

Bye Law Five: Student Forums

Introduction

The Students' Union will directly engage students through a variety of mechanisms to ensure student voice informs campaign projects, understanding of student issues, the implementation of new ideas and The Union's position on matters important to the lives of its members. The Students' Representative Council will receive summary insight from relevant student voice channels and activities and ensure appropriate actions and accountability are defined to deliver for members and close the feedback loop.

1. Student Proposals for Change

1.1 Any student can give feedback, submit an idea or proposal at any time, through usual means of communication and engagement with Union Representatives, Staff and Services

1.2 Where a students' proposal prompts The Union to seek additional feedback from members, implement a new project of significance or reconsider its position in relation to a priority or political standpoint, any student making a proposal shall be appropriately supported by Full Time Officers or staff to make a recommendation to the next Students' Representative Council meeting.

1.3 Where a proposal has significant reputational or resource implications, it would be referred to the Trustee Board for a decision as to whether it would be appropriate to go to Representative Council.

1.4 Where a proposal is impractical, illegal or inappropriate it would not go any further, and where appropriate the student would be advised. Such decisions may be taken and/or informed by any member of The Union's Executive or Leadership Team, as relevant to the proposal.

2. Gaining Student Insight

2.1 The Union shall annually recruit students who are willing to contribute to democratic engagement and market research activity.

2.2 Any Student Member may volunteer to participate by digital signup which will be promoted by the usual means employed by The Union

2.3 The Union will build an engaged membership that broadly reflects the student population of the university.

2.4 This engagement may vary from in-person focus groups, online polls or invitation to existing event. Engagement with students shall take the form deemed most effective by The Union depending on the insight sought, ideas presented, or issues experienced.

3. Closing the Feedback Loop

3.1 For insight gained: The Student Representative Council Chair, supported by staff, will check understanding of the proposal discussed or insight gained and seek a lead officer to ensure that the appropriate actions are taken. An update will be presented to Representative Council.

3.2 For Student Proposals discussed at Representative Council: The Chair of council will confirm agreement and assign a lead Officer, appropriately supported by staff

3.3 All actions assigned, or outcomes noted, should be made available to all students online within 5 working days of the relevant Representative Council meeting taking place.

3.4. Ongoing progress reports should be communicated back to students where the desired outcomes aren't quickly actionable.

3.5 An update on progress against actions should be given at each Representative Council meeting by the President or their nominee.

3.6 Should the proposing student not receive the outcome sought from Representative Council, they may seek a decision directly from students via a secure petition and referendum, as defined in Byelaw 8