

Policy Reform Motion

Proposer: Lloyd James (Council Chair)

Secunder: Abhijay Sood (Union President)

Union Notes:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Many Policies have highly specific remits, such as Policies on specific products being sold by the Union Shop.
4. The majority of Policies are directly owned by Council rather than by a specific subcommittee.
5. According to the Union Bye-Laws, all motions passed by Council become Union Policy.

Union Believes:

1. It is essential that the Union has a body of active Policies outlining the procedures and regulations that are key to its operations.
2. Resolutions of Council that are only relevant for a short time, such as those actioning a Union Officer, or declaring a position on an evolving issue, are inappropriate for classification as Union Policies and are more appropriately recorded in minutes and tracked to completion through the Council action tracker.
3. It is preferable for the Union to have a smaller number of more holistic Policies rather than many highly-specific Policies.
4. It is preferable for Policies to be delegated for ownership to a relevant subcommittee rather than being directly owned by Council, to spread out the burden of reviewing and updating Policies.

Union Resolves:

1. To amend the Bye Laws to redefine 'Policies' such that not all motions passed by Union Council become Policy. Rather, Policies will only be created, amended, or annulled by specific direction of Council. This amendment will replace paragraph D.1. of the Bye-Laws with:

- a. "Union Council, General Meetings, and Referenda have the power to create, amend, and annul Union Policy."
2. To adopt as Policy all items listed in Appendix A, and distribute ownership of these Policies between Council and its subcommittees as indicated in this Appendix. The text of each of these Policies is provided in Appendix C, excepting the Council Standing Orders which are as approved at the October 2019 Council Meeting.
3. To annul any standing Policies not listed in Appendix A, such that the Policies listed in Appendix A represent the entire body of Union Policy.
4. To mandate all Council subcommittees to review, amend, and re-approve all Policies under their ownership by the end of the 2019/20 academic year, under the direction of the Officer Trustees in their capacity as subcommittee chairs.
5. To request from the Officer Trustees updates on their progress in this task at the 18 February 2020 and the 12 May 2020 Council Meetings.
6. To request from the Officer Trustees a summary of the amendments made to their delegated set of Policies following the completion of this process.
7. To mandate the Council Chair to supervise this process to ensure that all Policies are re-approved this academic year, and if for any reason a Policy will not receive scrutiny in this time, to present Council with an action plan for ensuring this scrutiny takes place as early as is feasible.

Appendix A – Union Policies

Council: Council Standing Orders, Publicity Policy

Clubs, Societies, and Projects Board*: Clubs Societies and Projects Policy, New Activities Committee Policy, Activities Development Fund Policy, Tours Policy, Room Booking Policy, Welcome Fair Policy, Equipment Policy

Education and Representation Board: Higher Education Policy, Representation Policy**

Community and Welfare Board: Safe Space Policy, Religious Observance Policy, Representation Policy**, Accessibility Policy

Services and Sustainability Board: Union Shop Policy, Ethical Investment Policy, Transport Policy, Advertising Policy

Governance and Identity Board: Mascotry Policy, Union Bar Policy, Awards Policy

*CSPB is the joint meeting of the Societies and Projects Board and the Sports Hub Exec

**The Representation Policy is a single policy for which ERB and CWB have joint ownership

A set of explanatory notes detailing any Policies which have been merged together, any amendments that have been made to these Policies relative to their prior (lapsed) versions, and the justification for any Policies being allowed to lapse rather than be renewed, is presented in Appendix B.