

A Report and Recommendations from the  
**Working Group on Council Membership**

The Working Group on Council Membership met on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June to discuss future compositions of Union Council.

The Working Group was made up of the following people:

Kirsty Patterson, **Deputy President (Education and Welfare)**  
Andrew Mason, **Arts and Ents Board Chair**  
Lily Topham, **SCC Chair and DPCS-elect**  
Eirini Spentza, **CGCU Academic Affairs Officer (Research)**  
Viktoria Eriksson, **RCSU Welfare Officer**  
Christian Carter, **DPFS-elect**  
Rosie Smithells  
Jon Matthews

The Working Group has made a number of recommendations that should be implemented by the 2009-2010 academic year. These are outlined below.

**Recommendations:**

1. The size of Council is suitable at present and should not be drastically altered.
2. The *ex officio* members of Council should be the Sabbatical Officers and the Faculty Union Presidents due to the seniority of their positions, the breadth of their responsibility and their ability to represent all students on all matters.
3. All other *ex officio* members should be removed from Council with the opportunity to be re-elected as representatives from their respective committees.
4. The Management Committees (Clubs and Societies Board and Representation and Welfare Board) should elect representatives from their committee to sit on Council on behalf of the Committee.
5. The number of representatives from each committee should be equal and should be less than the total number of positions on the committee (excluding Sabbs and Faculty Union Presidents).
6. The Working Group recommends that the number of positions available should be in the region of 6-8 to ensure healthy competition for the positions.
7. GSA, Silwood and Wye have the opportunity to sit on Council through RWB and CSB respectively but do not need to have an *ex officio* seat due to the presence of the Faculty Union Presidents who already represent students in those constituencies.
8. The representatives elected from the Management Committees no longer represent their individual constituencies but the Committee as a whole. This means that representatives are no longer restricted by narrow roles but can have much broader remits as Councillors.
9. The number of Ordinary Members of Council should be increased to represent the number of seats removed by decreasing representation from the Management Committees.
10. By electing representatives from RWB and CSB these officers will automatically count towards the quorum of the committee. This means that their position and role as Councillors is more greatly valued as it is necessary for them to turn up in order for decisions to be made.
11. Representatives to Council from the Management Committees must be elected before the first meeting of Council.
12. Up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Ordinary Members of Council could be elected during the Spring Term, with other Union elections, to ensure Council is representative of the student body during the first few meetings of the year.
13. The top Union Committees of Council, Executive, CSB and RWB should not be similar in their membership. The membership of these committees should be as diverse as possible to allow maximum involvement and democracy.
14. There should be another meeting of the Working Group convened next term to discuss the recommendations with a new cohort of Council.

**Decision Required:**

1. To mandate the DPCS-elect and DPFS-elect to convene another Working Group next term to further discuss and refine the recommendations above.