



Proposed Changes to Your Students' Union Democratic Structures

What is happening?

The Student Union is proposing some changes to its structures,

We want to hear from student reps, so at each council we'll be asking you about a different topic.

Your feedback will shape our development of the proposal and in March all students will be asked to endorse the changes in a referendum.

Consultation Schedule (Student Council)

- 30/10/24** Introduce the Review and gather feedback on the new officer positions.
- 04/12/24** Gather feedback on the introduction of the selection panel.
- 29/01/25** Student Council will confirm the referendum question for the proposals



Introduction to the Review.

Why are we suggesting these changes?

- 1. The University has grown and our student demographic has changed.**
- 2. There is limited student engagement and diversity in Student Rep Forums and University Committees.**
- 3. There are cohorts of students who cannot stand for an officer position due to professional accreditation requirements.**
- 4. Some elected officers have little knowledge of the University or Union as they have been elected too soon after starting their courses.**

What are we trying to achieve?

We want to:

- 1. Establish a powerful voice for students.**
- 2. Bring the Students' Union closer to students' everyday lives.**
- 3. Ensure that our students are empowered to influence their student experience.**
- 4. Students feel engaged with the Students Union.**
- 5. Be democratically representative of the wider student body.**

What work has been done so far?

In order to inform these proposals, the Union has:

- Considered the findings of the Democracy Review which we commissioned to explore how students engage with the Students' Union and how they can influence change.
- Reviewed practices from other Student Union's across the UK and Europe
- Analysed our election data from the past five years.
- Reviewed student feedback from our Annual Survey, NSS and NUS survey data.
- Reflected on feedback from Reps, formers officers and Union and University staff.



Proposed changes to the Student Officer Structure.

Visual - Current Officer Structure



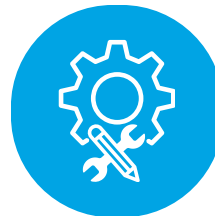
President

- Member of Court
- Campaigns / Lobbying focus
- Representing all students



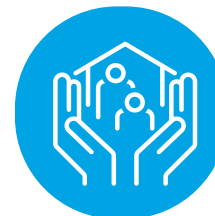
Vice-President Education

- Member of Court
- Learning Experience focus
- Representing all students



Vice-President Student Development

- Extra-curricular & personal development focus.
- Representing all Students



Vice-President Welfare & Wellbeing

- Welfare & Wellbeing Focus
- Representing all Students

Visual - Proposed Structure

Full-time



President

- Member of Court
- Campaigns / Lobbying focus
- Representing all students
- Would assume wellbeing responsibilities from the VPWW



Vice-President Education

- Member of Court
- Learning Experience focus
- Representing all students
- Would assume development responsibilities from the VPSD

Part-time



VP Business & Creative Industries

- Represents BCI students



VP Computing, Engineering & Physical Sciences

- Represents CEPS students



VP Education & Social Sciences

- Represents ESS students



VP Health & Life Sciences

- Represents HLS students



VP London

- Represents London students

Note: Responsibilities for the provision of extra-curricular activities will be transferred to the student groups forum.

Why do we think this is better?

The following slides contain the detail of the proposals. (1/3)

We propose moving to a combination of full-time and part-time officers, with four officers being based in the Schools and one officer based in London.

This approach, will benefit our student representatives, the schools and our elected officers by providing a clearer flow of information between them.

Additionally, it will enable our large cohorts of students who cannot run for elected positions due to the requirement of stopping learning for a year, will now be able to hold office whilst studying.

Why do we think this is better?

The following slides contain the detail of the proposals. (2/3)

The full and part-time officers will form part of the new Executive Committee (which will be discussed as part of the consultation on representation structures).

The salary savings from the VPSD and VPWW will be used to fund the four school officers. The Union is identifying funding for the VP London.

All of the pre-existing responsibilities for the removed positions will be transferred to the remaining Student Officers, or to new student bodies.

Why do we think this is better?

The following slides contain the detail of the proposals. (3/3)

The School based VP's and the VP London will meet regularly with Student reps within their schools and with the London Campus Reps. This will help feed course level issues to the Student Leaderships via the executive committee.

The full-time officers and the part-time officers will split the committees of the University, the full-time officers will remain on Court.

There is ongoing discussion about transferring some other responsibilities - Subject Reviews, Student Disciplinary Panels, with trained students from across the University who will be paid.

Overview of Changes:

- 1.** Proposing a combination of Full-Time and Part-time Student Officer positions.
- 2.** Introduction of four part-time officers - one for each school and an additional officer for London.
- 3.** The Part-Time Officers will be paid 15 hours per week, the roles will have flexibility built in to deal with exams and placements.
- 4.** The number of full-time sabbatical officers will be reduced from four to two, with the President and VP Education remaining full time.

Questions?



