

J20-08 Motion For Reforming the UDS Constitution to Add New Positions to the Board of Ten

Owner: Zaine Mansuralli

In effect from: Immediately

Review date: September 2020

Proposed:

Zaine Mansuralli – *SSC Debates Officer*

Seconded:

Toni Valencia - *SSC Member Without Portfolio*

Shaina Sullivan - *Director of Student Development and Activities*

Martin Caforio - *SSC Performing Arts Officer*

Union Debating Society

It is noted that:

1. The UDS relies on student volunteers and makes significant demands on their time.
2. The successful Debates Officer campaign included commitments to increase publicity of debates and to ensure the UDS is more inclusive and welcoming to people from a variety of backgrounds.
3. Other Scottish university debating societies recruit an Equity Officer, a position at debating competitions responsible for promoting inclusivity and dealing with disputes at debate competitions.
4. There is currently no position of an Equity Officer on the Board of Ten.
5. The position of Schools Secretary has been held as a job share for 3 consecutive years, with two new holders in each year.
6. Having two Schools Secretaries has allowed the UDS to expand engagement with local schools.
7. Several positions on the Board of Ten, due to their requirement for specific skills and attributes, are appointed by interview rather than at the AGM.

It is believed that:

1. Adding new positions to the Debates Committee (Board of Ten) would allow the UDS to have a greater focus on inclusivity, and improve the advertising and communication without overburdening its student volunteers.

2. Given the history of electing two Schools Secretaries and the advantages it has brought to the Schools Outreach Program, it would be useful to ensure the UDS continues to have two Schools Secretaries in the future.
3. The Communications Secretary is particularly overburdened as they are responsible for a large number of tasks, and have a large week-by-week remit advertising the UDS's bi-weekly events.
4. An Equity Officer would be able to focus more time towards projects promoting diversity, like training in discussing sensitive issues correctly in debates and projects to improve retention of debaters from disadvantaged and minority backgrounds.

It is resolved to:

1. Amend the Laws of the Association, Chapter 14

Appendix - Laws of the Association Chapter 14

1. Chapter 14, 1.1 (and elsewhere where applicable)

From 'The membership of the Society shall consist of all the matriculated students of the University except those who have exercised their right to opt out under the terms of the Education Act 1994. Only ordinary members shall have voting rights in elections to the Board and shall be the only members eligible for election to the **Board of Ten Board of Fifteen.**'

2. Chapter 14, 2.1

The Officers of the Society shall be:

2.1.1.The SSC Debates Officer (Convenor and Chair)

2.1.2.The Treasurer of the Society

2.1.3.The Clerk to the House (Secretary)

2.1.4.Inter-Varsity Secretary

2.1.5.Schools Competition Convenor

2.1.6.The Two Communications Secretaries

2.1.7.Steward to the House (Social Secretary)

2.1.8. Speaker Secretary

2.1.9. The Two Chief Whips

2.1.10. The Sergeant-at-Arms

2.1.11. The Freshers' Representative

2.1.12 Schools Outreach Officer

2.1.13 Equity Officer

2.1.14 The Mother and Father of the House

2.1.15 Director of Student Development and Activities'

3. Chapter 14, 3.2.4

'The Schools' Secretary shall have duties including the Society's participation in the organisation of all schools debating competitions and events, and all matters pertaining to schools debating in the area.'

'The Schools Competition Convenor shall be responsible for overseeing and organising the Society's participation in the organisation of schools debating competitions and shall assist the Schools Outreach Officer as needed.'

The Schools Outreach Officer shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the Society's outreach and development of debating at local schools and shall assist the Schools Competition Convenor as needed.'

4. Chapter 14, 3.2.5

'The two Communications Secretary Secretaries shall have duties including all aspects of publicity for the Society, including the production of the Freshers' Guide, the Society's internet presence, the website, and the mailing list weekly emails and maintaining a consistent and positive external image of the Society.' They shall be expected to split their opportunities as they see fit.

5. Chapter 14, 3.2

The Equity Officer shall serve as the internal Equity Officer for debating competitions organised by the Society, shall assist the Chief Whips on providing training on equity in

debating and discussing sensitive issues respectfully, and shall work to promote the inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups in Society activities.

6. Chapter 14, 5.1.4

From ‘Election of all positions other than SSC Debates Officer, Association Director of Student Development and Activities, Fresher’s Representative, Deputy Convener, Father/Mother of the House and the SSC Nominee Treasurer, Communications Secretaries and Equity Officer.’

7. To amend the Laws of the Union: Chapter 14, 5.8

From ‘The Communications Secretary will be appointed one week following the AGM based on an application including portfolio and interview, with the panel consisting of the outgoing president, the incoming president, the outgoing Communications Secretary, and the outgoing DoSDA. In the event that the outgoing Communications Secretary is re-applying for the position, the incoming DoSDA should be added to the panel instead of the outgoing Communications Secretary.’

To ‘All positions not elected at the AGM, excluding Mother/Father of the House and Deputy Convenor, will be appointed through an application and interview, usually held one week prior to AGM. The panel shall consist of the outgoing president, the incoming president, the outgoing position holder (or closest equivalent in the event of new or reformed positions), and the outgoing DoSDA. In the event that the incumbent position holder is re-applying for the position, the incoming DoSDA should be added to the panel instead of the incumbent.’