

BYE LAW | POLICY OF THE UNION

Students should have a Union that has an opinion. Our structures and culture should lead to action – making sure our members are part of a Union that is relevant, proactive and makes a difference to the lives of students.

1. The Bye-Law is subject to the Articles of the Union
2. Words and phrases used in this Bye-Law have the same meaning as given to them in the Articles of the Union
3. This Bye-Law was last updated and approved on 8 February 2012

POLICY

Purpose

4. Set direction of the Union
5. Give the Union a stance on a particular issue
6. Commit the Union to take action on a particular issue
7. Help prioritise the activities of the Union

Idea & Policy Submission

8. Any full member is able to submit an idea or a policy proposal
9. For each idea one of the following actions will be taken:
 - 9.1 The idea will be adopted as an uncontroversial operational change and implemented immediately
 - 9.2 The idea will be put to the relevant action group or forum to decide on appropriate action
 - 9.3 The idea will be proposed for consideration at the relevant Assembly
 - 9.3.1 An idea can come to an Assembly no more than once per academic year
 - 9.4 The Executive Committee may decide against taking the idea forward and the member will be contacted with an explanation of why the idea is not being taken forward
 - 9.5 The Executive Committee may rule that the idea is inadmissible as the discussion of the idea would breach current safe space or equal opportunities policy of the Union
10. Where there is a lack of clarity over which of the actions to take or which body is relevant this decision will rest with the Executive Committee
11. Where a member is unhappy with the action taken, they have the right to take the idea to an Assembly unless it has been ruled inadmissible by the Executive Committee. If the idea has been ruled inadmissible the member is free to lodge a complaint under the complaints procedure.
12. If an idea is approved by an Assembly (under the current Bye-Laws) it shall become Union policy and the Executive will be responsible and accountable for its implementation
13. An idea may be put to an All Student Vote in line with the relevant Bye-Laws. If an idea is passed it shall become Union policy and the Executive will be responsible and accountable for its implementation
14. If an idea requires only specific practical actions it shall remain policy until the soonest of:
 - 14.1 all of the actions are completed
 - 14.2 the policy is specifically revoked by another decision of an Assembly or All Student Vote, except that a policy passed by a referendum cannot be revoked by an Assembly
 - 14.3 If an idea commits to a viewpoint or principle it shall remain policy until the policy is specifically revoked by another decision of an Assembly or All Student Vote, except that a policy passed by a referendum cannot be revoked by an Assembly

15. After three years since its passing, a policy will lapse automatically. However, a lapsed policy will still continue to have effect until the conclusion of the democratic processes for renewing policies.
16. A policy which has lapsed will be presented to the next meeting of the Union Assembly. Any student may propose that the policy is renewed for another three years. A policy will be voted upon, and if necessary put to an All Student Vote, according to the same procedure as for new policies.
17. Any policy that has lapsed which is not proposed for renewal at a Union Assembly or is voted down during the renewal process will be discarded and will cease to have effect.

Original Bye-Law approved by referendum 08.02.2012

Amended by Union Assembly 12.02.2014, implemented by Trustee Board 04.06.2014