

Let's Make Societies Great! (An Amendment to the Bye Laws)

Proposer: Roo Pitt (School Convenor, Politics, Philosophy, Languages and communication studies.)

Seconder: Sophie Atherton (Campaigns and Democracy Officer)

Summary

Currently the Societies Executive do not sit on Union Council, despite their expertise being used to give recommendations to Council about new societies. There is also no process for debate regarding the creation of a society, however debate is encouraged in Union Council for motions that may become policy. This motion aims to improve the expertise and democracy in Union Council for new societies.

Council Notes

1. Societies' executive are the subject matter experts and have been invaluable for advising union council decisions on new society applications.
2. The society application process begins on the website through the up-voting system.
3. That UEA SU has over 200 societies and clubs that represent a number of interests.
4. UEA SU has a long-standing history of supporting students to set up new societies.

Council Believes

1. These proposed changes will encourage greater engagement within Union Council.
2. The society application process is lengthy and requires commitment from individual students passionate about their society.
3. The up-voting process is helpful for gauging student engagement however it can become difficult for the creation of potential societies' that are down voted.
4. That we should be able to have a full and proper debate in order to enable councillors to be able to make fully informed decisions.

Council Resolves

1. Mandate the proposer of the society to speak at the relevant Union Council. In their absence, the societies' executive can represent them and speak on behalf of them.
2. Under the heading of 'Clubs, Societies and Peer Support Groups', introduce the following: '8.20 Those who sit on Society Executive shall be considered councillors.' and renumber accordingly.
3. Under the heading of 'Clubs, Societies and Peer Support Groups', introduce the following: '8.21 Union Council shall follow the structure of debate in regards to the creation of new societies as outlined in Bye Law 2.20.' and renumber accordingly.