

Appendix 1: Outline of proposed changes to Bye Laws 2, 3, 4 & 6

N.B. Rationale for proposed changed to Bye Law 5: Student Led Societies can be found in Appendix 2.

Bye Law 2: Setting the Direction

Change	Reason
Changing references to “Full-Time Officers” to Executive Committee	There was inconsistency across this Bye Law between referencing Full-Time Officers & the Executive Committee. This made it unclear where non Full-Time Officers were held to account. This has now been clarified and made consistent. All Executive Committee Members are held to account through the Student Members Meeting
Removed the Democratic Engagement & Accountability Group	This group was added in to our processes during the most recent review as a mechanism for those wishing to be involved in developing procedures to do so in a meaningful way. However, upon reflection we believe that in the context of our current levels of engagement that this group would be more burdensome to run than it would be beneficial. Responsibility for making recommendations for change in processes has been moved to the last Student Members Meeting each year.

Bye Law 3: Officers & Reps

Change	Reason
Full-Time Officer and Faculty Rep roles to the new Faculty names	To match the new University academic structure
Clarify the role of the Deputy President	Was not clear in old Bye Laws
Clarify process in NUS delegate elections	NUS sets our delegate entitlement and regulations for how they must be elected. This may change year on year, so it is more practical to say we will act in accordance with them, than have to change our Bye Laws if minor changes are made.
Remove the role of PGR Reps from Bye Laws	The PGR Reps are not a part of the Executive Committee (as determined by the large scale governance review in 2016), and are more akin to the course rep structure. Our Bye Laws should related to the running and leadership of the

	Union, and so we recommend that we treat PGR reps in the same way as course reps.
Changed reference to Faculty Forums to “student feedback forums”	Giving Vice Presidents and Faculty Reps the scope to hold a range of different types of forum as well as the formal Faculty Forums
Clarified that Campaign Reps are responsible for leading campaigns that relate to their student group.	The text was misleading, implying that Campaign reps were responsible for all campaigns.

Bye Law 4: Elections

Change	Reason
<p>Removed Elections Committee</p> <p><i>*This is a bigger change than most of the administrative changes being proposed, and therefore two options have been submitted. One Bye Law with Elections Committee, and one without.</i></p> <p><i>Exec Committee is being asked to make a choice about which they would prefer.</i></p>	<p>The Committee is an old mechanism from years past. SUs have moved on in how we ensure free and fair elections, and particularly by ensuring that those who can and should be active participants in the election are not putting themselves in a position where they have a conflict of interest. The role of the Returning Officer is to oversee a fair election, and so we should use that role to its full capacity, rather than duplicating.</p> <p>Over the past few years it has been obvious that the practical implementation of the committee is not working, with it very rarely being quorate. This does not mean that students will not have the opportunity to feed in to the election process, the Union will still actively seek feedback and input, but the conflict of interest will be removed and the large bureaucratic burden will be removed, giving the union more time to spend running.</p>
Removed restrictive rules about “Question the Candidate”.	These rules have been preventing the Union from developing more innovative and engaging ways of delivering candidate hustings. We do not want to have to change a Bye Law every time we want to try something new. The Returning Officer has the responsibility for ensuring any elections event is accessible and fair to all candidates.
Removed some duplicative, confusing or redundant clauses in the “media” section.	The rules were unclear and confusing.
Removed the “co-option” mechanism for filling vacant posts	Whilst theoretically a useful way of ensuring posts are filled, without having to run an

	election, the actual implementation is complex and doesn't align with our principles of a democratic union. It is more democratic for an open election with only one candidate & Re-Open Nominations than it is to have that person co-opted. This provides a core legitimacy for the roles.
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Bye Law 6: Executive Committee & its Sub-Committees

Change	Reason
Restructured the way in which Executive Committee, FVC & LEDIC interrelate to better reflect current practice.	After the first year of implementation it has become clear that the construction of these committees were not functioning as intended. The role of the Exec Committee as a whole was unclear, and the expectation of three separate meetings each month was unrealistic. The Bye Law now reflects current working practice and give the FVC & LEDIC greater flexibility in how and why they meet, as well as allowing them to elected a chair from within their members. The Exec Committee oversees this work and is ultimately responsible and accountable to the Student Members Meeting.
Changing meeting frequency to monthly during term time and as needed outside.	This gives flexibility over the summer to schedule training and induction, and no longer manadtes the Union to hold a meeting when most members are not available- but still provides the ability to call meetings if needed.