

## **BYE LAW | POLICY OF THE UNION**

Last updated: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015

### **Idea submission**

1. Any member of the Students' Union is able to submit an idea for a policy proposal.
2. An idea can be submitted no more than once per academic year.

### **Functions of the Executive Committee**

3. Each idea that is submitted will be presented to the Executive Committee. For each idea, the following actions may be taken:
  - (a) The idea will be adopted as an uncontroversial operational change and implemented immediately;
  - (b) The idea will be put to the relevant action group or forum to decide on appropriate action;
  - (c) The idea will be proposed for consideration at the Union Assembly.
4. The Executive Committee is empowered to make minor changes to ideas to correct grammatical errors or modify the format of an idea, but no substantive change to an idea may be made by this power.
5. The Executive Committee may decide against taking an idea forward on the following grounds:
  - (a) The idea is too similar to a policy that has already been passed;
  - (b) The idea is too similar to an idea that has been discussed in the same academic year;
  - (c) The idea would breach the Union's Safe Space or Equal Opportunities policies.
6. The Executive Committee will report its decisions as to ideas at the beginning of each meeting of the Union Assembly. Any student shall have the right to appeal any of these decisions of the Executive, and the Union Assembly may overturn the Executive's decision by a simple majority vote.

### **Policy**

7. An idea approved (including any amendments) by the Union Assembly under its Bye-Law shall become Union policy and a member of the Executive Committee will be responsible and accountable for its implementation.
8. An idea may be put to a referendum in accordance with the relevant Bye-Laws. If an idea is passed it shall become Union policy and a member of the Executive Committee will be responsible and accountable for its implementation.
9. If an idea requires only specific practical actions it shall remain policy until the soonest of:
  - (a) all of the actions are completed;
  - (b) 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.
10. 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.

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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