

LSESU Bye-law Changes

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Paper for	Trustee Board
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Relevant Aims	This proposal aims to remedy inaccuracies within our bye-laws, which are a component of our governance.
Relevant Risks	The bye-laws currently present a governance risk as they are no longer accurate and have not been changed for a number of years.
Equality and Diversity	This paper doesn't specifically promote equality and diversity however does propose updating the bye-laws to reflect the full range of liberation officers we elect.
Considered by	N/A
Summary	This paper outlines the process for changing bye-laws via the Trustee Board, proposes a series of amendments to our current bye-laws and outlines the rationale for each amendment.
Action for meeting	To decide which changes are inconsequential. To approve the changes that have been deemed inconsequential.

Background

LSESU's bye-laws form one of our governing documents. They sit below our Articles of Association and outline how we operate across different areas of the organisation.

The bye-laws have not been changed for a number of years and, as a result, contain inaccuracies. A democracy review is planned for next academic year and so the proposed amendments are minimal and seek only to ensure our bye-laws are up to date and do not hamper our ability to operate, as opposed to making any significant changes.

Our Articles allow the Trustee Board to make inconsequential changes to our Bye-laws, as stated in Article 47.2:

"The Board of Trustees may make or amend Bye-Laws where, in the reasonable opinion of the Trustees, there is an urgent reason to do so in the interests of the Union and the Student Members as a whole, provided that such Bye-Laws shall not be inconsistent with these Articles and shall be reported to the next annual Student Members' Meeting for formal ratification by the Student Members. Where a decision has been made by the Trustees to make or amend the Bye-Laws in accordance with this Article 47.2, the Trustees shall ensure that the Student Members are notified of the changes within 14 days of the changes having been made, such notice to be given in accordance with Article 48."

Proposed Changes

Appendix A presents the proposed bye-laws (as tracked changes) and the below tables outlines the rationale for said changes.

Change Number	Bye-law	Proposed Change	Rationale
1	Background section	"unincorporated association" changed to "Company Limited by Guarantee"	This would reflect our new set of Articles
2	Referendum	"single transferrable vote" changed to "first past the post"	STV is not the norm for referendum
3	Referendum	Added flexibility to the timings of the publication of ordinary referenda details, as well as when an extraordinary referendum should be convened	This is part of our tidy up exercise and removes unnecessary restrictions
4	Referendum	Allowed for someone outside of Democracy Committee to host the referendum debate	In the event that no one from Democracy Committee wishes to host a referendum debate, it would be reasonable to ask

			another student to step in
5	Referendum	Allowed more flexibility for the length of voting	This is part of our tidy up exercise and removes unnecessary restrictions
6	Referendum	Removed reference to one particular guidance document	This is part of our tidy up exercise and removes unnecessary restrictions
7	Referendum	Changed "Campaigning may begin at the end of the Campaign Leaders Meeting" to "Campaigning may begin once both campaign leaders have been briefed"	This is part of our tidy up exercise and removes unnecessary restrictions (as it is reasonable for campaign leaders to be briefed separately if they are unable to meet at the same time)
8	General Meetings	Title of the bye-law changed from "General Meetings" to "Student Members' Meetings"	This would reflect our new set of Articles
9	General Meetings	Point 4 (under "General") is a new addition	This would reflect our new set of Articles
10	General Meetings	The types of General Meetings have been updated throughout this bye-law	This would reflect our new set of Articles
11	General Meetings	Changed the frequency of General Student Member's Meetings (currently known as UGMs) to monthly	This is part of our tidy up exercise and would reflect current practice. In the past we have brought a request to change the frequency of UGMs to Trustee Board and so this change would simply remove an administrative task
12	General Meetings	Details about Annual Student Members' Meeting added	This would reflect our new set of Articles (apart from the change to ASM quorum, which is to help LSE meet their requirements under the 1994 Education Act)
13	General Meetings	Added section on Company Law meetings	This would provide clarity as students may assume that they are Company Law members (due to the volume of information

			in our Articles) when this only refers to the Trustee Board
14	General Meetings	Added section on changing the Articles	This would reflect our new set of Articles
15	General Meetings	Removed requirement for an order paper for a GSM (currently known as a UGM)	This is part of our tidy up exercise and would remove unnecessary restrictions
16	Elections	Added GTA Rep, PGR Officer, Social Mobility & Class Officer and Neurodivergent Students' Officer to the membership of Exec Committee	This change has already been agreed by TB Chair's actions but is included for information
17	Elections	Added "as required" to the election of representatives on School Committees	This would reflect current practice, as there are some School Committee representatives who are not elected via a cross-campus ballot
18	Elections	Removed requirement for General Course President to be part of any assemblies	This is part of tidy up exercise as we do not have assemblies (the Assemblies bye-law has remained and so there is still the option to hold assemblies)
19	Elections	Removed additional Mature & Part Time Representative	We only have one Mature and Part Time Students' Officer and so this change would remove a current inaccuracy
20	Elections	Added Social Mobility & Class Officer and Neurodivergent Student' Officer to the list of liberation officers	This has already been approved via TB Chair's actions
21	Elections	Removed requirement for nominations to open 16 days before close of polling and to close 10 days before close of polling	This is part of our tidy up exercise and removes unnecessary restrictions
22	Elections	Added that a staff member can check and compile nominations on behalf of the RO	This would reflect current practice
23	Elections	Removed requirement for Hustings to take place at a UGM	This would reflect current practice
24	Elections	Removed the reference to a specific figure for a candidate's campaign budget	Including a figure runs the risk of it becoming outdated relatively soon

25	Elections	Changed "Campaigning may begin at the end of the candidates/nominees briefing" to "All candidates must participate in a candidate briefing"	This would reflect current practice
26	Activities	Added a requirement for the use of LSE branding to be approved by LSE	This is part of our tidy up exercise to remove inaccuracies
27	Activities	Proposals for a new society, club or media group to go to LSESU instead of the Activities & Development Officer	This would reflect current practice
28	Activities	Changed "chair" to "president"	This is part of our tidy up exercise to remove inaccuracies
29	Activities	Added that the aims and objectives of a society, club or media group "must fall within the scope of the Union's insurance policy and risk profile"	This would reflect current practice
30	Activities	Changed "Model Student Activities Constitution" to "Student Group Constitution Template"	This would reflect current practice
31	Activities	Added "Membership fees can be changed or removed in exceptional circumstances"	This would reflect current practice
32	Activities	Added "Associate membership lasts for the duration of the academic year in which it was approved"	This would reflect current practice
33	Activities	Changed "Pursuant to the Bye-Laws of the Union, in particular the Assemblies Bye-Law, the Student Activities Assembly shall annually form the Activities Committee" to "Members of the Activities Committee shall be elected"	This would reflect current practice
34	Activities	Updated membership of Activities Committee	This is part of our tidy up exercise to remove inaccuracies
35	Activities	Removed a reference to the Student Activities Assembly	This is part of our tidy up exercise to remove inaccuracies
36	Activities	Changed "to discuss and comment on specific Society, Media Group, Athletic Union and Club budgets before they are sent to the Activities Assembly" to "Review Funding Requests for	This would reflect current practice

		Clubs and Societies”	
37	Activities	Added the need for expenditure to be conducted in accordance with Union policies and procedures	This would reflect current practice
38	Activities	Added “if directed by the Union” to the requirement to submit an annual risk assessment.	This would reflect current practice
39	Activities	Added that an events form and risk assessment is also required for events & activities (not just overnight trips)	This would reflect current practice
40	Activities	Added that societies, clubs and media groups are also subject to any relevant Union policies and procedures (and that a breach could result in disciplinary action)	This would reflect current practice
41	Activities	Changed the “Union’s equality opportunities policy” to the “Union’s commitment to inclusion”	This is part of our tidy up exercise to remove inaccuracies (as we don’t have an equal opportunities policy)
42	Activities	Removed the description of Media Group Societies	This is part of our tidy up exercise as this should be in the groups’ constitutions instead
43	Executive Committee	Added “unless the Trustee Board decides otherwise” to the definition of Exec Committee	This change has already been agreed by TB Chair’s actions but is included for information
44	Executive Committee	Added Mature & Part Time Students’ Officer, GTA Rep, PGR Officer, Social Mobility & Class Officer and Neurodivergent Students’ Officer to its composition (as well as the conditions for being a candidate)	This change has already been agreed by TB Chair’s actions but is included for information
45	Executive Committee	Removed sentence about all students being able to vote for all exec committee positions	This would reflect current practice as some roles require self-definition of the characteristic in question
46	Executive Committee	Removed reference to sabbatical officer pay	This is part of our tidy up exercise as the figure is out of date (and has the potential to become out of date

			again relatively quickly)
47	Executive Committee	Added the duties of the (previously) missing members of Executive Committee	This is part of our tidy up exercise as this currently represents a gap in our bye-laws following the addition of Executive Committee members via Chair's actions
48	Democracy Committee	Removed suggestion that the UGM chair should also be the Returning Officer	This would reflect current practice
49	Policy of the Union	Removed ability to submit a motion on paper to Union reception	This would reflect current practice
50	Discipline and Appeals	Removed "A list of those Union members wishing to sit on the committee shall be maintained by The Executive Committee" and "Members shall be randomly selected from a list of names for each case."	This would reflect current practice
51	Trustee Board	Updated composition of TB (up to 4 Student Trustees and up to 4 Lay Trustees). Added "The Trustees Board may appoint up to 2 additional Student Trustees to help increase the skills, knowledge and diversity of the Board and improve governance as it deems necessary."	This would reflect our new set of Articles
52	Trustee Board	Removed length of Student Trustee term	This would reflect our new set of Articles
53	Sub Committees of the Board	Changed "General Manager" to "Chief Executive"	This would reflect our new set of Articles and would also form part of our tidy up exercise
54	Sub Committees of the Board	Removed reference to "Head of Operations"	This is part of our tidy up exercise to remove inaccuracies
55	Sub Committees of the Board	Removed "co-opted" from "The Appointments Committee will take delegated responsibility on behalf of the Trustee Board for identifying, and proposing Co-opted Trustees in accordance with the Articles of Governance and for their induction, support and development	This would reflect our new set of Articles

Next Steps

Most of the above proposals are part of a 'tidy up' exercise and so will not result in any changes to how we operate however we will need to communicate any amendments made by the Trustee Board to students. Any changes that are deemed consequential will need to be brought to a UGM.

Some of the proposed amendments are a result of our new set of Articles (and so they have, technically, already been approved in a different context). It is also worth noting that our Articles supersede all other governing documents, which means that we would need to adhere to our Articles even if they are contradicted by our Bye-laws.

Actions

The Trustee Board is being asked to make two decisions:

- Which of the above changes (if any) are inconsequential
- Whether to approve the changes that are deemed inconsequential