods:
  - 2.1.2.1 At the request of the Board of Trustees;
  - 2.1.2.2 At the request of the Executive Committee;
  - 2.1.2.3 At the request of at least ten (10) Volunteer Officers (appointed in accordance with Bye-Law 7), indicated by a letter sent to the Chair of The Executive Committee , signed by at least 10 (ten) of the requesting Volunteer Officers,
  - 2.1.2.4 At the request of at least one hundred and fifty (150) Student Members, indicated by letter sent to the Chair of the Executive Committee, signed by at least one hundred and fifty (150) of the requesting Student Members.
  - 2.1.2.5 Through the passing of an SUGgestion to hold an All Student Members Meeting via the online SUGgestions platform.
- 2.1.3 The clerk to Student Members' meetings appointed under Bye-Law 3.4.3.4 (for the purposes of this Bye-Law 2, the "**Clerk**"), the Chair of the Executive Committee and the Union Chair (as appointed under Bye-Law 2.3, the "**Chair**") shall meet exactly seven (7) days before the next scheduled Student Members' meeting.



- 2.1.4 The Clerk (on behalf of the Chair) shall call for papers, a minimum of 14 days before the next scheduled Student Members' meeting, through a news article on the Students' Union Website.
- 2.1.5 The Clerk (on behalf of the Chair) shall display on <http://Lincolnsu.com> (or such other website as is used by the Union from time to time) (the "**Website**") the agenda, accompanying papers and confirmation of the location for the Student Members' meeting, at least five (5) clear working days before the meeting.
- 2.1.6 The Clerk (on behalf of the Chair) shall display on the Website the minutes of the meeting within seven (7) days of the meeting.

## 2.2 Submission of Proposals and Amendments to Student Members' meetings

- 2.2.1 The preparation and ordering of agendas for all Student Members' meetings shall be the responsibility of the Chair.
- 2.2.2 All Proposals to create Union policy for consideration shall contain a resolution and shall be submitted in writing to the Chair, by 5.00 pm on the day falling seven (7) clear days before the meeting.
- 2.2.3 Publication and ordering of Proposals shall be the responsibility of the Chair.
- 2.2.4 During a Student Members' meeting a withdrawal of, or amendment to, a Proposal may be requested from the floor by any Student Member present and entitled to vote. The Chair will hold a simple majority vote of the Student Members present and entitled to vote to whether to allow the proposed withdrawal or amendment.
- 2.2.5 No Proposal or business conflicting with existing Policy may be brought forward more than once during the same academic term.
  - 2.2.5.1 Existing policy can be overturned or amended through the passing of a Proposal for a policy which in its entirety replaces

the existing policy, save time conditions outlined in bye law 2.2.5.

2.2.6 Proposers of Proposals and amendments to All Student Members Meetings must be full Student Members of the Union.

2.2.7 All Proposals shall state the name of the proposer.

## 2.3 The Chair

2.3.1 The Chair of Student Members' meetings (who shall also be the Chair of the Accountability Forum for the purposes of Bye-Law 3) also known as the *Union Chair* (the "**Chair**") shall be elected by cross-campus vote in accordance with Bye-law 7. If at the time of a Student Members' meeting, a Chair has not been elected in accordance with Bye-Law 7, a Bye-Election will be held at such Student Members' meeting to elect a Chair using the following procedure:

2.3.1.1 The incumbent Chair of the Student Members' meetings, or the Chair of the Executive Committee if there is no elected Chair, will ask for a show of hands of those Members present who wish to be considered for the position of Chair.

2.3.1.2 Unless only one member wishes to be considered (in which case s/he shall be appointed Chair), the remaining provisions of this Bye-Law 2.3.1 must be adhered to.

2.3.1.3 Each candidate is to make a speech outlining their reason for standing and their objectives for the forthcoming year. Each candidate is permitted one (1) minute to speak. Candidates must be heard in silence.

2.3.1.4 The Chair is to allow two questions to each candidate from the floor immediately after each speech. The order and from whom the question originates, is at the sole

discretion of the Chair. There are no follow-up questions permitted.

- 2.3.1.5 Voting is via secret ballot using the single transferable voting system, details of which can be found at <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/single-transferable-vote> (“STV”).
- 2.3.1.6 In the event of a tied vote, a winner will be randomly selected by the voting software; where an online vote is held, or where a paper ballot is held, the winner will be selected by those candidates tied being drawn from a hat with the first to be drawn being elected Chair of Student Members’ meetings for the Academic Year during which such Bye-Election took place.
- 2.3.2 In the event of The Chair being Elected as a Student Leader for the following year, then the Chair will immediately resign from the position and a Bye-Election held. In the event of a Chair being elected for the next academic year, then this “Chair Elect” becomes the Chair upon the resignation of the incumbent Chair.
- 2.3.3 If the Chair ceases to be a Student, then they shall be deemed to have resigned their position with immediate effect from the time at which they ceased to be a Student.
- 2.3.4 In the event that neither the Chair, nor the Deputy Chair (elected in accordance with Bye-Law 2.4) being available, a Chair will be elected at the commencement of the relevant Student Members’ meeting from those Members present and entitled to vote at the meeting.
- 2.3.5 The Chair shall not participate in any debate.
- 2.3.6 Whenever the Chair speaks they shall be heard in silence and any Member shall at once cease from speaking.

- 2.3.7 Every speaker shall address the meeting solely through the Chair. Subject to Bye-Law 2.3.9, the Chair will be responsible for ensuring that all Members present who have speaking rights, receive equality of opportunity to speak.
- 2.3.8 If two or more Members arise to speak at the same time, precedence shall be given to the Member who first 'catches the eye' of the Chair, except that the proposer of a Proposal shall have first rights to speak in favour of their Proposal.
- 2.3.9 The Chair may impose a time limit on, and/or limit the number of Members who may speak in relation to, any Proposal, amendment or report.
- 2.3.10 A Member shall be entitled to challenge any decision made by the Chair at any point during the meeting. If twenty (20) other Members support the challenge, it shall be debated. Immediately prior to such debate, the Chair shall vacate the chair in favour of a person nominated by them. The challenger shall state the reason for the challenge and the Chair shall then state their case. The ruling or decision shall be put to the vote and the Chair's decision shall be either upheld or overruled by a simple majority vote of those present and entitled to vote. Thereafter, the Chair shall re-assume the chair of the meeting, except in the instance of a Proposal for a "removal from post" of the Chair being agreed as outlined in Bye-Law 2.3.13. A challenge to the Chair shall take precedence over other business and proceedings of the meeting.
- 2.3.11 During speeches the Chair shall seek to ensure that:
- 2.3.11.1 The meeting is in order;
  - 2.3.11.2 Remarks not relevant to the matter under debate are flagged and the speaker is requested either to get back to topic or to cease to speak;

2.3.11.3 If potentially defamatory remarks are made about a Member, or about staff of the Union or University, that such remarks are flagged and the speaker requested either to refrain from making such comments or to cease to speak; and

2.3.11.4 No new material is introduced in a summing up speech.

2.3.12 The Chair has the right to have a Member or spectator removed from the meeting, and the meeting room, if that person's actions prevent the Chair from being able to comply with Bye-Law 2.3.11.

2.3.13 Proposals for 'removal from post' of the Chair may be requested by any Student Member during the meeting. If a Proposal for "removal from post" of the Chair is supported by twenty (20) Student Members present and entitled to vote at the meeting, the procedures outlined in Bye-Law 2.3.10 shall apply. If the Proposal for 'removal from post' is passed, the Chair shall vacate their position as chair for the remainder of the meeting and a new Chair shall be elected from the other Members present at the meeting.

## 2.4 The Deputy Chair

2.4.1 The Deputy Union Chair shall be elected by cross-campus ballot (in accordance with bye-law 7). If no Deputy Union Chair is elected, at the first Student Members' meeting in each Academic Year, the Members present will elect from their number a deputy chair (who shall also be the Chair of the Accountability Forum for the purposes of Bye-Law 3) (the "**Deputy Chair**") using STV.

2.4.2 The Deputy Chair may not be a Student Leader, or Student Leader elect during their term as Deputy Chair.

2.4.3 The Deputy Chair will act in the absence of the Chair, acting in accordance with the responsibilities and rights of Chair as outlined in Bye-Law 2.

2.4.4 The Deputy Chair will be subject to the conditions of membership of the Union.

## 2.5 Proposals

2.5.1 Only one Proposal, or report from the Trustees, or an amendment to any Proposal or report, may be put before the meeting for vote at any one time.

2.5.2 The Chair will take a vote from the meeting as to whether to hear a proposed amendment, which may be carried by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote. If an amendment is agreed then the original Proposal incorporating the amendment shall become the substantive Proposal to which any subsequent amendments shall then refer.

2.5.3 In the event of an amendment being carried which was not accepted by the proposer of the original Proposal then the substantive Proposal shall become the amender's Proposal and the amender shall then have the right to reply as outlined in Bye-Law 2.5.4.

2.5.4 The proposer of the Proposal, amendment or report shall have the right to reply to any debate immediately before the vote is taken, but shall not introduce any new material.

## 2.6 Student Requests

2.6.1 At the request of a student member in relation to the order or proceedings of the meeting, the Chair shall lead a discussion to determine whether to accept the request.

2.6.2 Upon a request of a Student Member, the Chair of the meeting shall ask whether any other members of the meeting do not wish to agree to the request.

2.6.2.1 If no members of the meeting refuse the request, the request will be granted.

2.6.2.2 Should another member wish to refuse the request, the Chair shall lead a discussion to determine whether to agree or refuse the request.

2.6.2.3 Should, after a time allocated by the Chair, a decision not be made as a result of an informal discussion, a simple majority vote shall be taken to determine whether to agree or refuse the request.

2.6.3 At any point during the debate on a Proposal, a student member shall be able to offer strictly factual information to contradict or add to the topic under debate. The speaker may refuse to accept the information provided, in which case the member shall give way.

## 2.7 Emergency Proposals

2.7.1 The procedure for consideration of emergency Proposals shall be as follows:

2.7.1.1 Proposals whose subject matter is concerned with events occurring after the deadline for submission of Proposals set out in Bye-Laws 2.2.2 and 2.2.3, may be moved as emergency Proposals ;

2.7.1.2 Such Proposals shall not be discussed unless the matter is of such urgency that the conduct of the business of the Union would be impaired by the delaying of discussion, until the following Student Members' meeting;

2.7.1.3 The inability of Members, for any reason whatsoever, to submit Proposals not defined as emergency Proposals within the terms of Bye-Laws 2.7.1.1 and 2.7.1.2, shall not

be construed as grounds for the discussion of such Proposals; and

2.7.1.4 All emergency Proposals shall be submitted in writing and signed by the proposer, to the Chair, who shall determine whether they shall be considered as emergency Proposals.

## 2.8 Amendments

2.8.1 Amendments may be moved at any time after the Proposal has been 'stated' by the Chair.

2.8.2 Amendments may not be moved which are direct negatives of the Proposal, when the purpose of the proposed amendment may be achieved by voting against the Proposal.

2.8.3 Only one amendment to any Proposal may be put before the meeting at any one time.

2.8.4 If an amendment is rejected, another may be moved to the Proposal, provided that its effect would not produce the same result as the amendment previously rejected.

## 2.9 Voting

2.9.1 Should a Proposal contain multiple resolutions which would require more than one policy to be created or actions to be undertaken, it shall be the discretion of the Chair to determine whether the Proposal is voted on in parts.

2.9.2 The Chair shall have a casting vote.

2.9.3 There may be discussion, but not voting, upon 'Any Other Business'.

2.9.4 No question once decided may be re-opened at the same Student Members' meeting.



## 2.10 Interpretation

- 2.10.1 The decision of the Chair shall be final and binding concerning the interpretation of this Bye-Law 2, subject to the results of any challenge as specified in either Bye-Law 2.3.10 or 2.3.13.

## 2.11 Order of Business at Student Members' meetings

- 2.11.1 The order of business at a Student Members' meeting shall be as follows:

- 2.11.1.1 Introduction from the Chair;
- 2.11.1.2 To receive minutes of the previous Student Members' meeting;
- 2.11.1.3 Matters and actions arising from those minutes;
- 2.11.1.4 Student Proposals and Petitions;
- 2.11.1.5 Any other business;
- 2.12.1.6 Close of meeting.

## 2.12. Quorum

- 2.12.1 A quorum shall be fifty (50) students. The only decision that can be made by 50 students is to take the Proposal under discussion to a Referendum.

- 2.12.1.2 Should a total of more than one hundred and fifty (150) of the Student Members entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted be present at the meeting, Proposals can be voted upon rather than being taken to a Referendum as outlined in 2.12.1.

- 2.12.2 The Clerk of the meeting, and in their absence the Chair, shall be responsible for determining and monitoring the number of Student Members entitled to vote at each meeting. If the quorum is not present, then the meeting will cease immediately. The Chair will allow five

minutes for quorum to be achieved. If quorum is achieved, then the meeting shall continue. If quorum is not achieved, then the meeting will be closed.

## 2.13 Affiliations

2.13.1 A list of affiliations shall be provided to the student body as part of the Annual Accounts, and will be placed on the website.

2.13.2 Students will be emailed to inform them that a list of affiliations is available on the website and should email the Clerk if they have any objections to the list of affiliations, excluding affiliation to the National Union of Students.

2.13.3 If 20 (twenty) objections (stating full reasons for the objection) are for a specific affiliation, the affiliation shall not be passed, and a Student Members' meeting shall be held if necessary.

2.13.4 The Executive Committee may reject an objection if it is considered frivolous or vexatious.

## 2.14 Bye-Law Amendments

2.14.1 Any student who wishes to propose an amendment to a Bye-Law should in the first instance contact the Chair of the Board of Trustees to discuss the proposed amendment.

2.14.2 Proposed amendments to Bye-Laws should be submitted through the student SUGgestions platform, and shall follow the same procedure as laid out in Bye-Law 3.

2.14.3 Bye-Laws shall be approved by the Trustees at the discretion of the Trustees in line with the Article of Association.

# Bye-Law 3

## The Delivery of Student SUGgestions and Elected Officer Accountability

### 3.1 Student SUGgestions

3.1.1 The following SUGgestions may be submitted to the Union by Students Members, requesting action in accordance with this Bye-Law 3:

3.1.1.1 Proposals for improvements which are to be made to the University experience for Students;

3.1.1.2 Proposals to hold Referenda and/or Preferenda to:-

3.1.1.2.1 submit Policy recommendations to the Trustees;

3.1.1.2.2 gather Student opinion on proposed changes to the student experience;

3.1.1.3 Proposals for Petitions to demonstrate student opinion on an issue which affects students.

3.1.1.3 Proposals to hold an All Student Members Meeting.

3.1.2 Any Student Member may submit an SUGgestion to request that it be voted upon on the Website. The details of all Students who submit SUGgestions shall be published

3.1.3 Publication of SUGgestions

3.1.3.1 Upon the submission of an SUGgestion, the SUGgestion shall require approval by the Chair of the Executive Committee and the Union Chair (appointed pursuant to Bye-Law 2.3.1) within 14 days, before they are placed on the Website to be voted upon. The Chair of the Executive Committee and the Union Chair shall consider the matters set out in Bye-Law 3.1.3.4 in making their decision, seeking the input of the Chief Executive if required.

3.1.3.2 If in the Union Chair's opinion an SUGgestion should be published on the Website, but the Chair of the Executive Committee disagrees, the Chair of the Executive shall refer the matter to the Board of Trustees and, where appropriate, invite the Union Chair to attend as observer. The proposer of the SUGgestion shall be notified of the referral to the Board of Trustees.

3.1.3.3 Within 14 days of the referral of the SUGgestion to the Board of Trustees in accordance with Bye-Law 3.1.3.2, the Chair of the Board of Trustees shall report back to the Union Chair with the opinion of the Board of Trustees.

3.1.3.4 The Union Chair and the Chair of the Executive Committee, taking advice as appropriate from the Chief Executive, shall be entitled to exercise their discretion when considering the suitability of proposed SUGgestions for publication taking into account matters such as (but not limited to):-

3.1.3.4.1 the reputation of the Union;

3.1.3.4.2 the duties imposed on the Trustees in their capacity as charitable trustees of the Union and any other issues relating to governance of the Union;

3.1.3.4.3 any issues to do with confidentiality of information and/or data protection which would prevent the publication of SUGgestions; and

3.1.3.4.4 the resource and cost implications of the implementation of a proposed SUGgestion.

3.1.3.5 If an SUGgestion is authorised by the Union Chair, it shall become an "**SUGgestion**" for the purposes of this Bye-Law 3. If the SUGgestion is authorised by the Union Chair but does not have the approval of the Board of Trustees following a referral under Bye-Law 3.1.3.2, the SUGgestion shall note that it does not have the approval of the Trustees and a summary of the reasons given by the Trustees shall be stated on the Website. An SUGgestion which does not have the approval of the Trustees shall not be capable of being implemented.

3.1.3.6 If the Union Chair rejects any SUGgestion for the purposes of being voted upon under Bye-Law 3.1.4, the reasons for rejection shall be stated on the Website. The Union Chair may in their discretion give reasons to the proposer of an SUGgestion if it is deemed unsuitable for publication on the Website. Subject to the power of the Trustees under Bye-Law 3.1.3.5, the Union Chair's determination on whether or not an SUGgestion should be published on the Website and/or voted upon in accordance with Bye-Law 3.1.4, shall be final.

#### 3.1.4 Voting on SUGgestions

3.1.4.1 All Students Members shall be able to vote on SUGgestions.

3.1.4.2 Any SUGgestion shall need fifty (50) votes "For" within the period of one (1) calendar month from publication on the

Website in order to be passed. Any SUGgestions that do not receive the requisite number of "For" votes within such period shall not be passed.

- 3.14.3 Through a unanimous vote by the Executive Committee, an SUGgestion may be 'fast-tracked' (implemented without a vote being held). Fast-Tracked SUGgestions shall be highlighted on the SUGgestions platform.
- 3.1.4.3 SUGgestions to be voted upon may not be submitted for approval in accordance with Bye-Law 3.1.3 more than once in any Academic Term.
- 3.1.5 All campaigning activity for the purpose of gaining votes on an SUGgestion shall take place in accordance with Bye-Law 8.7.
- 3.1.6 Should an SUGgestion be passed in accordance with Bye-Law 3.1.4.2, the Chair of the Board of Trustees shall within 14 days from the requisite number of votes being reached, assign the SUGgestion to the Student Leader whom he or she considers most suitable to implement the SUGgestion. The decision of the Chair of the Board of Trustees is final. Such Student Leader shall:
  - 3.1.6.1 Within 14 days following his or her nomination, contact the proposer of the SUGgestion to discuss actions to be taken in order to seek to implement the SUGgestion, including input from Students;
  - 3.1.6.2 Provide updates at reasonable intervals, of no more than three weeks, regarding progress of the SUGgestion, via the "SUGgestions module" on the Website; and
  - 3.1.6.3 If completed, publicise such completion of the SUGgestion via the "SUGgestions module" on the Website.
- 3.1.7 If the proposed SUGgestion relates to a Referendum or a Preferendum, the procedures in Bye-Law 8 and Bye-Law 9 must be followed.

3.1.8 If the proposed SUGGESTION relates to a Petition, the procedures governing petitions in Bye-Law 9 must be followed.

3.1.9 No days falling outside of an Academic Term shall be included within any of the time periods set out in this Bye-Law 3.1 for the purposes of this Bye-Law 3.1.

### 3.2 Student Leader Accountability

3.2.1 The Clerk (as defined in Bye-Law 3.4.3.4) shall (on behalf of the chair of Accountability Forums elected in accordance with Bye-Law 3.4.6 (for the purposes of this Bye-Law 3, the "**Chair**")):-

3.2.1.1 display on the Website on the last Monday of each month during the Academic Year, a link to full reports from each of the Student Leader on their activities in the preceding month and future planned activities (**Student Leader Reports**);

3.2.1.1 display on the Website on the last Monday of each month during the Academic Year, a summary of the reports from each of the Student Leader on their activities in the preceding month and future planned activities and

3.2.1.2 email the Student Members to inform them when Student Leader Reports are available on the Website.

3.2.2 All Student Members shall be entitled to ask questions on the content of any Student Leader Report, such questions (with the Student Member's name) to be published on the Website alongside that Report.

### 3.2.3 Voting on Student Leader Reports

3.2.3.1 In addition to asking questions, Student Members shall also be able to approve or disapprove each Student Leader Report.

- 3.2.3.2 Voting shall take place in the form of votes to approve and votes to disapprove.
  - 3.2.3.3 Any report receiving a net vote of minus one (-1) votes as at 17:00 on the day falling 7 (seven) days from publication, shall be disapproved (**Disapproved**).
  - 3.2.3.4 Votes cast and questions raised shall initially be anonymous, but should a Student Leader Report be Disapproved, the names of all voters shall at the discretion of the Chair of the Executive Committee, be published on the Website against that Student Leader Report.
  - 3.2.4 Should a Student Leader Report be Disapproved, an Accountability Forum shall be held, in accordance with Bye-Law 3.4.
  - 3.2.5 Should a Student Leader fail to provide a Sabbatical Officer Report, an Accountability Forum shall automatically be triggered to be held in accordance with Bye-Law 3.4, unless there are extenuating circumstances for non-submission, as determined by the Union Chair.
  - 3.2.6 If the Union Chair is notified by the Chief Executive that, due to reasons of health, family, employment or other matters of a personal nature, a Student Leader is unable to submit a Student Leader Report in accordance with this Bye-Law 3.2, an Accountability Forum shall not be triggered.
- 3.3 Volunteer Officer Accountability
- 3.3.1 The Executive Committee shall receive on the last Monday of each month, reports from each Volunteer Officer (as detailed in Bye-Law 7).
  - 3.3.2 Any Volunteer Officer report not deemed unanimously by the Executive Committee to demonstrate an acceptable level and standard of activity shall be voted upon.



- 3.3.3 The Executive Committee can resolve through a majority vote, on the basis of the Volunteer Officer report, to give a Volunteer Officer an 'informal warning' or a 'formal warning' as outlined in Bye-Law 5.
- 3.3.4 Should, after a formal warning has been provided to a Volunteer Officer, the Executive Committee resolve that the report of a Volunteer Officer does not demonstrate an acceptable level and standard of activity an Accountability Forum shall be held in accordance with Bye-Law 3.4.

#### 3.4. Accountability Forums

##### 3.4.1 The role of the Accountability Forum shall be:

- 3.4.1.1 to provide a platform for the voices of all Students to be heard;
- 3.4.1.2 to hold Student Leaders and Volunteer Officers to account; and
- 3.4.1.3 if applicable, to pass Proposals for an 'informal warning', a 'formal warning' or the 'removal from post' of Student Leaders
- 3.4.1.4 if applicable, to pass Proposals for the 'removal from post' of Volunteer Officers.

3.4.2 The Clerk (on behalf of the Chair) shall publish the date, time, location and agenda for each Accountability Forum on the Website, five (5) days before it Accountability Forum is held.

##### 3.4.3 Attendance at Accountability Forums

- 3.4.3.1 All Student Members and Trustees shall be able to attend and vote at all Accountability Forums.

- 3.4.3.2 The Chief Executive (or their representative) will attend each Student Members' meeting and Accountability Forum.
- 3.4.3.3 Staff of the Union, at the discretion of the Chief Executive, may attend Accountability Forums as observers. Observers attending an Accountability Forum pursuant to this Bye-Law 3.4.3.3, both individually or collectively, may be excluded from a meeting by the vote of a simple majority of those Members present and entitled to vote.
- 3.4.3.4 The Chief Executive will appoint from the staff team of the Union, a clerk to the Student Members' meetings and Accountability Forums (for the purposes of this Bye-Law 3, the "**Clerk**"). The Clerk shall not be a Trustee.
- 3.4.3.5 The Clerk will provide administrative support to Student Members' meetings and Accountability Forums and will keep minutes of all such proceedings, including the names of all persons present at each meeting. Any such minutes signed by the Chair of the meeting at which the proceedings were held or by the Chair of the next following meeting, will be sufficient evidence of the proceedings.
- 3.4.4 The quorum for Accountability Forums shall be 50 (fifty) Student Members.
- 3.4.5 The Chair shall not participate in any discussion.
- 3.4.6 Whenever the Chair speaks they shall be heard in silence and any Member shall at once cease from speaking.
- 3.4.7 Every speaker shall address the meeting solely through the Chair. Subject to Bye-Law 3.4.5, the Chair will be responsible for ensuring that all Members present who have speaking rights, receive equality of opportunity to speak.

- 3.4.8 If two or more Members arise to speak at the same time, precedence shall be given to the Member who first 'catches the eye' of the Chair, except that the proposer of a Proposal shall have first rights to speak in favour of their Proposal.
- 3.4.9 The Chair may impose a time limit on, and/or limit the number of Members who may speak in relation to any Student Leader Report or Volunteer Officer Report (for the purposes of this Bye-Law 3, "**Reports**"), which shall be announced by the Clerk at the start of each meeting.
- 3.4.10 A Member shall be entitled to challenge any decision made by the Chair. If fifteen (15) other Members support the challenge, it shall be debated. Immediately prior to such debate, the Chair shall vacate the chair in favour of a person nominated by them. The challenger shall state the reason for the challenge and the Chair shall then state their case. The ruling or decision shall be put to the vote and the Chair's decision shall be either upheld or overruled by a simple majority vote of those present and entitled to vote. Thereafter, the Chair shall re-assume the chair of the meeting, except in the instance of a Proposal for the 'removal from post' of the Chair being passed as outlined in Bye-Law 3.4.13.
- 3.4.11 During speeches the Chair shall seek to ensure that:
- 3.4.11.1 the meeting is in order;
  - 3.4.11.2 remarks not relevant to the matter under debate are flagged and the speaker is requested either to get back to topic or cease to speak;
  - 3.4.11.3 if potentially defamatory remarks are made about a Member, or about staff of the Union or University, that such remarks are flagged and the speaker requested either to refrain from making such comments or cease to speak; and

- 3.4.11.4 no new material is introduced in a summing up speech.
- 3.4.12 The Chair has the right to have a Member or spectator removed from the meeting, and the meeting room, if that person's actions prevent the Chair from being able to comply with Bye-Law 3.4.11.
- 3.4.13 If a Proposal for the "removal from post" of the Chair is supported by a simple majority of Members present and entitled to vote, then procedures outlined in Bye-Law 3.4.10 shall apply. If the Proposal for the "removal from post" is passed, the Chair shall vacate their position as chair for the remainder of the meeting and a new Chair shall be elected from the other Student Members present at the meeting.
- 3.4.14 If the Chair has a conflict of interest in any Accountability Forum, they must vacate the chair, and the position of chair will be resumed by the elected Deputy Chair.
- 3.4.15 If both the Chair and the Deputy Chair have a conflict of interest in any Accountability Forum, the position of the chair shall be vacated, and a Student Member from the room who does not have any conflict of interest may be voted into position in accordance with a Bye-Election held in accordance with Bye-Law 2.3.1.

### 3.5 Discussion at Accountability Forums

- 3.5.1 During open discussion of Reports, the following rules shall apply:
  - 3.5.1.1 Members wishing to comment upon the topic will indicate their wish to do so by raising their hand.
  - 3.5.1.2 The Chair will, at their discretion, take speakers, with precedence being given to those members who first "catch the eye" of the Chair.
  - 3.5.1.3 Members are able to speak more than once on the topic under discussion.

3.5.1.4 The Chair will ensure that all Members are given an equal opportunity to speak on the topic.

3.5.1.5 All speakers will address the meeting through the Chair.

3.5.2 The Chair will decide, under the guidance of the meeting and before the commencement of the discussion, the length of time allocated to discussion of the topic.

### 3.6 Voting

3.6.1 The Chair will call a vote by asking for a show of voting cards in favour of approval, against approval or abstaining on a particular Report. Save where stated otherwise or at the discretion of the Chair, a simple majority vote of those members in attendance and entitled to vote will be required to carry a resolution.

3.6.2 The Chair will have a casting vote only.

3.6.3 There may be discussion, but not voting, upon 'Any Other Business'.

### 3.7 Student Requests

3.7.1 At the request of a student member in relation to the order or proceedings of the meeting, the Chair shall lead a discussion to determine whether to accept the request.

3.7.2 Upon a request of a Student Member, the Chair of the meeting shall ask whether any other members of the meeting do not wish to agree to the request.

3.7.2.1 If no members of the meeting refuse the request, the request will be granted.

- 3.7.2.2 Should another member wish to refuse the request, the Chair shall lead a discussion to determine whether to agree or refuse the request.
- 3.7.2.3 Should after a time allocated by the Chair, a decision not be made as a result of an informal discussion, a simple majority vote shall be taken.
- 3.7.3 At any point during the debate on a request, a student member shall be able to offer strictly factual information to contradict or add to the topic under debate. The speaker may refuse to accept the information provided, in which case the mover shall give way.

### 3.8 Appointment and re-appointment of Non- Student Trustees

- 3.8.1 The names of all Non-Student Trustees appointed by the Board of Trustees shall be published on the Website, by the Clerk, for a two (2) week period from their date of appointment.
- 3.8.2 The Clerk shall email all Student Members to request that any objections to the appointment of a Non-Student Trustee, be sent to the Clerk by email.
- 3.8.3 On receipt of 50 (fifty) objections to the appointment of a Non-Student Trustee, stating reasons for such objection:-
  - 3.8.3.1 A Student Members' meeting shall be held to discuss the appointment of that Non-Student Trustee; or
  - 3.8.3.2 The Board of Trustees are able to resolve to not appoint the Non-Student Trustee in question without the requirement to call a meeting in accordance with Bye-Law 3.8.3.1.

3.8.4 Should fewer than 50 (fifty) objections be received, the Non-Student Trustee shall remain appointed.

### 3.9 NUS delegates

3.9.1 The relevant elected Volunteer Officer shall be the delegate to meetings and conferences of NUS, except NUS Annual Conference where the delegates will be the members of the Executive Committee.

3.9.2 If a member of the Executive Committee is unable to attend NUS Annual conference, or more delegate positions are available than elected Student Leaders, the Executive Committee will choose the appropriate Volunteer Officer/s to attend.

3.9.3 If a Volunteer Officer is unable to attend their NUS Sections Conference, they will choose a relevant member of their committee to attend in their place.

### 3.10 Standing Orders

3.10.1 Changes to Standing Orders shall be made by the Executive Committee, and an edited version of the Standing Order shall be placed on the Website.

3.10.2 In the event that a change to a Standing Order is considered by the Executive Committee to be substantial, Students will be emailed to inform them that a substantial change has been made to a Standing Order and will be asked to email the Clerk if they have any objections to the change.

3.10.3 If 20 (twenty) objections (stating full reasons for the objection) are received to the change within 14 days, the change shall not be passed, and a Student Members' meeting shall be held if necessary.

3.10.4 The Executive Committee may reject an objection if it is considered frivolous or vexatious.

### 3.11 Interpretation

3.11.1 The decision of the Chair shall be final and binding concerning the interpretation of this Bye-Law 3, subject to the results of any challenge as specified in either Bye-Law 3.4.10 or 3.4.13.



# Bye-Law 4

## The Executive Committee

### 4.1 Constitution & Role

4.1.1 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of:

4.1.1.1 Up to five (5) elected full-time Student Leaders who will also be appointed as Trustees;

4.1.1.2 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

4.1.1.3 The Chief Executive (who shall have no voting rights).

4.1.2 The Executive Committee is responsible for the Union's day to day direction and financial oversight. The Executive Committee will be delegated such authorities as determined from time to time by the Trustees, subject always to the oversight of the Trustees.

4.1.3 The Student Leaders will be paid an allowance determined by the Trustees, in line with general University pay scales. Each Student Leaders will be required to sign a service contract and the Union's Code of Conduct.

4.1.4 Student Leaders will be elected in accordance with the Election Regulations set out in Bye-Law 7.

4.1.5 The Student Leaders will elect from their number:

4.1.5.1 a Chair and Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee, before the first meeting of the Executive Committee of their term in office

4.1.5.2 a Chair of the Board of Trustees (subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees in the next scheduled meeting), before the first meeting of the Trustee Board of their term in office.

4.1.5.3 a designated delegate of the University Board of Governors before the first meeting of the Board of Governors.

4.1.6 No person may serve for more than two terms of office as a Student Leader, being a maximum of two (2) years in total.

4.1.7 Trustees, in consultation with Student Members at Student Members' meetings if required, will provide role descriptions and portfolios for Student Leaders.

4.1.8 A Student Leader shall be removed from office with immediate effect if:

4.1.8.1 They are found under the regulations set out in:-

4.1.8.1.1 the Sabbatical Trustee Terms and Conditions;

4.1.8.1.2 the Sabbatical Trustee Code of Conduct;  
and/or

4.1.8.1.3 the Sabbatical Trustee Handbook,

to have committed an act of gross misconduct (whether or not they have been dismissed from employment with the Union); or

4.1.8.2 An unsatisfactory "Disclosure & Barring Service" check, administered by the Union, is returned; or

4.1.8.3 They cease to be a Student for any reason.

4.1.9 For the purposes of Bye-Law 4.1.8.1, gross misconduct may include, but is not limited to:

- 4.1.9.1 Perverting, or attempting to pervert the democratic procedures of the Union;
- 4.1.9.2 Acting in an intimidating manner towards other Executive Officers, Students, or staff of the Union or University;
- 4.1.9.3 Behaviour that is in breach of the Union's or University's Equality & Diversity Policies;
- 4.1.9.4 Defrauding, or attempting to defraud the Union or University;
- 4.1.9.5 Embezzlement of funds; and/or
- 4.1.9.6 A breach of the Union's Zero-Tolerance Policy on discrimination.

## 4.2 Executive Committee Meetings

### 4.2.1 The role of the Executive Committee is to:

- 4.2.1.1 Implement the decisions made by Trustees and Company Law Members, as well as recommendations of Student Members' meetings, and Referenda;
- 4.2.1.2 Act as a channel of communication between Student Members, Trustees, the University and other relevant institutions;
- 4.2.1.3 Be responsible for the direction of the Union through the implementation and development of its strategic plan, as such is agreed by the Trustees;
- 4.2.1.4 Fulfil the responsibilities laid down in their role descriptions;
- 4.2.1.5 Implement and adhere to all policies of the Union;

- 4.2.1.6 Seek professional advice from the Chief Executive Officer or others, when required;
  - 4.2.1.7 Create, repeal and amend the Standing Orders of the Union, jointly with Student Members at Student Members' meetings; and
  - 4.2.1.8 Review and (if appropriate) authorise to be voted upon, SUGgestions proposed by Students on the Website in accordance with Bye-Law 3.1.3.
- 4.2.2 Executive Committee meetings should be held fortnightly at the discretion of the Chair of the Executive Committee. A minimum of two (2) Executive Committee meetings should be held in a calendar month, unless previously agreed in a quorate Executive Committee meeting.
- 4.2.3 Subject to Bye-Law 4.3, additional meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by:
- 4.2.3.1 Any two members of the Executive Committee; or
  - 4.2.3.2 A resolution of the Executive Committee.
- 4.2.4 Executive Committee meetings are open meetings where any Student Members may attend. Student Members do not have speaking rights unless invited to speak by a member of the Executive Committee. Any member of the meeting can request that the meeting enters a "closed" session determined by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee. If the meeting enters a "closed" session, then all non-members of the Executive Committee must leave the meeting.
- 4.2.5 The Executive Committee can give both Informal Warnings and Formal Warnings to fellow Student Leaders in accordance with Bye-Laws 5.2 and 5.3. A Proposal for the of "removal from post" can only heard by the Accountability Forum

### 4.3 Emergency Meetings of the Executive Committee

- 4.3.1 Emergency meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by any Executive Officer.
- 4.3.2 A call for an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee must specify the issues to be discussed.
- 4.3.3 An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee may only discuss the business for which the meeting was originally called.

### 4.4 Order of Business of Executive Committee Meetings

- 4.4.1 The order of business for Executive Committee Meetings, unless determined otherwise by the meeting, will be as follows:
  - 4.4.1.1 Apologies for Absence
  - 4.4.1.2 Declarations/Conflicts of Interest
  - 4.4.1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting
  - 4.4.1.4 Matters Arising
  - 4.4.1.5 Weekly Events
  - 4.4.1.6 Weekly Report
  - 4.4.1.7 Group Management Accounts (Monthly)
  - 4.4.1.8 Any other Proposals
  - 4.4.1.9 Any other reports
  - 4.4.1.10 Student Leader verbal updates & SUGGESTIONS

4.4.1.11 Time Analyses & GOATing

4.4.1.12 Chief Executive verbal update

4.4.1.13 Health and Safety

4.4.1.14 Chair's actions

4.4.1.15 Any Other Business

#### 4.5 Conduct of Business at Executive Committee Meetings

##### 4.5.1 The Chair

4.5.1.1 The chair of the meeting of the Executive Committee (for the purposes of this Bye-Law 4, the "**Chair**") will be the Student Leader elected as the Chair of the Executive Committee in line with bye law 4.1.5.1. In the absence of the elected Chair of the Executive Committee, the Chair will be the Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee..

4.5.1.2 In the event of a challenge to a ruling of the Chair, the Chair will vacate the chair in favour of another (the "**Deputy**"). The proposer shall speak for the Proposal to challenge a ruling, and the challenged Chair will speak against before a vote is taken. In the event of the Proposal being carried, the Deputy will assume the Chair until a discussion on that item has been concluded.

4.5.1.3 The Chair of the Executive Committee shall be able to use 'Chair's Powers' to make business critical or time dependant decisions outside the Executive Committee meeting.

- 4.5.1.4 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.
- 4.5.1.5 Decisions made using Chair's Powers shall be made reported to the Executive Committee at the next scheduled meeting.
- 4.5.1.6 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.

#### 4.5.2 Debate

- 4.5.2.1 Under the guidance of the meeting but at the ultimate discretion of the Chair, the Chair may put an item into "debate". Those wishing to speak on the item will indicate their wish to do so by raising their hand.
- 4.5.2.2 Under the guidance of the meeting but at the ultimate discretion of the Chair, the Chair may put an item into "formal debate". Speeches will then be taken alternately for and against the item, followed by a summation from the original proposer before a vote is taken. The Chair will decide, under the guidance of the meeting and before the commencement of the debate, the number and length of speeches.
- 4.5.2.3 The Chair will at their discretion take speakers with precedence being given to those who first 'catch the eye' of the Chair.
- 4.5.2.4 All speakers will address the meeting through the Chair.

#### 4.5.3 Voting

4.5.3.1 The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee will be three (3) voting members.

4.5.3.2 The Chair will call a vote by asking for a show of hands in favour, against or abstaining on a particular resolution. A resolution will be carried by a simple majority vote of those present and entitled to vote unless otherwise stated in these Bye-Laws.

4.5.3.3 In the event of a tied vote, the Chair will have a casting vote.

#### 4.5.4 Attendance at Executive Committee Meetings

4.5.4.1 Observers, either individually or collectively, may be excluded from meetings by a simple majority vote as detailed in Bye-Law 4.2.4.

4.5.4.2 Guest speakers may be invited to speak at meetings at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

#### 4.5.5 Minutes

4.5.5.1 Minutes of Executive Committee meetings will be taken by a Union staff member present at the meeting, as chosen by the Chief Executive.

4.5.5.2 Minutes will be signed after being confirmed at the following Executive meeting; this will be evidence of the meeting having taken place.

4.5.5.2 The Chair of the Executive Committee shall ensure that minutes will be displayed on the Website within two weeks of being confirmed.





# Bye-Law 5

## Bye-Elections and Removal from Office of Elected Officers

### 5.1 Absence

- 5.1.1 If any Elected Officer fails to attend two (2) consecutive, or any three (3), meetings of the Executive Committee in an Academic Year without apologies with valid mitigating circumstances being provided to the Chair prior to the relevant meeting, s/he will be deemed to have resigned from office, unless absence is due to ill health.

### 5.2 Informal Warning

- 5.2.1 The Executive Committee has the power to give Informal Warnings to Student Leaders, but must refer Proposals for “the removal from post” to Accountability Forums.
- 5.2.2 Any member of the Executive Committee may be given an Informal Warning by a Proposal for an Informal Warning at an Accountability Forum.
- 5.2.3 Proposals for Informal Warnings must be proposed in the same manner as all other Proposal and must name the individual whom the proposer wishes to give an Informal Warning to, and the reason(s) why (as set out in Bye-Law 5.7).
- 5.2.4 An Informal Warning must be passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote at the relevant meeting.
- 5.2.5 If a second Proposal for an Informal Warning is given (whether by the Executive Committee or the Student Body) during the Student Leader’s term of office then s/he will face immediately a vote for a Formal Warning in accordance with Bye-Law 5.3.

### 5.3 Formal Warning

- 5.3.1 The Executive Committee has the power to give Formal Warnings to Student Leaders, but must refer Proposals for the “removal from post” to Accountability Forums.
- 5.3.2 Any member of the Executive Committee may be given a Formal Warning at an Accountability Forum, if their Report is disapproved by Student Members.
- 5.3.3 Proposals for Formal Warnings must be proposed in the same manner as all other Proposals and must name the individual whom the proposer wishes to give a Formal Warning to, and the reason(s) why (as set out in Bye-Law 5.8).
- 5.3.4 A Proposal for a Formal Warning must be passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote at the relevant meeting.
- 5.3.5 If two Proposals for a Formal Warning are passed (whether by the Executive Committee at an Accountability Forum) during the Student Leader’s term of office then s/he will face immediately a vote for the “Removal from Post” in accordance with Bye-Law 5.4.

#### 5.4 Removal from Post

- 5.4.1 A vote for the “removal from post” must be passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote at an Accountability Forum.
- 5.4.2 A vote for the “removal from post” may be brought against a Student Trustee if they are in breach of their academic study rules (e.g. poor attendance at lectures) or if the results of a University disciplinary are found to be unfavourable.

- 5.4.3 If a vote for the "removal from post" is passed by the Accountability Forum for the removal of an Elected Officer, they will be removed from office on the day that the Proposal is passed.
- 5.4.4 If a Proposal for the "removal from post" is passed by the Accountability Forum against a Volunteer Officer, they can appeal by writing to the Chair of the Executive Committee within ten (10) clear days of the Proposal being passed.
- 5.4.5 An appeal of a Volunteer Officer will be conducted by a Student Members' meeting held in accordance with Bye-Law 2.
- 5.4.6 If a Proposal for the "removal from post" is passed by the Accountability Forum against a member of the Executive Committee, they can appeal by writing to the Chair of the Executive Committee within ten (10) clear days of the Proposal being passed. In the event of a Proposal for the "removal from post" being passed against the Chair of the Executive Committee, the Chair of the Executive Committee can appeal, in writing, to the nominated Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee within ten (10) clear days of the Proposal being passed.
- 5.4.7 An appeal of a member of the Executive Committee will be conducted by a Referendum in accordance with Bye-Law 8.
- 5.4.8 The Proposals to be heard under Bye-Laws 5.4.5 and 5.4.7 will be a question of whether the Student Members support the Accountability Forum's ruling of "removal from post".
- 5.4.9 Before a Proposal for the "removal from post" is heard, the Accountability Forum will be read out aloud the document entitled "*Legal Responsibilities of the Accountability Forum in regards to Proposals for the 'removal from post'*". A copy of the document shall be made available by the Chief Executive on request.

## 5.5 Office role becoming vacant and Bye-Election

5.5.1 In the event of any Elected Officer role becoming vacant, then (pending any appeal under Bye-Law 5.4) a Bye-Election will take place unless the below criteria is met.

5.5.1.1 If (for any reason) the office of an Elected Officer becomes vacant either before an appointed candidate takes office or within the period of ten (10) weeks after their commencement of the role, then the election results will be recalculated with the original successful candidate deemed to have withdrawn. The new successful candidate, provided that they received votes from a minimum of one percent (1%) of Members in the election, shall be invited to take up office upon satisfaction of any conditions required to be fulfilled in order for them to enter into their employment contract (including but not limited to passing a DBS ("Disclosure & Barring Service") check). If the new successful candidate is unable to take up office then this process should be followed again, withdrawing the unavailable candidate on each occasion. If this process does not result in the post being filled due to lack of availability of candidates or those who do not reach the 1% votes threshold required above, then the post will remain unfilled until a Bye-Election can be held in accordance with Bye-Law 5.5.3 or a member is co-opted under bye-law 7.18.3.

5.5.1.2 If (for any reason) the office of an Elected Officer becomes vacant following the election of a candidate to take over that Elected Officer role for the subsequent Academic Year (the "**Officer Elect**"), then the role will become vacant and no Bye-Election held. The Trustees have the discretion to offer the role to the Officer Elect on a part-time basis until their official full time appointment date.

5.5.1.3 If (for any reason) the office of a Student Leader becomes vacant and the provisions of neither Bye-Law 5.5.1.1 nor Bye-Law 5.5.1.2 applies, the Trustees may, upon advice from the Executive Committee, determine that a Bye-Election is to be

held to fill the vacancy. For the avoidance of doubt, a Bye-Election is not automatically called in the event of a Sabbatical Trustee role becoming vacant.

5.5.2 The Bye-Election referred to in Bye-Law 5.5.1.3 shall be subject to Bye-Law 7.

5.5.3 The Bye-Election must be held in term time, with polls opened:-

5.5.3.1 Within thirty (30) working days of the Elected Officer ceasing to hold (or being deemed to cease to hold) office, taking into account any appeal under Bye-Law 5.4.4 or 5.4.7 (if applicable);  
or

5.5.3.2 Within fourteen (14) working days from the start of term, if the Bye-Election would fall out of term time under Bye-Law 5.5.3.1.

5.5.4 In the case of the Chair of the Executive Committee position becoming vacant, the Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee will act as Chair of the Executive Committee until the end of their original period of office.

## 5.6 Service Contracts and Code of Conduct

5.6.1 The Chief Executive is the day to day contact for all contractual and employment issues and questions relating to the appointment and/or removal of Elected Officers.

5.6.2 The removal of an Elected Officer as set out in this Bye-Law 5 shall be subject always to the relevant Elected Officer's service contract and to the Code of Conduct relevant to the Elected Officer. The Trustees may take such action as they shall in their absolute discretion determine to be in the interests of the Union, in relation to the termination or suspension of office or employment of any Elected Officer, or proposed termination/suspension of office or employment.

## 5.7 Informal Warning

- 5.7.1 The following behaviour shall entitle a “Informal Warning” to be brought against an Elected Officer, by either the Accountability Forum or the Executive Committee, acting under the powers as outlined in the foregoing provisions of this Bye-Law 5:
- 5.7.1.1 Minor disciplinary offences, which shall include but shall not be limited to:
    - 5.7.1.1.1 being drunk and disorderly within Union premises; and/or
    - 5.7.1.1.2 bringing the name of the Union into disrepute.
  - 5.7.1.2 Instances of lack of attention to the performance of duties or instances of non-attendance at Executive Committee meetings without good reason. It is recommended that in the case of Student Leaders, an informal warning is issued by the Executive Committee to the Student Leader, before the issue is brought to an Accountability Forum.
  - 5.7.1.3 Instances of rude behaviour to Members or their guests, or to staff of the Union or the University.
  - 5.7.1.4 Instances of inappropriate behaviour that contravene the relevant section of the Student Leaders Code of Conduct.
  - 5.7.1.5 Failure to declare additional employment that does or may interfere or conflict with the duties and responsibilities of an Elected Officer.
  - 5.7.1.6 Failure to secure approval at a Student Members’ meeting, from the Executive Committee, for the commencement or continuation of an academic course during the Student Leader’s period of office (which shall commence upon the fourth week of the summer vacation).

- 5.7.2 An Informal Warning will remain in place for the duration of time that the Elected Officer continues to undertake the role which s/he held at the time the Informal Warning was awarded. This includes a second term of office after re-election in the same role. If an Elected Officer changes roles, then the Informal Warning is nulled.

## 5.8 Formal Warning

- 5.8.1 The following behaviour shall entitle a "Formal Warning" to be brought against an Elected Officer, by either an Accountability Forum or the Executive Committee acting under the powers as outlined in the foregoing provisions of this Bye-Law 5:

- 5.8.1.1 Failure to improve conduct following the passing of an Informal Warning pursuant to this Bye-Law 5.

- 5.8.1.2 Disciplinary offences that including (but not limited to):

- 5.8.1.2.1 Verbal aggression to Members or their guests, or to staff of the Union or University; and/or

- 5.8.1.2.2 Attempting to gain entry to Union events without payment, or by use of deception or other unfair means.

- 5.8.1.3 Regular occurrences of lack of attention to the performance of duties or of non-attendance without good reason. It is recommended that in the case of Student Leaders, an informal warning is issued by the Executive Committee to the Student Leaders, before the issue is brought to an Accountability Forum.

- 5.8.1.4 Regular occurrences of rude behaviour to Members or their guests, or to staff of the Union or the University.



5.8.1.5 Wilful disobedience of an order, Proposal or mandated instruction of a Student Members' meeting, Accountability Forum, or of these Bye-Laws.

5.8.1.6 Wilful failure to declare an interest, position or relationship which may conflict with the duties and responsibilities of the post.

5.8.2 A Formal Warning will remain in place for the duration of time that the Elected Officer continues to undertake the role which s/he held at the time the Formal Warning was awarded. This includes a second term of office after re-election in the same role. If an Elected Officer changes roles, then the Formal Warning is nulled.

## 5.9 Removal from Post

5.9.1. The behaviour listed in Bye-Laws 5.9.1.1 to 5.9.1.14 (inclusive) shall entitle a "Removal from Post" to be brought against an Elected Officer, by either an Accountability Forum or the Executive Committee acting under the powers as outlined in the foregoing provisions of this Bye-Law 5. Such Elected Officer may be suspended until the Proposal for the 'Removal from Post' is heard, if the alleged behaviour is serious and to allow the Elected Officer to continue in post could put the Union's finances at risk or jeopardise the safety of Members and/or Union or University staff. The decision to suspend the Elected Officer will be made by the Chair of the Executive Committee (or Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee in cases involving the Chair of the Executive Committee), after seeking guidance from the Chief Executive. The Elected Officer's remuneration will be paid until the Removal from Post is decided. The Elected Officer concerned will not be allowed to vote on the Removal from Post.

5.9.1.1 Failure to improve conduct following the passing of a "Formal Warning".

5.9.1.2 Assault of another person on University premises or elsewhere.

5.9.1.3 Disorderly or indecent conduct of a serious nature, including fighting on University premises.

- 5.9.1.4 Wilful irresponsibility leading to injury or which could lead to the injury of another person whilst on University premises.
- 5.9.1.5 Serious acts of negligence or carelessness.
- 5.9.1.6 Driving on official Union business whilst under the influence of drink or non-prescription drugs.
- 5.9.1.7 Theft from Union premises or of property belonging to Members or their guests, or to suppliers, customers and staff of the University or the Union.
- 5.9.1.8 Fraud, including the falsification of expense claims and sickness certificates.
- 5.9.1.9 Any act of financial misappropriation of Union funds whether before taking up a post or during holding such post.
- 5.9.1.10 Serious breach of safety regulations likely to endanger others, including deliberate damage to, neglect or misappropriation of safety equipment.
- 5.9.1.11 Actions in contravention of Union Policy on Equal Opportunities, Harassment and Bullying.
- 5.9.1.12 Deliberate actions in breach of Union Policy on Computer Security and e-mail.
- 5.9.1.13 Acts in contravention of the Bye-Laws.
- 5.9.1.14 Breach of Confidentiality with regard to DSB disclosures and sensitive information regarding individuals.

# Bye-Law 6

## Powers and Duties of the Trustees

### Definitions

Words and phrases used in this Bye-Law 6 have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Articles, or in the Bye-Laws, unless the context otherwise requires. The following definitions shall also apply:-

**“Sabbatical Trustee”:** a Student Leader has the option to become a Sabbatical Trustee in accordance with Article 22.2

### 6.1 Trustees’ Powers and Duties

6.1.1 The Trustees will be responsible for the management and administration of the Union and (subject to the Education Act, the Articles and these Bye-Laws) may exercise all the powers of the Union.

6.1.2 The Trustees’ powers as stated in Bye-Law 6.1.1 include, but are not limited to, responsibility for:

6.1.2.1 The governance of the Union;

6.1.2.2 The budget of the Union; and

6.1.2.3 The strategy of the Union.

### 6.2 Order of Business at Trustees’ Meetings

6.2.1 The order of business at Trustees’ meetings, unless determined otherwise by the Trustees from time to time, will be as follows:

6.2.1.1 Apologies for absence;

6.2.1.2 Conflicts of Interest

- 6.2.1.3 Minutes of the previous Board meeting/s;
  - 6.2.1.4 Matters arising and action points from those minutes;
  - 6.2.1.5 Finance Report
  - 6.2.1.6 Chief Executive report;
  - 6.2.1.7 Student Leader Reports;
  - 6.2.1.8 Unapproved minutes from the Sub-Committees
  - 6.2.1.9 Unapproved minutes from the Lincoln Students' Union Trading Limited Board;
  - 6.2.1.10 Unapproved minutes from the Students' Union Management System Board
  - 6.2.1.11 Finance report;
  - 6.2.1.12 Any other reports;
  - 6.2.1.13 Agenda items;
  - 6.2.1.14 Health & Safety
  - 6.2.1.15 Any other business;
  - 6.2.1.16 Date, time and venue of next meeting.
- 6.2.2 Two Trustees or the Chief Executive may call a Trustees' meeting.
- 6.2.3 The Trustee Board will meet a minimum of 5 (five) times per calendar year at dates proposed by the Clerk to the Board. These dates are fixed when agreed by the incumbent Chair of the Board unless changes to the agreed dates are subsequent approved by the majority of the Trustees.

### 6.3 Conduct of Business at Trustees' Meetings

#### 6.3.1 The Chair

6.3.1.1 The chair of Trustees' meetings will be the Student Leader elected as Chair of the Board of Trustees (for the purposes of this Bye-Law 6, the "**Chair**"). In the absence of the Chair of the Board of Trustees being present, the chair will be the Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees (as defined in Bye-Law 6.3.1.2).

6.3.1.2 A Deputy Chair will be elected at the first Trustees' meeting of each Academic Year. The Trustees shall seek to appoint a Non-Student Trustee as the Deputy Chair, if willing and able to act.

### 6.4 Voting at Trustees' Meetings

6.4.1 The quorum for the transaction of the business of the Trustees may be fixed by the Trustees and unless so fixed at any other number or ratio will be four, including at least two Sabbatical Trustees and one Non-Student Trustee.

6.4.2 The Chair will call a vote by asking for a show of hands in favour, against, or abstaining on a particular item of business. A resolution will be carried by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote unless otherwise stated in these Bye-Laws.

6.4.3 In the case of a tied vote, the Chair will have a casting vote only.

### 6.5 Procedure and other rules relating to Trustees' Meetings

6.5.1 If a Student Trustee ceases to be a Student then such Trustee will be deemed to have resigned their position with immediate effect.

6.5.2 Guest speakers may be invited to speak at Trustees' meetings at the discretion of the Trustees.

- 6.5.3 The Chief Executive will have full speaking rights at all Trustees' meetings, but will not be entitled to vote at such meetings.
- 6.5.4 At the discretion of the meeting, and with approval of the Chief Executive, any other member of the Union's staff may attend and speak, but not vote, at Trustees' meetings.
- 6.5.5 Observers and guests, either individually or collectively, may be excluded from Trustees' meetings by a simple majority vote of the Trustees present and entitled to vote.
- 6.5.6 Trustee meetings will be open unless the Trustees determine to enter into a closed session, by a simple majority vote of those Trustees present and entitled to vote. Subject to Bye-Law 6.5.7, when it has been decided to continue a meeting in closed session, any non-Trustees present will be required to leave the meeting unless the Trustees determine otherwise by a simple majority vote of those Trustees present and entitled to vote.
- 6.5.7 Unless requested by the Trustees to leave, the Chief Executive, the Clerk to the Board and the minute secretary shall remain present for a closed session of the Board.
- 6.5.8 In the event of the minute secretary not being present in a closed session, the minutes of closed sessions will be taken by a Trustee.

## 6.6 Student Trustee Appointment Committee

- 6.6.1 Student Trustees shall be selected and recommended to the Board for approval by the Student Trustee Appointment Committee as set out in this Bye-Law 6.6.
- 6.6.2 The Student Trustee Appointment Committee shall be comprised of the following:
  - 6.6.2.1 The Chair of the Board of Trustees;
  - 6.6.2.2 A Non-Student Trustee;
  - 6.6.2.3 A Student Trustee; and

6.6.2.4 The Chief Executive Officer.

6.6.3 Vacancies for Student Trustee positions shall be announced on the Website, advertised through the Volunteering department and a direct email to Students eligible to apply for the specific role.

6.6.4 Student Trustee offices comprise the following positions:

6.6.4.1 Undergraduate Student Trustee;

6.6.4.2 Postgraduate Student Trustee;

6.6.4.3 Mature Student Trustee.

6.6.5 Following the ratification of the Student Trustee Appointments Sub Committee by the Board of Trustees, the successful candidate is announced on the Student Union Website for 14 days. If during the 14 days the Chief Executive, acting as Company Secretary, receives 20 objections by email to [ceo@lincolnsu.com](mailto:ceo@lincolnsu.com), then the appointment is referred to an All Students' Members Meeting for approval (or not). For clarification, the Student Trustee is not appointed until this is exhausted or the time elapsed.

# Bye-Law 7

## Rules Governing Elections

### Definitions

Words and phrases used in this Bye-Law 7 have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Articles, or in the Bye-Laws, unless the context otherwise requires. The following definitions shall also apply:-

**"Board"**: the Board of Trustees of the University of Lincoln Students' Union.

**"Canvassing"**: asking people to vote for you.

**"Donations"**: materials that are given to candidates for campaigning purposes.

**"Election Regulations"**: the election regulations as set out in this Bye-Law 7.

**"Election Committee"**: has the meaning given to such term in Bye-Law 7.17.

**"Executive Committee"**: the Executive Committee of the University of Lincoln Students' Union.

**"Question Time"**: sessions providing an opportunity for candidates to present themselves to Students alongside other candidates and to answer Students' questions (as is further set out in Bye-Law 7.11).

**"Returning Officer"**: for the purposes of this Bye-Law 7, the returning officer appointed by the Trustees under Bye-Law 7.12.1.

**"Single Transferable Voting"**: voting at an election held in accordance with the rules for the operation of transferable voting systems, as set by the Electoral Reform Society (please see <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/single-transferable-vote>).

**"Student Leader"**: a Student Leader is a Sabbatical Officer as defined in the Article 22.



**“Student Members”**: the Student Members of the University of Lincoln Students’ Union.

**“Union”**: the University of Lincoln Students’ Union.

7.1 The Election Regulations are based on the following core principles:

- 7.1.1 Campaigning must not disrupt academic study of other Students;
- 7.1.2 There will be no unfair advantage to anyone or disenfranchisement of any Members;
- 7.1.3 Each candidate is responsible for the actions of their own campaign team and supporters;
- 7.1.4 Candidates must respect and work within the law and within Regulations from the Union and the University; and
- 7.1.5 The Returning Officer is responsible for the running of a free and fair election; their decision is final.

7.2 This Bye-Law 7 outlines the rules and regulations for the Union’s elections for the positions of:

- Sabbatical Trustees;
- Union Chair (who shall chair Accountability Forums and Student Members’ meetings);
- Volunteer Officers;

7.2.1 Standing for election

- 7.2.1.1 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. The portfolios and number of positions available for election to the Executive Committee are set out in the Articles and the Articles form part of these Election Regulations.

7.2.1.1.1 Changes to the titles of the Student Leader roles may only be made through a referendum or preferendum delivered in accordance with bye-laws 8 and 9; or through an All Student Members Meeting with a minimum of 150 members in attendance. For the purpose of clarity, this can only change the title of the Student Leader roles, and does not include edits to the portfolios of the Student Leaders.

7.2.1.2 The Volunteer Officers are comprised of the following positions:-

7.2.1.2.1 College Officers, School Representatives and Postgraduate Officers are Students elected to represent their college or school of the University or level of Postgraduate study;

7.2.1.2.2 Any Chair of a Campaigns Network group as defined in the relevant Standing Order of the Campaigns Network group;

7.2.1.2.3 Sports Officers who are Students elected to represent Sports Clubs;

7.2.1.2.4 Societies Officers who are Students elected to represent Societies;

7.2.1.2.5 Academic Societies Officers who are Students elected to represent Academic Societies;

- 7.2.1.2.6 the RAG Officer who is the chair of the RAG Committee as defined in the Standing Order covering the RAG Committee;
- 7.2.1.2.7 the Union Chair (who shall chair Accountability Forums and Student Members' meetings as defined in Bye-Law 2.3.1);
- 7.2.1.2.8 the Officer of the International Students' Association (ISA)
- 7.2.1.2.9 community Representatives as defined in the Standing Order covering Community Representatives;
- 7.2.1.2.10 the Officer of the Postgraduate Students' Association; and
- 7.2.1.2.11 such other Volunteer Officer positions as determined from time to time by the Trustees.

## 7.2.2 Eligibility

- 7.2.2.1 Students must be a full Student Member of the Union to be eligible to vote or stand for election.
- 7.2.2.2 Subject to Bye-Law 7.2.2.3, students who have been subject to a disciplinary action by the Union or who have had a disciplinary allegation against them found proven at the *Head of College* stage of the University's Student Conduct and Disciplinary procedure, will not be eligible to stand for election.
- 7.2.2.3 If the Union or University disciplinary process is live, then the Student may stand in the election. However, should the candidate be found guilty of a serious offence by the

Union or at the *Head of College* stage of the University's Student Conduct and Disciplinary procedure, they will be deemed to have withdrawn (or, if elected, resigned) with immediate effect. Any student who has been excluded from Union membership, or premises, for more than three (3) months, will be deemed to have been found guilty of a serious offence for the purposes of this Bye-Law 7.2.2.3.

- 7.2.2.4 Elected Officers who previously have ceased to hold office as a consequence of disciplinary reasons will not be eligible for election.
- 7.2.2.5 Student staff members of the University or Union will be eligible to stand and vote in elections. However, they are expressly forbidden from campaigning during working hours or using their position to influence voting.
- 7.2.2.6 Students with outstanding tuition fees owed to the University (in line with the University's current Regulations) will not be eligible to stand for election.
- 7.2.2.7 It is the candidate's responsibility to disclose any disciplinary action taken by the University, prior to submitting their manifesto. Failure to do so will result in a penalty, which shall be decided by the Returning Officer in accordance with Bye-Law 7.12.3.
- 7.2.2.8 Candidates may stand for one position only in any one election period and may not stand in a bye-election for the same Academic term if already elected to another role.
- 7.2.2.9 Candidates may be re-elected, but can only serve a maximum of two years as a Student Leader under the Education Act.

### 7.3 Elections involving the Board of Trustees

7.3.1 Successful candidates for Sabbatical Trustee elections will need to undergo a DBS ("Disclosure & Barring Service") check. If a DBS check is returned as "failed", the process to consider this is outlined in the Union's *Student Leader Terms and Conditions of Officer* document.

### 7.4 Nominations

7.4.1 All candidates must fully and accurately complete the electronic nomination form to be eligible to stand for election. Additional information may be requested at the discretion of the Returning Officer in accordance with Bye-Law 7.13.3.

7.4.2 Completed nomination forms must be submitted electronically together with artwork for publicity materials and a photograph for the election voting page.

7.4.3 For a nomination form to be valid, it must be received before the stated closing date and time.

### 7.5 Manifesto

7.5.1 All candidates must submit a maximum five hundred (500) word manifesto as part of the nomination form which will be displayed on the Website.

7.5.2 All manifestos must be written in English and comply with the Union's and University's Equal Opportunities Policies.

7.5.3 Candidates are, by submitting a nomination form, giving consent:

7.5.3.1 To be photographed and filmed during the election process;  
and

7.5.3.2 For such photographs and films to be used by the Union, as it deems fit in its absolute discretion.

## 7.6 Elections Timetable

7.6.1 Notice of elections will be given to all Students a minimum of ten (10) working days before nominations open. The notice will include the following details:

7.6.1.1 The information set out in Bye-Laws 7.8.1.1 to 7.8.1.6 (inclusive); and

7.6.1.2 All the posts to be filled.

7.6.2 Nominations will be open for a period of at least five (5) working days. Notice of successful candidates nominated will be displayed within two (2) working days of close of nominations, on the Website.

7.6.3 Candidates must not begin to canvas until after they have attended candidate briefings and official notification has been given.

7.6.4 All Sabbatical Trustee Candidates must attend a Charity Commission briefing with the Chief Executive of the Students' Union prior to them commencing campaigning.

7.6.5 All Candidates for the role of any on the Sabbatical Officer positions must attend a briefing regarding the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees aspects of the role, including being Chair of the Board of Trustees, with the Chief Executive of the Students' Union (and previous Chair of the Board of Trustees, where appropriate) prior to them commencing campaigning.

7.6.6 Any candidate wishing to withdraw from the election process must notify the Returning Officer in writing of their wish to withdraw. Subject to notice being received on time to enable the Returning Officer to do so, the Returning Officer shall amend the notice of elections and/or

nomination to reflect such withdrawal. It shall be the responsibility of the relevant candidate to give the Returning Officer sufficient notice of withdrawal; the Returning Officer shall have no responsibility to any candidate if the notice of elections and/or nomination is not amended to reflect such withdrawal.

7.6.7 Vote counting will commence at the close of the ballot. The Returning Officer will declare the time and location of the count to all candidates, before voting commences.

7.6.8 Any complaints relating to the election, including the ballot and the conduct of candidates, must be made prior to the close of voting and within twenty four (24) hours of the incident to which the complaint relates. Complaints must be submitted in writing to the Returning Officer.

7.6.9 Any complaint relating to the conduct or validity of the count must be made to the Returning Officer in writing, within five (5) working days of the count taking place.

## 7.7 Publicity

### 7.7.1 Production of publicity

7.7.1.1 All publicity is subject to these Bye-Laws.

7.7.1.2 Publicity of any form is not permitted prior to the official commencement of the election canvassing, as determined by the Returning Officer in accordance with Bye-Law 7.12.

7.7.1.3 Candidates will be entitled, free of charge, to printing as outlined in the Candidate Handbook. This is restricted to original artwork to be submitted with the nomination form. For the purposes of this Bye-law 7 the Candidate Handbook is the Handbook distributed by the Returning Officer at the procedural meeting for each election.

- 7.7.1.4 Designs are subject to the approval of the Returning Officer.
  - 7.7.1.5 Candidates are not to exceed the allowed budget and must submit receipts for all purchases and donations 24 hours before the end of the voting period.
  - 7.7.1.6 Candidates will not be allowed certain publicity materials. This list will be reviewed by the Returning Officer and includes additional unauthorised web space or sites, stickers and graffiti. Further details are in the Candidate Handbook.
  - 7.7.1.7 Election material shall not be libellous or defamatory.
  - 7.7.1.8 The Returning Officer has the absolute right to require that publicity which s/he deems not to conform to this Bye-Law 7 or the terms of the Candidate Handbook is removed.
  - 7.7.1.9 All publicity must comply with the Union and University's Policies, including but not limited to those relating to Equal Opportunities.
- 7.7.2 Distribution of publicity
- 7.7.2.1 A candidate's election publicity must not obscure, deface or remove that of either another current candidate or any publicity or information displayed by the Union or the University.
  - 7.7.2.2 Publicity materials must not be displayed or distributed within the University Library or any computer rooms.



- 7.7.2.3 Only materials suitable for fixing publicity are to be used. Any costs incurred resulting from damage caused by publicity, or from additional cleaning costs in removing publicity, will be charged to the candidate(s) responsible, who will be wholly liable for any such costs.

## 7.8 Announcement of Candidates

7.8.1 The Returning Officer will publish the following:

- 7.8.1.1 The names of all candidates who have submitted valid nomination papers.
- 7.8.1.2 The manifesto provided by each candidate.
- 7.8.1.3 The date of the elections.
- 7.8.1.4 The times and methods by which votes may be cast.
- 7.8.1.5 The date(s), time(s) and venue(s) of all Question Times.
- 7.8.1.6 Details of any invalid nomination paper(s), together with the reason(s) for invalidity.

## 7.9 Campaigning & Canvassing

7.9.1 Candidates are responsible for the actions of any campaigner or supporter canvassing for their campaign. All Election Regulations apply equally to the actions of campaigners and supporters as they do to candidates. It is the responsibility of the candidate(s) to ensure, as far as reasonably possible, that anyone assisting in their campaign fully understands, and abides by, these Regulations.

7.9.2 Union sports clubs, societies, committees and other groups may officially endorse candidates via official club/society activities, if it can be shown

that such endorsement would not cause a candidate to breach any of the terms of this Bye-Law 7.

- 7.9.3 Canvassing of any form, including the display of campaign material, is not permitted prior to the official commencement of the campaigning period, as such is determined by the Returning Officer.
- 7.9.4 Candidates must, at all times, comply with applicable laws when canvassing.
- 7.9.5 When conducting campaigning and canvassing activities on University, Union or private property, including but not limited to lecture theatres, student accommodation and official University premises, permission must be sought and granted from the relevant person in order to carry out such activities.
- 7.9.6 Candidates may not use the Portal, or utilise Student mailing lists, for the purposes of campaigning.
- 7.9.7 Canvassing is prohibited within individual learning spaces such as the University Library or computer rooms.
- 7.9.8 Subject to Byelaw 7.9.9, Union and University staff may not support, aid, or endorse, election candidates at any time.
- 7.9.9 Students employed by the University or Union and Elected Officers may support, aid and/or endorse election candidates, but only outside of working hours.

#### 7.10 Voting

- 7.10.1 Only current Student Members are eligible to vote in elections.
- 7.10.2 All elections will include the opportunity to vote for 'Re-Open Nomination' (RON). The election of RON results in a new election for that position being held.

- 7.10.3 Votes will be cast by secret ballot in accordance with Article 22.1, using an electronic system.
- 7.10.4 Electronic voting will be available for a minimum total period of seventy-two (72) hours.
- 7.10.5 Voting will be by Single Transferable Voting.

#### 7.11 Question Time

- 7.11.1 Sabbatical Trustee Candidates are required to take part in Question Time, called and chaired by a nominee of the Union as approved by the Executive Committee.
- 7.11.2 Question Time will take place at such venue(s) and time(s) as notified under Bye-Law 7.9.1.6.
- 7.11.3 Anyone is permitted to attend Question Time, but only Student Members may ask questions of candidates.
- 7.11.4 Any questions can raise points connected to Policy, manifesto or speech content but the questions must be addressed to all candidates.

#### 7.12 Governing and Supervision of Elections

- 7.12.1 The Returning Officer: The Trustees shall appoint a Returning Officer every three (3) years from candidate(s) proposed by the Chief Executive. Student Members, University staff and Trustees cannot be a Returning Officer.
- 7.12.2 The responsibilities of the Returning Officer(s) are:
  - 7.12.2.1 Enforcement of these Election Regulations and ultimate responsibility for the free and fair running of elections.
  - 7.12.2.2 To submit a report on the conduct of the elections to the Trustees and the University's Board of Governors (via the

Elections Sub- Committee), within one month following each election, stating all complaints made and actions taken and what steps could be taken to improve future elections.

7.12.2.3 To co-opt up to four Assistant Returning Officers, one of whom may be nominated as a Deputy Returning Officer. The appointment of such Assistant Returning Officers must be confirmed by the Elections Sub-Committee. The Assistant Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officer may exercise the powers and duties of the Returning Officer under these Bye-Laws to the extent so permitted by the Returning Officer and references in this Bye-Law 7 to the Returning Officer shall include, as the context requires, references to the Deputy Returning Officer and the Assistant Returning Officers.

7.12.2.4 The Deputy Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer(s) shall provide to the Returning Officer a recommendation for the resolution of a complaint for approval before a complaint is resolved.

7.12.3 The Returning Officer has the power to:

7.12.3.1 Issue an oral or written warning to candidates;

7.12.3.2 Restrict the amount of publicity available to a candidate;

7.12.3.3 Disqualify a candidate;

7.12.3.4 Require a candidate to publicly correct or withdraw any inaccurate or prohibited statement, or to remove any prohibited publicity material;

7.12.3.5 Take any other appropriate action in relation to candidates;

- 7.12.3.6 Refer any incidents to appropriate University, Union or external authorities if the behaviour of a candidate or their campaigners or supporters breaks University Regulations, these Bye-Laws, or the rules of any other relevant body;
- 7.12.3.7 Confiscate election materials;
- 7.12.3.8 Require a candidate to issue an apology; and
- 7.12.3.9 Create a Code of Conduct for candidates.

#### 7.12.4 Assistant Returning Officers:

- 7.12.4.1 are co-opted every three (3) years by the Returning Officer to assist the Returning Officer in performing his or her duties and responsibilities under these Election Regulations;
- 7.12.4.2 cannot be Student Members or Trustees; and
- 7.12.4.3 can be suspended with immediate effect by the Returning Officer, subject to appropriate notice with prior approval of the Trustees (who will hear any appeals or complaints relating to such suspension).

#### 7.12.5 Deputy Returning Officer

- 7.12.5.1 The Deputy Returning Officer is responsible for the Returning Officer's duties, should the Returning Officer be in any way indisposed.

### 7.13 Complaints

- 7.13.1 The Returning Officer is solely responsible for the interpretation of these Election Regulations.

- 7.13.2 Requests for interpretation of these Election Regulations or complaints about the conduct of candidates or election process under Bye-Laws 7.6.8 and 7.6.9 must be made to the Returning Officer in writing. Such a request or complaint must include, where appropriate, evidence and a suggested resolution.
- 7.13.3 The Returning Officer shall investigate all complaints and make adjudication according to the seriousness and complexity of the complaint. Decisions on complaints and conduct will be made within forty eight (48) hours (excluding non-working days), which may include the decision to hold a further enquiry.
- 7.13.4 If a candidate is found by the Returning Officer to be in breach of any one or more of these Election Regulations, the Returning Officer shall make a ruling.
- 7.13.5 The Returning Officer shall deal with any complaints made by residents of halls or the local community in relation to the conduct of candidates during canvassing or campaigning. The Returning Officer may suspend a candidate from the election process for a period of time, pending investigation.
- 7.13.6 All rulings made by the Returning Officer will be posted on emailed to candidates. Candidates must consult their emails regularly.
- 7.13.7 The ruling of the Returning Officer shall be final. However there shall be a right of appeal to the Chair of the Election Sub Committee of the Board fo Trustees.) if either party involved in the complaint wishes to raise concerns regarding the application of these Election Regulations or believes the Returning Officer has acted in an improper or biased manner. All appeals must be lodged in line with Bye-Law 7.15.

## 7.14 Suspension

- 7.14.1 Should any candidate be alleged to be in serious breach of these Bye-Laws or any other document or instruction issued by the Returning Officer, then that person may be suspended by the Returning Officer from campaigning or canvassing until such time as they are reinstated, penalised or disqualified by the Returning Officer (as the case may be).
- 7.14.2 Within forty eight (48) hours of any such suspension being imposed, the Returning Officer will make a decision on whether a suspended candidate may continue to take part in the election process.

## 7.15 Right of Appeal

- 7.15.1 Appeals by candidates against the decision of the Returning Officer must be made in writing to the Chair of the Election Sub Committee of the Board fo Trustees within five (5) clear days of the date of the Returning Officer's decision.
- 7.15.2 The nature of any appeal to the Chair of the Election Sub Committee of the Board fo Trustees shall only be based on whether the Returning Officer's decision was:
  - 7.15.2.1 taken in accordance with these Election Regulations and/or;
  - 7.15.2.2 fair, proper and unbiased.
- 7.15.3 The appeal notice should contain statements concerning which post was run for, the candidate's role in it, the nature of the decision to be appealed and the outcome being sought. The candidate must provide all relevant documentation and evidence to support their appeal, at the time of submission.
- 7.15.4 The Chair of the Election Sub Committee of the Board fo Trustees will determine whether to uphold the decision of the Returning Officer, or refer the matter back to the Returning Officer for further consideration. The Chair of the Election Sub Committee of the Board fo Trustees will

notify the candidate of his/her decision within five (5) clear days of receipt of the appeal.

7.15.5 In the event of the Chair of the Election Sub Committee of the Board of Trustees and the Returning Officer failing to agree a course of action to rectify the appeal to the satisfaction of both, the matter will be referred to the Elections Sub-Committee. The Elections Committee's decision on the matter shall be final.

7.15.6 Appeals may be made to the University Board of Governors via The University Registrar, once 7.15.5 has been concluded, on the following grounds;

7.15.6.1 of discrimination of a protected characteristic

7.15.6.2 of a conflict of interest for the Returning Officer or members of the Elections Sub-Committee

7.15.6.3 of a procedural issue with the running of the elections

## 7.16 Bye-Elections

7.16.1 A Bye-Election shall be held in the following circumstances:

7.16.1.1 Where an Elected Officer position remains unfilled following an election held in accordance with the above regulations.

7.16.1.2 In the event of a Student Leaders role or Volunteer Officer role becoming vacant In accordance with Bye Law 5.5

7.17 The Elections Sub-Committee:

7.17.1 Is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees, chaired by the Chief Executive.



- 7.17.1.2 Shall meet a minimum of three times in each Academic Year with a quorum of three. Additional meetings may be called with the agreement of the Chair, or at the request of the Trustees;
- 7.17.1.3 May make changes to Election Regulations.
- 7.17.2 The Elections Committee's composition is governed by the Terms of Reference of the Sub Committee. The Terms of references are approved by the Trustee Board.
- 7.17.3 Any Elected Officers of the Elections Committee standing for election will be automatically removed from the Elections Committee until the elections process, including any review, is complete.
- 7.17.4 The Remit of Elections Committee shall be:
  - 7.17.4.1 To make approve Elections policies and procedures;
  - 7.17.4.2 To oversee promotion of elections;
  - 7.17.4.3 To set dates for approval;
  - 7.17.4.4 To review the elections process;
  - 7.17.4.5 To set targets;
  - 7.17.4.6 To oversee the elections budget; and
  - 7.17.4.7 To set up such groups as it deems appropriate, to conduct the operation of elections.

7.18 Role of Sabbatical Trustees and Student Trustees in the elections process:

- 7.18.1 Elected Officers are expected to play a full and positive part in the general promotion of the elections to the Student body, to encourage candidates to stand and members to vote.
- 7.18.2 Elected Officers will not have any involvement in the interpretation of these Election Regulations.
- 7.18.3 Elected Student Leaders shall be able to co-opt students into elected roles, through a resolution by the Executive Committee.
  - 7.18.3.1 Unless an Executive Committee proposal to co-opt is approved by the elections sub-committee, 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;
  - 7. 18.3.2 No candidate who has been unsuccessful in the election or bye-election shall be permitted to be co-opted into the role;
  - 7.18.3.3 The Executive Committee may co-opt students into a role on a temporary or permanent (for the remainder of the academic year) basis;
  - 7.18.3.4 Names of all students who have been co-opted into roles by the Executive Committee shall be placed online at [Lincolnsu.com](http://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;
  - 7.18.3.5 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.



# Bye-Law 8

## Rules Governing Referenda

- 8.1 Referendum voting shall take the form of a secret cross campus ballot in which all full Student Members are asked to vote either yes, no, or abstain to a Proposal, policy or appeal. All Referenda are to be conducted on the Website and are decided by a simple majority vote.
- 8.2 Referenda shall be held in the following circumstances:
- 8.2.1 If, through the module for SUGgestions set out in Bye-Law 3.1, at least fifty (50) members vote that a referendum is to take place;
  - 8.2.2 If, in accordance with Bye-Law 2, a majority vote at Student Members' meeting approves a Proposal or policy should be put to a Referendum;
  - 8.2.3 In the event of an appeal by a member of the Executive Committee to a vote for the 'removal from post' of in accordance with Bye-Law 5.4.7;
  - 8.2.4 Upon a signed letter being received by the Chair of the Executive Committee from one hundred and fifty (150) Student Members;
  - 8.2.5 If a majority vote at a Trustee meeting approves a Proposal or policy should be put to a Referendum.
- 8.3 The Referendum voting will take place a maximum of thirty (30) working days (if this falls outside term time then the referendum must take place during the first week of a new academic term) after:
- 8.3.1 the decision to hold a Referendum is passed in the case of Bye-Laws 8.2.1, 8.2.2 and 8.2.5; or
  - 8.3.2 a letter/petition is received in the case of Bye-Laws 8.2.3 and 8.2.4.
- 8.3 Subject to the remainder of this Bye-Law 8.3, it shall be the responsibility of the Chair of the Executive Committee to enable Student Members to debate the policy or

Proposal before the beginning of voting. This may take the form of a physical meeting or be hosted online. There shall be no debate of an Executive Committee member's appeal under Bye-Law 5.4.7.

- 8.4 The quorum for a Referendum is 10% of Student Members who are eligible to vote. In the event of a Referendum for the appeal of an Executive Committee member under Bye-Law 5.4.7, the quorum is reduced to 5% of Student Members who are eligible to vote. If the quorum is not met, then the Proposal, policy or appeal is deemed to have failed (in the case of a Proposal posed as a question, being answered 'No').
- 8.5 Save any condition met by Article 30.3, any decision of a Referendum is final and cannot be revoked, except by another Referendum. Any policy adopted as a result of a referendum shall expire on the third anniversary of the date on which voting closed.
- 8.6 The Executive Committee will appoint a returning officer to oversee the Referendum (for the purposes of this Bye-Law 8, the "Returning Officer"), selected from Union staff upon recommendation from the Chief Executive Officer.
- 8.7 Campaigning for or against a Referendum must be conducted in accordance with the regulations set out in Bye-Laws 8.7.1 to 8.7.9 (inclusive). Campaigning in breach of this Bye-Law 8.7 may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the student disciplinary policy and elections rules and regulations, being taken against the Student Member in breach.
  - 8.7.1 Campaigning may begin once the relevant members have been briefed on the campaign rules outlined in this Bye-Law 8.
  - 8.7.2 Campaigners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their supporters' actions comply with the campaign rules at all times and must be able to demonstrate this in the event of a complaint against them.
  - 8.7.3 Campaigners may only alter, move or remove their own campaign materials.

- 8.7.4 Campaigners may only use mailing lists where lawful to do so (taking into account issues including, by not limited to, Data Protection). In most cases this will require the consent of the members on the list to use their details.
  - 8.7.5 Mailing lists of activity groups are deemed to be owned by the membership of the group; committee approval is therefore required in order to allow use of the list.
  - 8.7.6 Campaigners must not prevent free and easy access to and within the Union Building when campaigning.
  - 8.7.7 Campaigners must not communicate with voters in any way once they have begun to complete their ballot.
  - 8.7.8 Bribes must not be offered as part of any campaign.
  - 8.7.9 All campaigners must adhere to the rules of behaviour on any Union or University premises.
- 8.8 Notice of the Referendum will be given a minimum of five (5) working days by means of a news story on the Website. This is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.
- 8.9 Voting on a Referendum will last for a minimum of seventy two (72) hours.
- 8.10 The results of the Referendum will be posted by the Returning Officer on the Website a maximum of 36 hours after voting closes (excluding non-working days).

# Bye-Law 9

## Rules governing Preferenda & Petitions

### 9.1 Procedure for Preferenda

9.1.1 Preferenda voting shall take the form of a secret cross campus ballot in which all Full Student Members are asked to vote for their preferred outcome. All Preferenda are to be conducted on the Website.

9.1.2 Preferenda outcome will be referred to the Executive Committee, who will use the outcome as guidance when deciding the final course of action.

9.1.3 Preferenda options are:

9.1.3.1 A simple yes, no, abstain style question or statement to a Proposal or policy;  
or

9.1.3.2 A multiple option style question or statement to a Proposal or policy.

9.1.4 Preferenda shall be held in the following circumstances:

9.1.4.1 If, in accordance with Bye-Law 2, a majority vote at Student Members' meeting approves a Proposal or policy should be put to a Preferendum;

9.1.4.2 If a majority vote at a Trustee meeting approves a Proposal or policy should be put to a Preferendum.

9.1.4.3 If, through the module for SUGgestions set out in Bye-Law 3.1, at least fifty (50) members vote that a referendum is to take place;

9.1.5 Notice of the Preferendum will be given a minimum of 5 (five) working days by means of a news story on the Website. This is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.

9.2 Campaigning

- 9.2.1 Campaigning for or against a Referendum must be conducted in accordance with the regulations set out in this Bye-Law 9.2. Campaigning in breach of this Bye-Law 9 may result in disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Disciplinary Policy and elections rules and regulations, being taken against the Student Member in breach.
- 9.2.2 Campaigning may begin once the relevant members have been briefed on the campaign rules outlined in this Bye-Law 9.
- 9.2.3 Campaigners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their supporters' actions comply with the campaign rules at all times and must be able to demonstrate this in the event of a complaint against them.
- 9.2.4 Campaigners may only alter, move or remove their own campaign materials.
- 9.2.5 Campaigners may only use mailing lists where lawful to do so (taking into account issues including, but not limited to, Data Protection). In most cases this will require the consent of the members on the list to use their details.
- 9.2.6 Mailing lists of activity groups are deemed to be owned by the membership of the group; committee approval is therefore required in order to allow use of the list.
- 9.2.7 Campaigners must not prevent free and easy access to and within the Union Building when campaigning.
- 9.2.8 Campaigners must not communicate with voters in any way once they have begun to complete their ballot.
- 9.2.9 Bribes must not be offered as part of any campaign.
- 9.2.10 All campaigners must adhere to the rules of behaviour on any Union or University premises.

### 9.3 Voting



- 9.3.1 The Preferenda date will be stated within the Proposal or policy in which the Preferendum is proposed.
  - 9.3.2 Subject to the remainder of this Bye-Law 9, it shall be the responsibility of the Chair of the Executive Committee to enable Student Members to debate the policy or Proposal before the beginning of voting. This may take the form of a physical meeting or be hosted online.
  - 9.3.3 The quorum for a Preferendum is 10% of Student Members who are eligible to vote. If the quorum is not met, then the Proposal or policy is deemed to have failed (in the case of a Proposal posed as a question, being answered 'No'). Any Proposals or policies with the outcome of a Preferendum would require guidance from the Returning Officer prior to the Proposal or policy being discussed and approved.
  - 9.3.4 Any decision of a Preferendum can be revoked by the Executive Committee or Trustee Board. Any policy adopted as a result of a Preferendum will expire three years to the date of voting closing.
  - 9.3.5 The Executive Committee will appoint a Returning Officer to oversee the Preferendum (for the purposes of this, the "Returning Officer" will be the Returning Officer selected for the elections in accordance with Bye-Law 7), who is selected from Union staff upon recommendation from the Chief Executive Officer.
  - 9.3.6 Voting on a Preferendum will last for a minimum of 72 hours.
  - 9.3.7 The results of Preferendum will be posted by the Returning Officer of the Website a maximum of 36 hours after voting closes (excluding non-working days).
- 9.4 Petitions
- 9.4.1 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 SUGgestions platform

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

9.4.2 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.

9.4.3 The timescale of the Petition will be agreed between the proposer and the Executive Committee.

9.4.3.1 If the timescale cannot be agreed, the Chair of the Executive Committee will refer the matter to the Trustees, whose decision will be final.

#### 9.4.4 Campaigning for Petitions

Campaigning for or against a Petition must be conducted in accordance with the regulations set out in this Bye-Law 9.4. Campaigning in breach of this Bye-Law 9 may result in disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Disciplinary Policy, being taken against the Student Member in breach.

Campaigning may begin once the relevant members have been briefed on the campaign rules outlined in this Bye-Law 9.

Campaigners must take reasonable steps to ensure that their supporters' actions comply with the campaign rules at all times and must be able to demonstrate this in the event of a complaint against them.

Campaigners may only alter, move or remove their own campaign materials.

Campaigners may only use mailing lists where lawful to do so (taking into account issues including, but not limited to, Data Protection). In most cases this will require the consent of the members on the list to use their details.

Mailing lists of activity groups are deemed to be owned by the membership of the group; committee approval is therefore required in order to allow use of the list.

Campaigners must not prevent free and easy access to and within the Union Building when campaigning.

Bribes must not be offered as part of any campaign.

All campaigners must adhere to the rules of behaviour on any Union or University premises.