

## Byelaw 4 – Student council

### 4.1 Membership

1. The membership of Student Council is:
  - a. Societies Council Chair
  - b. Sports Management Group Chair
  - c. Apprentice Students' Officer
  - d. BME Students' Officer
  - e. Carer Students' Officer
  - f. Disabilities Students' Officer
  - g. Environmental Students' Officer
  - h. Events Student' Officer
  - i. Housing Students' Officer
  - j. International Students' Officer (EU)
  - k. International Students' Officer (Non-EU)
  - l. LGBT+ Students' Officer
  - m. Mature Students' Officer
  - n. Men's Health Students' Officer
  - o. Mental Health Students' Officer
  - p. Night Life Students' Officer
  - q. Part Time Students' Officer
  - r. Postgraduate Students' Officer
  - s. Physical Activities Students' Officer
  - t. Religion & Faith Students' Officer
  - u. Trans+ Students' Officer
  - v. Undergraduate Students' Officer
  - w. Widening Class Participation Students' Officer
  - x. WMA Liaison Officer
  - y. Women's' Officer
  - z. Faculty of Warsash Maritime School Representative, x2
  - aa. Faculty of Business, Law, and Digital Technologies, x2
  - bb. Faculty of Creative Industries, Architecture and Engineering Representative, x2
  - cc. Faculty of Sport, Health and Social Sciences Representative, x2
2. In addition to this, a Chair and Deputy Chair of Student Council must be elected by a majority vote of the Student Council. The Chair of Student Council and the Deputy Chair must not already hold a position on Council and cannot be a current Sabbatical Officer.
3. All Sabbatical Officers are expected to attend Student Council, with full speaking rights but no right to vote. If unable to attend, apologies and a written report must be submitted to the Chair.
4. The Chief Executive may attend, with full speaking rights but no right to vote. Other members of Union Staff, and non-Union members, may attend at the discretion of the Chair of Student Council.

5. Full members of the Union may attend Student Council, with full speaking rights but no individual vote.
6. Associate Members, Reciprocal Members and opted out students may attend Student Council but have no right to speak or vote.

#### **4.2 The Powers and Duties of Student Council**

1. To provide advice and guidance to the Trustees
2. To receive written reports from Sabbatical Officers, Student Officers, Societies Council and Officer Committee. Written reports must be submitted 5 working days before Student Council.
3. To receive, consider and vote on political policy.
4. To hold Sabbatical Officers, Societies Council, Officer Committee and Student Officers to account through a Question Time session in Student Council.
5. Jointly with the Board of Trustees, approve amendments to the Bye Laws.

#### **4.3 Attendance at Student Council**

1. If a member of Student Council ceases to be a registered student, they will automatically be considered as having resigned their post.
2. If a member is unable to attend a meeting, they must notify the Chair of Student Council and give a reason.
3. If a member fails to attend three consecutive meetings, they are considered to have resigned. This will be communicated to the Chair of Student Council and at their discretion, Student Council will discuss the matter and vote whether or not to keep them in their position.
4. Where votes are held by email, this shall be considered a meeting.
5. Unless otherwise agreed by Chair of Student Council, members will have five clear University days in which to respond to a vote by email.
6. Union staff shall take reasonable steps to ensure members of Student Council are aware of matters to be agreed by email in adequate time to respond.
7. If a motion is presented at two separate Student Council meetings which do not meet quoracy, the number of Council members present at the third meeting shall be deemed quorate.

#### **4.4 Meetings**

1. Student Council will meet at least 3 times in the Academic year with the first meeting held before the end of November.
2. The dates of Student Council will be set by the SU President and ratified at the first Student Council meeting. Additional meetings may be called by a request in writing to the Student Council chair from:

- a. Officer Committee
  - b. At least 25% of the members of Student Council
  - c. A signed petition of at least 10 full members of the Union
3. Notice of Student Council dates will be given no less than 5 days before the meeting.

#### **4.5 Submission of Motions and Amendments**

1. All motions and amendments shall be submitted via the Student Union website <https://www.solentsu.co.uk/voice/ideas/>
2. All motions must state a proposer and seconder, who must both be full members, and one of whom must attend the meeting where their motion is to be discussed.
3. No motion, or motion conflicting with existing policy, may be brought forward more than once in the same academic year.
4. A motion will be considered an Emergency Motion if it is urgent, and could not have been submitted before the deadline. This is the decision of the Chair of Student Council.
5. Amendments may be proposed at any time before the meeting, or during discussion on the motion. Amendments may delete, change or add words to the motion, but may not contradict the motion, or significantly alter the resolution.

#### **4.6 The Chair**

1. The Chair of Student Council must not take part in any debate, and when they speak, everyone else must be silent.
2. The Chair of Student Council is responsible for maintaining order of the meeting, and anyone wishing to speak must do so through the Chair. The length or nature of any debate is at the discretion of the Chair.
3. The Chair will allow questions from the floor on Officer reports. The length of question time will be at the discretion of the Chair.
4. In the absence of the Chair and the Deputy Chair, another member of the Union appointed by the members of council present shall preside as chair of the meeting.

#### **4.7 Procedural Motions**

1. The following procedural motions may be proposed:
  - a. Change to the order of business
  - b. A vote of no confidence in the Chair or challenge to the Chair's ruling
  - c. A motion for adjournment or postponement
  - d. A motion to refer the matter to trustees or another committee

2. Procedural motions must have a proposer and a seconder, who must both be full members. Procedural motions must not be proposed while another member is speaking, or during a vote.
3. All procedural motions, except (b) shall be managed at the discretion of the Chair of Student Council. In the case of (b) this shall be managed by the Deputy Chair of Student Council or in the absence of a Deputy Chair one of the Sabbatical Officers.

#### **4.8 Voting in Student Council**

1. Only members of Student Council may vote. The Chair will have casting vote only.
2. Voting will be by a show of hands and decision made by a simple majority
3. A vote must be taken for, against and abstaining the motion. The Chair will have casting vote only.
4. If policy is passed at Student Council, it is the responsibility of all members of Student Council to ensure it is implemented regardless of the vote they cast.

#### **4.9 Miscellaneous**

1. Quorum is 50% plus 1 of the member positions filled.
2. If Quorum is not met, the Chair shall allow 15 minutes for Quorum to be met. If Quorum is still not met, no vote may take place.
3. Questions or comments that make reference to an employed member of staff of the Union or any question or comment that in the view of the Chair could be perceived as slanderous will not be allowed.