

02 – Decision Making and Policy

The Union is a student led organisation and is also inclusive and diverse. It's important that decisions are made appropriately, and members are given information on the different ways leadership is shown to aid clarity. This Bye-Law outlines how different part of the Union relate to each other.

These bodies set rules or guidance and the different roles of these are also described here.

See also: By-Law 4 - Union Meetings

The **Democracy and Development Officer** shall be the officer with lead interpretation of this Bye-Law.

Decision making bodies

- 201 There are the following decision-making bodies in the Union
- a) The Trustee Board who have overall responsibility for the Union. Their role is described in the Articles of Association Part Three (3).
 - b) Company Law Meetings which can make changes to the legal structures and functioning of the Union. Their role is described in the Articles of Association Articles 14-29.
 - c) All Student Votes occur at least once per year and can set policy for the Union to follow. Their role is described in By-Law 4 and the Articles of Association Articles 13.
 - d) Referenda are votes of all students that can set policy for the Union to follow. Their role is described in By-Law 4 and the Articles of Association Article 12.
 - e) Student Council meetings set policy for the Union to follow in between All Student Votes. Their role is described in By-Law 4 and the Articles of Association Article 57.
 - f) The Super Council is described in By-Law 4. They elect the Chair and Deputy Chair of Student Council and deal with votes of no confidence in Union Officers.
 - g) Student Executive Committees are focused on a particular area of the Union such as "Education" or "Societies". Their role is described in By-Law 3.
 - h) Elected Officers will also make decisions. They are elected to be leaders and representatives by the student body. Their role is described in By-Law 3.
- 202 Day to day running of the Union's services and fulfilment of its policy and strategy will be delegated by the Trustee Board to staff and volunteers as they find appropriate.

Types of Formal Decision

203 There are the following types of policy and procedures. These are presented in order of hierarchy (e.g. Company Law resolutions can overrule all other decisions).

Policy	Function	Passed by
Company Law Resolutions and Special Resolutions	Changes to the legal operation and structure of the Union	Company Law Meeting
Trustee Board decision to overrule another decision made in the Union	To avoid legal, financial or reputational harm to the Union.	Trustee Board (see Article 40.3)
Union Policy Motion	The collective view of this Union's members. It gives the Union a stance on an issue and a mandate for change.	Referenda / All Student Votes
Emergency Policy Motions (to be carried out between All Student Votes)	The collective view of this Union's members. It gives the Union a stance on an issue and a mandate for change which must be decided urgently and cannot wait for an All Student Vote.	Student Council (ratified at the next Referendum or All Student Vote)
Motion to amend Bye-Laws	Changes to these By-Laws	Trustee Board, ratified by Student Council or Student Council with approval by Trustee Board
Motion to renew or amend current policy	To renew lapsed policy so it is current for a further two years or amend existing policy to add relevant material or remove irrelevant material	Referenda / All Student Votes or Student Council (in line with the original policy)
Motion to set or appeal Regulations & Principles	Regulations and Principles give operational guidance on how an area of the Union should run.	Referenda / All Student Votes or Student Council
Motion to affiliate to another organisation, renewing or stopping an existing affiliation	The Union may have a relationship with other organisations at the approval of its members	Referenda / All Student Votes or Student Council (ratified at the next Referendum or All Student Vote)
Motions of no confidence in Union Officers or Trustee	To remove an elected officer or Trustee who has not performed their role	Referenda / All Student Votes or Trustee Board or Student Council (see Article 34-36)
Operational Staff Policies	Guidance for Staff required by legislation or for the smooth running of the Union which is not subject to democratic oversight except through elected Trustee Board members.	Trustee Board

Actions to be undertaken in relation to decision making

- 204 All decisions will be subject to a financial plan and impact assessment which will be outlined in the Union Regulations and reviewed at least every 3 years by the Trustee Board.
- 205 Policies to Referenda, All Student Votes and Student Council will be placed into a policy "Zone" which will be owned by a particular Executive Committee as outlined in the Union Regulations. This regulation will be reviewed at least every 3 years by the Democracy Executive.
- 206 Union Policy due to lapse will be considered by the Student Council as outlined in the Union Regulations. This regulation will be reviewed at least every 3 years by the Democracy Executive.