

Changes to Bye-laws to allow election of Executive Committee Roles in October

Bye-Law 3

2. Terms of office

2.1 The term of office of the President and Vice Presidents, Campaign Reps and Faculty Reps shall be from the 1 July to the 30 June the following year. The term of office may be shorter or longer on a transitional basis to coincide with an alteration of the year start or end. There will be a handover period of at least one week.

2.2 The President and Vice Presidents shall be remunerated in line with their terms and conditions of service.

2.3 The Term of Office for a Campaign or Faculty Rep will be terminated before the next balloting period if they are no longer registered as a student.

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2.1 The term of office of the President and Vice Presidents, ~~Campaign Reps and Faculty Reps~~ shall be from the 1 July to the 30 June the following year. The term of office may be shorter or longer on a transitional basis to coincide with an alteration of the year start or end. There will be a handover period of at least one week.

2.2 The President and Vice Presidents shall be remunerated in line with their terms and conditions of service.

2.3 The Term of Office for a Campaign or Faculty Rep shall be from their election in Trimester 1 until 31 August the following year. The term of office may be shorter or longer on a transitional basis to coincide with an alteration of the year start or end.

2.3~~2.4~~ The Term of Office for a Campaign or Faculty Rep will be terminated before the next balloting period if they are no longer registered as a student.

Bye Law 4

3 Timing of elections

3.1 The election of the Full-Time Officers, Campaign Reps and Faculty Reps shall take place in the second semester prior to the Easter holiday.

3.2 There will be an annual election of NUS National Conference Delegates held in accordance with the rules and regulations set out by NUS.

3.3 The dates of all elections, related timetables and a copy of the Election regulations shall be posted on the Union website & notice boards at least 18 University working days prior to the first day of balloting.

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~~3.43.5~~ The election of the Campaign Reps and Faculty Reps shall take place in the first trimester.

~~3.53.6~~ There will be an annual election of NUS National Conference Delegates held in accordance with the rules and regulations set out by NUS.

~~3.63.7~~ The dates of all elections, related timetables and a copy of the Election regulations shall be posted on the Union website & notice boards at least 18 University working days prior to the first day of balloting.

Reasons for change:

Give dedicated focus to paid officer roles in the Spring election.

Where there are more roles and more confusion (with full time, part time, paid, unpaid...) it can detract from the clarity of explanation for our officer roles, especially with increasing numbers of January intake and placement year students joining ARU.

Meeting with the larger number of candidates (this has tipped over 100) when all the roles are elected together can be challenging. Keeping track of which roles they *intend* to apply for and if they understand the difference between eg: HEMS VP, HCP VP and HEMS Faculty Rep, is an even bigger challenge. Asking the wider Union Collective to deliver 1:1s is helpful, but risky given the complexity of information needed for the variety of roles. Simplifying this will help avoid errors.

It will also allow the team to provide the same focussed 1:1 support for part time exec candidates during October rep elections and build engagement and rapport quickly with new students.

This change will allow First Year UGs and 1-year PGT students to take on faculty and campaign rep roles – this is a large pool of (often enthusiastic) students who cannot currently be elected for these roles. It potentially opens up the candidacies to around a 3rd more students. Excluding PGT students from our campaign and faculty rep roles also limits the effectiveness and representative nature of the Executive Committee. This change gives more students the opportunity to try out an exec role in advance of running for officer – hopefully giving us more experienced and embedded officer candidates.

This change also intends to overcome the delay between election and starting the roles.

Being elected in March, but not taking on your role until August often results in loss of engagement and some candidates drop out. Finding time for training as a group is often delayed until August or even mid-September as students are not around over the summer, and so role uptakes are effectively only being delayed by around a month with this change. We also have the

opportunity for hand over or role retention from outgoing exec through September (if they are returning students).

Challenges and considerations:

Can we host a Bye-election? We will need to make sure that Exec roles are filled effectively in October as we will lose the opportunity to easily bye-elect later in the year.

Training. We will need to quickly train and allocate new reps to committees and working groups once elected as these start early in the academic year. We may be able to retain previous reps / exec in their committee roles during September if they are returning students, as new Exec terms of office will run October - October.

The number of roles currently elected through bye-election in October shows the higher levels of engagement we can achieve here (particularly with 1st years) and that we can elect, train and deliver executive committee roles in the time frame.

Freshers: New reps will not be able to deliver campaigns during the Freshers period, although retained reps may well be able to finish their campaigns or celebrate wins to boost engagement in the October elections.

Results night: We will need to consider the format of results night if only officer roles are being announced.