



# UNION COUNCIL MOTION

## **Title of motion:**

*A Motion to further update the roles, responsibilities & election procedures of the Societies Executive Committee (SEC)*

## **HUU Notes:**

### Election of the SEC

- That currently the SEC is elected via AGM with each Society having one vote each. These AGM's are generally poorly contested meaning most people that run will get elected.
- That due to the poor attendance and contention at these AGM's, the committee aren't entirely representative.
- That appointing candidates based on skills and experience would allow the best people to be appointed; improving the effectiveness of the committee.

### Committee Roles & Responsibilities

- That currently the SEC is comprised of 2 Society Mentors, Secretary, Communications Officer, Treasurer, Welfare Officer, Publicity Officer and Events Coordinator.
- That after trialling the current structure for a Trimester, it's clear that some roles are either unnecessary or could be better utilised.
- That a few members of the committee had been elected prior to the decision to restructure the committee in October which meant their roles couldn't be fairly restructured despite obvious changes needing to be made.
- That the roles of Society Mentors have worked well in supporting Societies and the President of Activities this year. They have operated as the main point of contact between Societies and the SEC and have allowed the committee to be far more proactive.
- That there are elements to the SEC that aren't mentioned in role descriptions such as the Society Inventories or BOOST.

## **HUU Believes:**

### Election of the SEC

- The SEC should move to being appointed by interview as this would allow the best candidates to be chosen for the roles based on skills and experience.

- Moving to interview would allow other candidates to run who may not feel confident that they would win in an AGM, which is largely based on popularity.
- That while students may argue the committee would become less representative they should be better equipped to deal with issues presented and provide better support to societies.

#### Committee Roles & Responsibilities

- That the Comms Officer is an unnecessary role as its primary purpose is to reply to emails which can be picked up easily by the Secretary or any member of the committee.
- That in line with the recent changes to the title of the President of Welfare & Community to the President of Inclusivity & Diversity, it is believed that the title of the Welfare Officer is potentially no longer appropriate and that Society Welfare shouldn't be put on just one student.
- That the responsibility of tracking inventories should be tied into the role of Secretary while promoting BOOST is picked up by the Treasurer.

### **HUU Resolves:**

#### Election of the SEC

- The SEC should be appointed by interview.
- Interview panel will consist of the incumbent President of Activities as well as the Sports & Societies Coordinator (or other relevant HUU staff member if unavailable) and a current member of the SEC.

#### Committee Roles & Responsibilities

- The position of Communications Officer should be dissolved with the Secretary taking on the primary responsibility for answering emails.
- The title of Welfare Officer should be amended to Participation & Inclusivity Officer to reflect recent changes within HUU and would tie in well with work the President of Welfare and Community is currently working on.
- The Secretary should take on the responsibility of working with the President of Activities to monitor Society inventories.
- A third Societies Mentor position should be introduced to allow them the scope to fulfil all their responsibilities.
- The New Committee structure would consist of 8 positions:
  - 3 x Society Mentors
  - Secretary
  - Finance Officer
  - Publicity Officer
  - Participation and Inclusivity Officer

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- Events Officer

**Proposer:** Tom McNamara (President of Activities)

**Seconders:**

- Rob Ackers (SEC Society Mentor & Dr Who Soc President)
- Anotidaishe Manjanja (SEC Secretary)
- Luke Blair (SEC Communications Officer)
- Ashley Tasker (SEC Publicity Officer & Zoology Soc President)
- Huey Arslan (SEC Events Coordinator & Physics Soc Treasurer)
- James Hibberd (SEC Treasurer & Anime Soc Treasurer)
- Dominic Clare (Councillor for Scrutiny for the Activities Zone)
- Charlie Dorlin (HYMS Societies Rep)

Red - Delete

Yellow - Amendment

# SO 2004

## STANDING ORDER GOVERNING UNION SOCIETIES' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### INTERPRETATION


1. These Standing Orders shall be read in conjunction with the Constitution, Bye Laws and the relevant Standing Orders (particularly 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2005) of Hull University Union and shall be interpreted accordingly.

### FUNCTION

2. The Union Societies' Executive Committee in discharging its responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution and Bye-Laws, shall:
  - (a) Consider and advise on matters referred by the Societies' and the Union Executive Committee;
  - (b) Ensure the publication of a Societies' and a Presidents' handbook;
  - (c) Ensure that members of Hull University Union know they can set up a Society and facilitate their ability to do this;
  - (d) Ensure communication between Societies,
  - (e) Ensure the promotion of Societies within Hull University Union and Hull University;
  - (f) Monitor the activity of Societies;
  - (g) Provide mediation, help and support for struggling societies
  - (h) Act as a forum for the exchange of ideas;
  - (i) Ensure the publication of a Society Events Calendar

### MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES

2. The membership of the Union Societies' Executive Committee and their duties shall be:
  - (a) The President of Activities shall be responsible and accountable for the management and oversight of the committee. Their responsibilities are set out in Standing Order 2001.
  - (b) Society Mentors (~~x2~~ x3), one of which will be appointed as Chair, in the absence of the President of Activities. They will be ~~the primary port of call for~~ responsible for:


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- (i) Assisting with the development of societies and best practice for existing ones;
  - (ii) Offering 1-2-1 introductory meetings to newly-elected Society Presidents;
  - (iii) Assisting the President of Activities with the running of Societies Council by contributing to the agenda and monitoring attendance.
  - (iv) Assisting in all informal complaints between and within all societies to ensure that equity is met within societies as a whole, regardless of their circumstances, background or protected characteristics;
  - (v) Directing Society Presidents to relevant members of staff;
  - (vi) Promoting Give it a Go within Societies.
  - (vii) Taking the lead on updating and circulating the Presidents' Handbook to Presidents.

(c) ~~Secretary who will act as the Chair in the absence of the President of Activities.~~ They will be responsible for:

- (i) Organising the Society Council meetings, Society AGM and any other relevant meetings
- (ii) Ensuring that all new societies submit their constitution for ratification by the first Union Council of Semester 1.
- (iii) Organising the publication of the Society Events Calendar in partnership with the Publicity Officer.
- (iv) Replying to emails in the [hull-societies@hull.ac.uk](mailto:hull-societies@hull.ac.uk) inbox or forwarding them on to the relevant committee member.
- (v) Oversee society inventories, reminding societies that all new equipment must be registered with HUU.

(d) ~~Treasurer~~ Finance Officer, They will be responsible for:

- (i) General Society Finances
  - a. Overseeing the societies' individual balances and encouraging societies to remain out of, or remove themselves from, debt.
  - b. Encouraging societies to spend their own society finances to ensure value for money for their members.
  - c. Helping societies generate income through ideas and support.



d. Overseeing the committee's own allocated budget through cooperation with the President of Activities.

(ii) The Societies' Grant

a. Overseeing the societies grant fund and its allocation to societies; ensuring that decisions are made in line with the criteria laid out in the Bye-Laws.

b. Assisting the President of Activities in writing up the grant panel report following each meeting to ensure transparency in the process.

(iii) Sponsorship

a. Offering advice and support on matters relating to finances and sponsorship.

(iv) BOOST

a. Liaising with the Student Opportunities Manager to promote BOOST; supporting Societies in starting crowdfunding projects on the platform.

~~(d) Communications Officer who will assume the Secretary position in a time of succession, taking minutes when the Secretary is Chairing the meeting. They will be responsible for:~~

~~(i) Updating societies and their membership, their executives and presidents of all relevant matters relating to the administration and promotion of societies.~~

~~(ii) Forwarding all emails to their relevant committee member or union staff member.~~

(e) Publicity Officer, They will be responsible for:

(i) Providing advice to societies on matters relating to marketing and promotion

(ii) Updating the societies calendar

(iii) Overseeing societies' individual social media and relaying information to the committee

(iv) Overseeing the use of the 'HUU Societies & Volunteering' Facebook page

(v) Overseeing and establishing all other forms of social media

(f) Events Officer ~~Co-ordinator~~, who will assume the Treasurer position in a time of succession. They will be responsible for:

(i) Providing advice to societies on matters relating to the organisation and running of events and socials.


- (ii) **Organising the ~~Setting up~~** Presidents' Social, to be held within the first two weeks of semester one.
- (iii) Setting up additional events throughout the year to promote societies and cooperation between them.
- (iv) Working with the President of Activities to enrol interested societies up to compete at Varsity. Establishing relationships with their counterparts at Lincoln.

(g) ~~Welfare Officer~~ **Participation & Inclusivity Officer** who will be responsible for:

- (i) Promoting participation within Societies to ensure year-round recruitment; pushing the idea that it's never too late to get involved.
- (ii) Working with the President of Activities to highlight new societies that are struggling to recruit members; offering advice on boosting membership numbers.
- (iii) Overseeing societies that represent particular religious, ethnic or cultural minorities to ensure that their needs and concerns are represented within the committee;
- (iv) Assisting **the Society Mentors** in **dealing with** all informal complaints between and within all societies to ensure that equity is met within societies as a whole, regardless of their circumstances, background or protected characteristics;
- (v) Liaising with ~~relevant Welfare Officers at HUU~~ **the President of Inclusivity and Diversity** on training and support available to students, to improve inclusivity within societies.
- (vi) Promoting society participation in campaigns and projects ran by HUU.
- ~~(vii) Signposting students to wellbeing services.~~
- (viii) Working with the President of Activities to identify barriers preventing students from participating in Societies; looking at means of making Societies and the process of setting up a society more accessible and inclusive.

#### MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

3. Calling a Meeting. Meetings should take place fortnightly and shall be organised by the SEC Secretary at a time that is convenient for all members of the committee. Emergency meetings may be called by the President of Activities ~~or the SEC Secretary on their own initiative~~ or at the request of a Societies Council or by four members of the Committee.

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4. Notice of Meetings. All members of the Union Societies' Executive Committee must be notified two clear days in advance of the meeting. The Agenda will be produced by the SEC Secretary in partnership with the President of Activities and must also be made available to the committee at least one day before the meeting.
  5. Quorum. The quorum of the Committee shall be 50%.
  6. Minutes. Minutes shall be taken by the Secretary at all meetings and will be made available to all members of the SEC, and distributed to all society presidents. Minutes can be distributed to society members upon request.
  7. Closed Session. Any full voting member of HUU may attend the meeting as an observer with speaking rights except when two thirds of the Committee wish to meet in closed session.
  8. Attendance. If a voting member misses two meetings without apologies, they will have deemed to have resigned.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

9. The responsibilities of the Union Societies' Executive Committee are as follows:
  - (a) The President of Activities who shall Chair meetings and have a casting vote only. They shall liaise with the rest of the committee and be their main link to the rest of the Union.
  - (b) Each member of the Committee shall have direct responsibility for the communication between societies. They shall also be responsible for the coordination of the activities and for supporting all societies.
  - (c) The President of Activities and the SEC Secretary shall be responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the Societies Executive Committee.
  - (d) Each Society Executive member will also be expected to take a full and active role in supporting the activities of other members of the societies' executive committee. This may include, but is not exclusive to, assisting with fundraising activity and organising Presidents Socials.
  - (e) The ~~SEC Secretary, Welfare Officer and two~~ Society Mentors shall be responsible for representing societies to all meetings of Union Council. **The three Society Mentors shall have a shared vote.**
  - (f) **Every member of the committee shall be responsible for signposting students to wellbeing services if the situation calls for it.**





## ELECTION

~~10. Each member of the Societies' Executive Committee, excluding the President of Activities, shall be elected in the Societies' Annual General Meeting in week 8 of Semester 2 and shall hold position from week one of the following academic year, or in the event of a vacant position by Union Council. Any society member can stand.~~

Each member of the Societies' Executive Committee shall be appointed by an interview panel consisting of the incumbent President of Activities, the Sports & Societies Coordinator (or another member of HUU staff) and a current member of the SEC. These interviews will primarily take place in week 8 & 9 of Trimester 2 or at another time if required due to resignation of a committee member.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

11. Members are not permitted to handle matters regarding societies that they are paid members of, or where there otherwise may be a possible conflict of interest. If this is not possible to achieve, the committee must request additional oversight from the President of Activities on matters of finance and/or complaints, and on all other matters it is the responsibility of the least conflicted member, by discretion of the President of Activities.

Passed at UEC: 26 April 2016

Passed at UC: 9 May 2016

Passed at UC: 8 May 2017

Passed at UC: 23 April 2018

Passed at UC: 22 October 2018