

Motion on Extending Powers to Hear Motions of Censure and No Confidence

Proposer: Dr Lloyd T James (President)

Seconder: India Marsden (Deputy President (Clubs and Societies))

Union Notes

1. The Bye Laws set out the procedures for Motions of Censure (strong criticism of an elected officer) and No Confidence (to dismiss an elected officer).
2. These motions can currently only be heard by Union Council.
3. A [proposal](#) was passed at July Council to mandate the Union President to revise the Bye Laws to extend powers to hear these motions against CSP committee members to Constituent Unions and Management Groups. The main reasoning for passing this is that:
 - a. Requiring Votes of No Confidence (VoNCs) to happen at Union Council is a high bar that often prevents these motions from being heard, and puts undue stress on those students against whom a VoNC lies.
4. The current procedures do not currently specify in detail the process for appealing against a passed Motion of No Confidence.
5. It has also been suggested that the threshold for Motions of Censure, which are less severe than Motions of No Confidence, should be lowered from a 2/3 majority vote to a simple majority vote.

Union Believes

1. The arguments for extending VoNC powers against CSP Committee Members to Constituent Unions and MGs, also apply to other Union volunteers such as academic and wellbeing representatives.
2. It is preferable to have the Bye Laws specify general principles around how these motions work, rather than specifying separate procedures for CSPs.
3. That there should be a robust process of appeal, particularly if these motions are being heard at a lower level than Union Council.
4. Motions of Censure, which are less severe than Motions of No Confidence, should have a lower threshold for passing.

Union Resolves

1. To approve the revised Bye Laws for Motions of Censure and No Confidence outlined in Appendix A.
2. To request the Board of Trustees also approve these Bye Law changes.