

## **Policy Lapse Policy (An Amendment to the Bye Laws)**

Proposer: Sophie Atherton (Campaigns and Democracy Officer)

Seconder: Lewis Martin (Mature Student Assembly Union Council)

### **Summary**

This policy aims to produce clarity around policy lapse through creating new bye laws. It proposes introducing definitions for what keeping policy looks like, what it means to adopt policy as precedent, what lapsing policy means, as well as debating policy. It will explain the process of policy lapse and how the Democratic Procedures Committee should be involved prior to policy lapse.

### **Council Notes**

1. There is no official procedure for policy lapse.
2. This had led to inconsistencies within policy lapse for the last several years.
3. We are legally bound to do policy lapse according to the Education Act 1994.

### **Council Believes**

1. It is important to have consistency during policy lapse and should be easy to understand by union councillors.
2. Accountability and transparency are key to this process.
3. As a charity we should carry out policy lapse.

### **Council Resolves**

1. In 1.16 delete, 'Policy passed more than two academic years earlier shall be presented to a meeting of the Union Council during the first semester and shall lapse in the absence of a decision to renew all or part of the policy. Policy can also be proposed to lapse at any time.'
2. Add new bye-law 1.13.1 and renumber accordingly: 'Policy lapse consists of policies that have passed two academic years or more ago and has not been lapsed before that point.'
3. Add new bye-law 1.13.2 and renumber accordingly: 'Policy lapse should take place during the last union council of the first semester, which should include policy to keep, policy precedent, policy to lapse or debate.'
4. Add new bye-law 1.13.2.1 and renumber accordingly: 'Policy to keep means policy that should be readopted as it is still active within the student union's goals and aims.'
5. Add new bye-law 1.13.2.2 and renumber accordingly: 'Policy precedent means policy that is no longer active but forms a core set of the values of the student union. For example, Bookworms at UEA (2062) was adopted into policy precedent.'
6. Add new bye-law 1.13.2.3 and renumber accordingly: 'Policy to lapse means policy that is no longer part of the student union's core values and aims or that it has met its' aims and is now considered out of date.'

7. Add new bye-law 1.13.2.4 and renumber accordingly: 'Policy to debate means policy that is contested in its' values to the student union or policy that any councillor believes should be kept, lapsed or put into precedent.'

8. Add new bye-law 1.13.3 and renumber accordingly: 'The process of policy lapse should entail: the chair or Campaigns and Democracy Officer explaining the process of policy lapse, the legal ramifications and what each section involves, followed by a summary of each policy that is being brought forward and its' recommendation by the Campaigns and Democracy Officer. Then the Chair of Union Council should allow any councillors to pull out and move the policy proposed into any of the other sections. The Chair will then allow sufficient time for debate ensuring every single policy is voted on to keep or move to precedent by simple majority. Policy lapse does not require a vote as it is will lapse automatically. Councillors may remove policy at any point in the academic year'

9. Add new bye-law 1.13.4 and renumber accordingly: 'The process of policy lapse should be considered by the Democratic Procedures Committee.'