

Motion to Introduce Community Voting in LSESU Elections

This Union notes:

- Due to the current election rules, in LSESU elections any student is able to vote for the liberation officer positions of LGBT, Disabled Students' and Women's Officers.
- That, in theory, someone could be elected LSESU's LGBT, Disabled Students' or Women's Officer with no votes from either LGBT students, disabled students or women.
- That the LGBT Students' Officer represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer and questioning students.
That the Disabled Students' Officer represents a wide range of both visible and non-visible disabilities which includes specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and dyspraxia, mental health and long term health conditions.
- That the Women's officer represents all students who self-define as women regardless of birth assigned or legal gender.
- That various institutions, including the NUS, ULU¹, KCLU², UCLU³, Warwick SU⁴, Essex SU⁵, Manchester SU, Aberystwyth SU and Kent SU⁶, hold elections where only self-defining members of those liberation groups can vote either online or through caucuses.
- That, even if liberation voting were to be introduced, a clear majority of the Union's Executive—including all Sabbatical Officers—would still be elected by the entirety of the membership.
- That, if elected by self-defining members only, the liberation officers would still be officers of the whole union, and accountable to all students at UGM.

This Union Believes:

- That the role of each liberation officer is to represent the interests and support the campaigns of the members of each liberation group.
- That each liberation group should have the autonomy to decide who they elect to represent them, their interests and the direction of their campaign.
- That autonomy to elect representatives would not exclude non-self-defining students from engaging with each campaign.
- That the Union should continue to encourage liberation officers to work as widely as possible with the Union community in order to build ties of understanding and gain

¹ <http://www.ulucollege.co.uk/about/governance/democracy/>

² <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:aj538g-L31QJ:www.kclsu.org/pageassets/ourstructure/KCLSU-Bye-Laws-February-2013.doc+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=uk>

³ <http://ucluwomensnetwork.wordpress.com/>

⁴ <https://www.warwicksu.com/democracy/faq/>

⁵ http://www.essexstudent.com/representation/elections/su_general/

⁶ Confirmed by institutions.

non-self-defining allies, but that the primary duty of liberation officers is to their liberation group and so these self-defining groups should be the deciders of each officers' campaigning agenda.

- That currently, due to the absence of caucus voting, those non-self-defining students are able to significantly impact upon the results of the elections of liberation officers.
- That this can adversely impact upon the manifesto priorities of candidates.

This Union Resolves:

- To amend the bye-laws of the Union so that the LSE Students Union's Women's Officer, Disabled Students' Officer, and LGBT Officer should be elected by self-defining members of each specific liberation group only.
- That the Women's Officer, Disabled Students' Officer and LGBT Officer continue to be accountable to the whole Union through the Union General Meeting.
- That the Union be urged to apply this principle to any future liberation officers established.
- That this would be implemented by an online option to self-define on the voting page in each of these elections.
- That all students would have the ability to self-define into any liberation group in which they felt they were a member and no record of this would be kept by the any individual or organization.

Passed 21.2.2014

Yes: 193

No: 95

Undecided: 14