

SO8003

STANDING ORDER GOVERNING UNION COUNCIL MEETINGS

INTRODUCTION


1. Interpretation
These Standing Orders shall at all times be subject to the provisions of the Articles and Bye Laws and shall be read in conjunction therewith.
2. Amendment:
These Standing Orders shall be amended from time to time by the Union Executive Committee
3. Implementation of Decisions
Decisions of Council shall become effective on completion of the meeting concerned.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MEETING

4. Convening a Meeting:
Meetings of the Council shall be convened by the Chair Union Council at the request of the Union Executive Committee or at least 10 members of Council (Bye Laws). Ordinary and extraordinary meetings of Council shall be notified on the website.
5. Submissions of Motions and Reports:
Motions, minutes and reports for inclusion with the agenda (or publication on the Union's Webpage, as Council directs from time to time) shall be lodged with the Democracy & Governance Co-ordinator at least four clear working days (4.30 pm on Monday of previous week) preceding the meeting. Reports of University Committee meetings shall be submitted as written reports. Motions require a proposer and a seconder.
6. Agenda:
The agenda, together with minutes of the previous meeting, shall be published on the Union's official website and circulated to members via E-mail at least two clear days in advance (Bye Laws).
7. Submission of Amendments:
Amendments which may be contrary to the spirit of the main motion require a proposer and seconder.
8. Submission of Drafting Amendments:
A written drafting amendment to a motion or an amendment may be handed to the Chairperson after 11 am on the day of the meeting. The drafting amendment shall only 'delete parts' or make minor alterations, which do not alter the spirit of the motion or amendment.

Such changes shall only be made by the proposer of the original motion or amendment, or with his/her consent. The admissibility of a drafting amendment shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson. If accepted, the Chairperson shall read the drafting amendment to the meeting before the motion is proposed.

9. Attendance:
Members attending a meeting are to register with the Democracy & Governance Co-ordinator. In order to complete registration, a member must join the meeting not later than 1 hour after the published time of commencement. Unless apologies have been



received prior to the start of the meeting (Bye Laws), any voting member not so registered shall be deemed to be absent.

10. Order of Business
Subject to a Procedural Motion to the contrary, the order of business shall be as detailed at Annex A.
11. Business Carried Forward to the Next Meeting
Any item of business on the agenda which is not discussed during the meeting, shall only be carried forward upon receipt of a written request from the proposer, and lodged with the Chair Union Council at the end of the meeting.

THE CHAIRPERSON

14. Election
The election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson or any temporary election for these posts shall be conducted in accordance with the Bye Laws.
15. Responsibilities
The Chairperson shall be responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting in accordance with the Articles, Bye Laws and these Standing Orders.

The ruling of a Chairperson on points of order, admissibility of motions and amendments and on any matter relating to the conduct of the meeting shall be final and binding, subject to a successful challenge to the Chair (see paragraph 17 below). The Chairperson shall be heard in silence at all times.


16. Involvement
The Chairperson shall not participate nor vote in any debate, except for a casting vote as authorised in the Bye Laws
17. Challenge to the Chair
A Procedural Motion challenging a ruling of the Chairperson may be raised as a 'point of order' by any member of Council. If supported by five voting members the Deputy Chairperson shall take the chair and request:
 - a) the Chairperson to state his/her reasons for making the ruling;
 - b) the challenger to state his/her case;
 - c) one other member to support the ruling of the Chairperson.

There shall be no questions and immediately thereafter the challenge shall be put to the vote, which shall only be upheld if carried by two thirds of those present and eligible to vote.

18. Closing a Meeting
No Council meeting held in the evening shall continue beyond 10.30 pm unless two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote express a desire for it to do so, with the provision that debate on any motion which is at that time under consideration shall continue until a vote has been taken. The Chairperson shall also have authority to adjourn or close the meeting for unruly conduct; on this point his/her authority shall not be challenged.

CONDUCT OF MEETING

19. Section 1 - Election to the Chair



Where necessary an election to the Chair shall take place in accordance with paragraph 14 above and 30 below.

20. Section 2 - Attendance

Apologies and resignations shall normally be 'noted', unless on a 'point of order' the matter is put to the vote.

21. Section 3 - Minutes

Minutes shall normally be noted and ratified by assent, subject to a Procedural Motion to refer a minute back. Questions under 'matters arising' shall be taken at the discretion of the Chairperson.

22. Section 4 - Reports

Reports by members of the Union Executive Committee shall be promulgated on the official Hull University Union website, and reinforced by a verbal report at Council meetings which should not exceed three minutes and be so framed as to bring to the attention of Council matters of importance. Questions shall only be asked if:

- a) it is a question to which a satisfactory answer cannot be obtained privately;
- b) it is a question designed to bring an important matter to the notice Council.

Written questions may also be submitted either for inclusion on the agenda or alternatively may be handed to the Chairperson before the start of the meeting. Written questions shall take precedence over oral questions, which shall be limited to one minute. Any supplementary questions either written or oral, shall not exceed two, and shall also be limited to one minute duration. Reports shall normally be accepted by assent, unless on a 'point of order' the matter is put to the vote.

23. Section 5 - Administration

Elections and ratifications shall take place in accordance with the Articles, Bye Laws and Standing Orders. The method of voting in an election is detailed at paragraph 30 below. Ratifications, applications for membership and reciprocal agreements shall normally be accepted by assent, unless on a 'point of order' the matter is put to the vote. Policy rescissions shall be for noting.

24. Section 6 - Motions

Only one motion or amendment shall be before the meeting at any one time. If at any time during the debate two or more members wish to speak at the same time, precedence shall be given to the member who first 'catches the eye' of the Chairperson. Once the proposer has spoken on a motion or an amendment, that motion shall not be withdrawn except with the consent of the meeting. Subject to the above, the Chairperson shall conduct the debate as detailed below:


a) Order of Debate

Unless Council is 'in committee' (see paragraph 27e below) speeches on a motion or an amendment shall take the following form:

- (1) Proposer (or their nominee) presents the motion.
- (2) Proposer takes questions on the motion.
- (3) Open debate.

b) Amendments

It is open to the proposer of a main motion to accept an amendment, subject to a 'point of order' that 'it be not incorporated'. If such a proposal is carried, the main motion shall revert to its original form. Unless incorporated into the main motion, an amendment or amendments appearing on the agenda shall be debated after the main motion has been presented. If such an amendment is carried, it becomes the main motion and shall be re-proposed as such, after which any remaining amendments, if any, shall be



debated. This procedure shall continue until only one motion remains; this shall be the main motion.

c) Length of Speeches

Speeches shall not exceed three minutes. The Chairperson may exercise their discretion to extend a speaker's time limit if they have been interrupted or otherwise prevented from making their speech in a normal manner.

d) Questions to the Speaker

Any member of the Union may put a question to a speaker, provided that they have signified to the Chairperson their intention of giving way, except in the event of a challenge to a ruling of the Chairperson (see paragraph 27a below). Questions, which shall not exceed one minute in duration, shall be framed as information offered to or asked of the speaker.

25. Section 7 - Any Other Business

Only the business published on the agenda shall be transacted at a meeting of Council, provided that this shall not preclude the amendment of any motion thereon and provided that any other business, not having previously appeared, on the agenda may be taken if, in the opinion of the Chair, it would not have been possible for the business to have been published on the agenda or that it is a matter of extreme urgency which cannot reasonably be left over until the next meeting of Council (See Bye Laws).

POINTS OF ORDER

26. Raising a Point of Order

A point of order relating to the conduct of the meeting or a proposal to accept a Procedural Motion can be tabled by a member at any time, except where a vote is being taken, and as such shall take precedence over all other business.

27. Procedural Motions

Procedural Motions, as detailed below, may be proposed by any member of Council as a 'point of order'. Such motions require a proposer and seconder unless otherwise stated. Where two or more Procedural Motions are proposed, they shall be debated in accordance with the following order of precedence.

- a) A challenge to a ruling of the Chairperson (paragraph 17 above refers); such a challenge shall require a proposer plus the support of five voting members of Council.
- b) A motion for a temporary suspension of the order of business.
- c) A motion that the question be now put; this shall only be accepted at the discretion of the Chair. There shall be no discussion on this motion and if carried the meeting shall immediately proceed to vote, subject only to the right to give a speech in summation.
- d) A motion that the main motion or amendment under debate is voted on in parts.
- e) A motion that Council moves into Committee. If carried, no records shall be kept of its proceedings unless Council resolves to do so. Council may exclude any or all of those present who are not voting members of Council. The extent of the intended exclusion should be made clear in the procedural motion.
- f) A motion that Council moves out of committee; where such a motion is carried it shall be noted in the minutes.
- g) A motion that the matter lie on the table.

- h) A motion to adjourn or postpone the matter to a later specified meeting.
- i) A motion to refer the matter to a Select Committee (paragraph 31 below refers).
- j) A motion to refer the matter back to a Standing or Select Committee.
- k) A motion for the adjournment of Council; such an adjournment shall take place on completion of a specified item of business.

VOTING

28. General

Each voting member of Council shall exercise one vote in respect of any one matter put to the vote except as detailed at paragraph 30c (2) below.

29. Method of Voting

Voting shall be by show of voting cards unless a secret ballot is proposed as a 'point of order' by any member of Council.

Such a proposal shall be carried if supported by five voting members of Council. If a member of Union Council cannot attend a meeting and wishes to give their proxy to another voting member, they must email the Student Voice Manager their apology with good reason and designated proxy by noon on the day of the Union Council meeting.

Explicit voting instructions must be included and are only accepted if received by the Student Voice Manager in writing in advance of the meeting. If motions are amended during the meeting, the proxy-vote is automatically counted as a vote in abstention. The person holding a proxy-vote at Union Council should be from the same zone as the member whose proxy they have. Union Council members can only use the option of proxy-voting twice per academic year.

30. Voting Procedure

Voting may be by a simple majority, two thirds majority or an exhaustive or block vote system as detailed below.

a) Simple Majority

All motions shall be carried by a simple majority of those present and eligible to vote unless otherwise prescribed.


b) Two Thirds Majority

The motions details below shall only be carried by a two thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote:

- (1) A Procedural Motion.
- (2) Any motion or amendment that proposed or shall necessitate a change to Standing Orders, Bye Laws or the Articles
- (3) Two or more delegates or observers to a conference (see SO 3.001).
- (4) Affiliations.

c) Exhaustive or block vote

Voting in elections for Chair and Deputy Chair of Council, positions on Standing Committees (Bye Laws paragraph 22 refers) where either there was no nomination in the cross campus elections or as the result of a resignation



(Bye Laws paragraphs 20c, 22c and 24c refer), positions on a Select Committee (see paragraph 32 below) or positions on University Committees shall be by method of exhaustive vote in the case of single appointments or block vote in the case of multiple appointments, as detailed below.

d) Single Appointment

Voting for a single appointment shall be by show of voting cards. Where a result is not achieved in the first ballot, further ballots will be conducted excluding candidates who fail to equal or exceed the vote of the candidates next above, in combination or by themselves. If at any point there are two or more candidates with equal votes that under the above rules cannot be excluded, a separate ballot shall be held to determine who shall be excluded from the next stages.

e) Multiple Appointments

Voting for multiple appointments shall be by ballot with each voting member of Council having a number of votes equal to the number of appointments to be filled. The candidates with the highest number of votes shall be elected. In the event of a tie the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

SELECT COMMITTEE

31. Matters to be Referred

The Chairperson shall at his/her discretion refer any motion of a controversial nature to a Select Committee. Notwithstanding the above, Council may refer any matter to a Select Committee subject to a Procedural Motion to that effect (see paragraph 27i&above).

32. Membership:

The membership of a Select Committee shall be an ex officio member of Council who shall act as Chairperson and four voting members; the membership shall be elected in accordance with paragraph 30c above. (See Byelaws)

33. Report Back

The Chairperson shall report back to the next Council meeting but one. The report shall not be amended, except that sections may be accepted or rejected by Council or that sections may be referred back for further consideration (see paragraph 27j above). In such cases a further report shall be made to the next Council meeting, unless an extension be granted.

Annex

A. Union Council - Order of Business

PT/JH

Passed at UEC: 1st December 2009
Passed at HUU Council: 14th December 2009

Updated: ME/MT
Passed UEC: 6 April 2016
Passed UC: 11 April 2016

Updated: ME/SH
Passed UEC: 26 April 2016
Passed UC: 9 May 2016

Updated: MR/MB
Passed at UC: 8 May 2017

