

## **2087 A motion to increase the scrutiny and discussion period for Motions Submitted to Council**

As part of the ongoing work of the Democratic Procedures Committee it is proposed that we extend the period between the submission of motions to council and the sitting of council. This is to enable more time to scrutinise new motions and to negotiate changes and amendments. The aims of this extension are to increase the quality of motions passed by council, to enable parties to discuss their differences under less time pressure and to enable councillors to be more informed about the motions they are due to debate.

Proposer: Tim Barker (Postgraduate Committee)

Seconder: Emily Cutler (Economics Society)

Passed 23 March 2017

### **Union Notes**

1. The Democratic Procedures Committee was set up to scrutinise the Union's democratic structures, help to improve these structures and support the running of Union Council.
2. The quality of motions is not always as high as it could be, with errors in wording, accuracy, and conflicts with existing Union policy sometimes not becoming apparent until Council meets.
3. There is often a large amount of time taken up in Council with questions that could easily be answered in advance which slows down the running of council.
4. Often parties who would like to negotiate amendments to motions do not have enough time to discuss the matter before council meets.
5. Friday is not always a good day to release information for action due to tiredness and work pressures, and a Monday might receive a more positive response.

### **Union Believes**

1. Increasing the time for councillors to read, debate, seek clarification and discuss amendments to motions would allow council to function more smoothly and effectively.
2. The change in deadline to a Monday would be a more effective deadline day, allowing councillors to prepare motions over the weekend and for the reading of motions a full week in advance of council.
3. The more scrutiny and rigour that is put into the process of submitting and passing motions will increase the quality of Democracy within the Union
4. Union Councillors should be given as much time as possible to allow them to read and respond to motions, thus being able to seek input and feedback from the groups they represent.

## Union Resolves

1. To change the deadline for the submission of motions to council from the Friday the week before council, to the Monday of the week before council, (increasing the period from 6 days to 10 days), as illustrated below:

Monday <b>*New Deadline</b>	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday <b>Existing Deadline</b>	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday <b>Union Council</b>	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

2. To amend Bye-Law 2.10 from:

"The agenda shall close four working days before the meeting and shall be published three working days before the meeting."

To:

"Resolutions shall be submitted eight working days before the meeting to be circulated to Councillors for comment and discussion; the agenda shall close for other items four working days before the meeting and shall be published at least three working days before the meeting."