Board of Trustees Council Chair Report

30/10/2019

# Changes to Council

* **Standing Orders**: these have been rewritten with a number of modifications. The document has been condensed from 5,100 words to 1,800 to remove redundancy and over-specificity of processes. One main area of change is around voting: certain kinds of procedural motion (e.g. to move to a vote) will now be done by show of hands rather than a recorded vote. Votes will also not be taken when a clear consensus is held on a matter.
* **New Subcommittees**: three new Council subcommittees, the Governance and Identity Board, the Services and Sustainability Board, and the Sports Hub Exec, now have written Standing Orders. GIB and SHE have had meetings so far, SSB has not as its membership has not yet been selected. Appointment of additional representatives to GIB and SSB will take place at the November 5th Council meeting.
* **Mentimeter**: We are trialing the use of the Mentimeter voting system as a replacement for the existing voting pad system.
* **Remote Access for Off-campus Reps (in progress)**: Mentimeter will facilitate remote voting, and if we can establish two-way audio communication with off-campus reps this will allow remote participation in the meeting.

# Outcomes of October Meeting

* **Trustee Ratification:** Council voted to ratify Milia Hasbani and Jinpo Xiang as appointed student Trustees.
* **Extra External Trustee:** Council approved recommendations to amend the Constitution and Bye Laws to add an additional external Trustee role to BoT.

# Policy Framework Reform Update

* There are a number of issues at present with Union Policy.
  + The overwhelming majority of Policies listed on our website are ‘lapsed’ and therefore no longer formally Policy as they have not been re-approved in the appropriate timeframe.
  + Many of these lapsed Policies are no longer relevant as they were direct responses to a current event, or they mandated actions which have since been taken.
  + Many Policies have highly specific remits, such as Policies on specific products being sold by the Union Shop.
  + The majority of Polices are directly owned by Council rather than by a subcommittee to which it might be more relevant.
* I am proposing to Council at the November 5th meeting to:
  + Amend the Bye Laws to redefine ‘Policies’ as specifically those that outline regulations and procedures, not all passed motions.
  + Approve a reduced set of Policies, excluding those that do not meet the above criteria or that are no longer relevant to the Union, and where particularly specific Policies have been merged into more holistic Policies.
  + Delegate each Policy to a Subcommittee of Council, and action the subcommittees to review and update those Policies over the coming academic year.
* My progress so far has been to:
  + Identify the reduced set of 24 Policies that remain relevant (some of these are merged from 2 or more existing Policies with overly-specific remits).
  + Draft these 24 new Policies based on the existing Policies, with amendments made as necessary to correct any points that are explicitly incorrect (such as references to Committees or staff roles that no longer exist).
  + Identify the subcommittee to which each Policy will be delegated. A paper has been submitted to each subcommittee listing these and including the drafts of these new Policies. Agreement with the outlined plan has been obtained from Education and Representation Board, Communities and Welfare Board, and GIB. SSB has not met and I have not yet received an update from Societies and Projects Board.
  + Draft a document outlining all of the amendments that have been made, and the justification for where a Policy is not being presented to re-approval.

**Proposed new Policy list and Policy delegation** (subject to change):

**Council**: Council Standing Orders, Publicity Policy

**SPB / SHE**: CSP Policy, Budgeting Policy, NAC Policy, ADF Policy, Tours Policy, Room Booking Policy, Welcome Fair Policy

**ERB**: Higher Education Policy, Representation Policy

**CWB**: Safe Space Policy, Religious Obervance Policy, Representation Policy, Accessibility Policy, Halls Policy, Halls Social Fund Policy

**SSB**: Union Shop Policy, Ethical Investment Policy, Minibus Policy, Advertising Policy

**GIB**: Mascotry Policy, Union Bar Policy, Union Awards Policy