

Motion to protect nominations, voting, and holding of Representative positions

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1 This Society Notes:

1. SU Regulation 9 has been discontinued, with society elections now governed by SU By-Law 5, and the support governance “Society and Club Election Rules” (SCER).
2. Under 2.7 of SCER, previously disallowed restrictions for protecting particular positions in the executive, are now allowed.
3. Currently, the society does not have anything in its constitution to protect particular groups, for example, with non-first years able to nominate and vote for Fresher Representative positions, similar for Gender Inclusivity positions with people who do not self-identify as being a gender minority.
4. The lack of protections opens the possibility for nominations and voting of nominees to not be representative of the democratic intent of the protected demographics the positions represent.

2 This Society Believes:

1. As per 1.2, 2.7 of SCER gives sufficient allowance to protect some positions, without contravening SU Governance on general accessibility to nominate and vote for all standard members.
2. The Society should codify the restriction of voting and nominating for the following, should the position exist at the point of the revised constitution, with all passed motions considered, being sent for ratification:
 - Fresher Representative positions should be restricted to first year undergraduates only.
 - Gender Inclusivity positions (including the Fresher Representative position, in addition to the first year undergraduate restriction), should be restricted to members who self-identify as a gender minority only.
 - Postgraduate Representative positions should be restricted to postgraduate members only.
3. As per 3.3 of SCER, quorum does *not* apply for representative positions. Therefore, for the positions outlined, votes to elect said positions would be exempt from quorum.

3 This Society Resolves:

1. To amend the constitution, currently “4.4.3 Freshers’ Representative”, to add the following:
 - Freshers’ Representative positions are recognised as protected positions, restricted to first year undergraduate standard members only. This restriction applies for eligibility to nominate, vote for, and hold the positions, and voting is exempt from quorum.
 - Gender Inclusivity Fresher Representative positions are recognised as protected positions, restricted to only those who self-identify as a gender minority, and are first year undergraduate standard members, only. This restriction applies for eligibility to nominate, vote for, and hold the positions, and voting is exempt from quorum.
2. To amend the constitution, currently “4.4.5 Gender Inclusivity Officer”, to add the following:
 - Gender Inclusivity Officer positions are recognised as protected positions, restricted to those who self-identify as a gender minority only. This restrictions applies for eligibility to nominate, vote for, and hold the positions, and voting is exempt from quorum.
3. To amend the constitution, should a motion adding Postgraduate Representative positions, to additionally add the following in the definition of the role, in a manner equivalent to that described for the amendments to 4.4.5:
 - Postgraduate Representative positions are recognised as protected positions, restricted to post-graduate standard members only. This restrictions applies for eligiblity to nominate, vote for, and hold the positions, and voting is exempt from quorum.
4. Should other motions affecting executive structure be passed, equivalent wording is included in the relevant sections pertaining to the roles outlined.