

## Proposed Changes to LSESU's Articles of Association

Our current Articles of Association can be found [here](#). We are proposing several changes to this document, which are explained in more detail below. You can find the proposed document in its entirety here (*link to final document*).

Broadly we believe the proposals

- 1) Bring more expertise onto the Trustee Board
- 2) Help students concentrate on issues that affect their education and life rather than administration
- 3) Provide flexibility and allow the Union to respond more quickly to a changing student membership
- 4) Update to bring us in line with best practice across the SU sector

### Trustee Board

Our Trustee Board is our governing body. The below proposals relate to the membership of the Board:

- The maximum number of Lay (external) Trustees and Sabbatical Officer Trustees has been increased to four and six respectively
- Specific reference to the General Secretary has been removed when talking about the Chair of the Trustee Board. This aims to futureproof the document so that, for example, you could change the role to "President". The chair will remain a student officer.
- A requirement to appoint one of our lay trustees as deputy chair of the Trustee Board has been added, which is in line with good governing practice

The below changes relate to the role and power of the Trustee Board:

- The Trustee Board can now make changes to the bye-laws (rather than only being able to do so via a Student Members' Meeting). This is to allow them to make changes to administrative areas to issues such as the quorum for subcommittees without having to send these to general meeting. It allows general meetings to concentrate on representative and campaigning work not administration.
- The list of committees the Trustee Board delegates to has been shortened (however in reality this list is exhaustive as the committees noted are just examples). This is to add flexibility.

The below changes relate to the operation of the Trustee Board:

- The Chair of the Trustee Board has a casting vote in the event of equal votes for all options, unless the Articles state otherwise
- The minimum number of Trustee Board meetings per year has decreased from five to four

- The number of Trustees needed to call a Trustee Board meeting has decreased from four to three
- The limitation on private benefits has been updated in line with sector best practice regarding what benefits trustees can access. This means that trustees are less likely to be able to have personal benefit rather than acting for the good of all students.
- The Trustee Board can make a decision remotely by a majority (rather than only when there's a unanimous vote). This is in line with how decisions are made during a physical meeting
- The section on participation in Trustee Board meetings has been updated to reflect technological advances (i.e. there's specific reference to skype as a way of participating in a Trustee meeting)

## **Members of the Union**

Every one of our members (i.e. all students who do not opt out of LSESU membership) is considered a Company Law Member under our current Articles. Company Law Members have the right to be part of the corporate governance of the organisation, as well as having financial liability should the organisation fold (the liability is limited to £1 and so this isn't as bad as it sounds!). To put this in context, in most Students' Unions Company Law membership is limited to their trustees. The below proposal aims to lessen our administrative load without impacting students' involvement in LSESU's work:

- We have changed the Articles so that only the Trustee Board are Company Law members (reference to Company Law members comes up several times in the document and so this represents more than one change)
- The Trustees cannot make major changes to the Union, for example changing the Articles in the future, without students being able to vote on the changes too. The change means the Union doesn't need to follow detailed Company Law procedures in the process.

## **Making Changes**

In order to pass a referendum we must achieve a 15% voter turnout, which equates to around 1500 students and is unique to LSE SU. Other students' unions have more flexibility and can change to suit their student body. Furthermore, to change our Articles of Association, we must achieve a 15% turnout as well as a 75% majority. The below proposals aim to make it easier to update our governing document and implement the changes students want.

- The requirement for a 15% turnout in a referendum has been removed
- The stipulation that policy passed through a referendum lasts for three years has been removed
- The requirement for a 15% turnout has been removed and the required majority for changing the Articles has been decreased to 66%

## **Executive Committee**

Executive Committee consists of the Sabbatical Officers and the majority of our Part Time Officers. The role of Executive Committee is specified in our bye-laws and so the below proposals won't necessarily change how things work in practice, however they do give us more flexibility should students wish to change them in future.

- The number of student members on Executive Committee has been removed and the bye-laws are referred to instead
- The business of the Executive Committee has been removed

## **Sabbatical Officers**

Our current Articles do not include anything about the removal of elected officers.

- We have added this information in, which will allow students to remove their elected leaders if they are unhappy with them
- Elected officers will be removed from office if they resign, die or by a vote of no confidence
- The way in which a vote of no confidence works is outlined

## **Student Members' Meetings**

The current Articles make reference to different meetings, such as our Annual Members' Meeting (often referred to as Annual General Meeting). We can include this level of detail in our bye-laws, which are easier to amend than our Articles, providing us with greater flexibility to meet the changing needs of our members.

- Reference to Annual Members' Meetings and General Meetings have been replaced by a section on Student Members' Meetings