

“DEMOCRACY REVIEW: A YEAR ON” POLICY

Title:	Democracy Review: A Year On	Date of Student Council:	25 th April 2018
Proposer name:	Grace Anderson		MA Sociology Course Rep
Seconder name:	Leigh Rooney		FHSCE Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)

Union Notes:

- In 2015 the Students’ Union conducted a Democracy Review which focused on the full-time Executive Officers, the Executive Committee, and Student Council
- This review found that:
 - Only 41% surveyed agreed that the Union effectively represents them and their views
 - Only 53% surveyed agree that the Union ensures that every student voice is heard
- The results of this review, one of the biggest being a change to the full-time officer structure, came into effect in the 2017/18 March elections
- One of the motivations behind the Student’s Unions changes was to become increasingly relevant, adaptable and flexible
- The Students’ Union is in the process of making changes to their articles and bye laws. This will include creating a Democracy, Engagement and Accessibility Group which will oversee its articles and bye laws

Democracy Review briefing, ARU Students’ Union: <https://www.angliastudent.com/represent/council/review/>

Union Believes:

- There has been no opportunity given to students to feed into any monitoring of the effectiveness of the changes from the Democracy Review
- Those in the role of Faculty Rep have struggled to get engagement from students (over several years)
- That the remit and role of the Faculty Rep has been impacted now that it’s a volunteer version of a full time role rather than a separate (yet equally valid) contribution
- The SU wants to be more relevant to students on the ground – one of the ways to do this is to make our representative structures more accessible to students

Union Resolves:

- That the Students’ Union should investigate a structure where Faculty Reps would be replaced with Department Reps (this structure is currently used in Essex SU and Northumbria SU)
 - Department Reps would create closer links with other reps in their department and would be able to more effectively act as an expert on their students’ issues
- That the Students’ Union seeks wider feedback from all students about the changes brought about by the democracy review
- That specific questions regarding the role of Faculty Rep are included within the NUS Course Rep survey (or if not possible, that Course Reps and Faculty Reps are able to give feedback about the Faculty Rep role)

Please e-mail to Megan Bennett, Democracy Coordinator at m.bennett@angliastudent.com