



Graduate Union Council Meeting

Monday 12th October 2015, 5.15pm, 17 Mill Lane

Agenda

1) Approval of the minutes of previous Council meetings

Minutes of the previous meeting will be circulated following this meeting, to be approved at the next meeting.

2) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Council meeting

3) Reports to Council from the sabbatical officers

4) Motions to be ratified

5) Council discussions/questions to Council

6) Ordinary Motions

a. Motion to convene an Elections Committee

b. Motion to allow the Elections Committee to report the rules and timeline for the by-election of GU President to Council by electronic circulation

7) Emergency Motions

a) Motion to allow the Welfare & Rights Officer (or their appointed deputy) to act as Acting President and Acting Secretary in the interim period until a President and Executive Committee is elected

b) Motion to allow the current student trustee to continue in position until such time as new student trustee(s) are appointed

8) Elections to be held at Council

a. Election of an Elections Committee

9) Any other business

10) Date of next meeting

A) Motion to convene an Elections Committee

GU Notes

- 1) Following the resignation of the President-elect, a by-election is required to fill the vacant office of GU President
- 2) Schedule E.7 states, "An Elections Committee shall be convened by the Council before the opening of nominations for all GU elections or by-elections", and that "The Elections Committee shall carry out and uphold all rules pertaining to the conduct of elections"
- 3) Schedule E.8 states, "The Elections Committee shall normally comprise five people, consisting of the Returning Officer, two members of the GU Council, the CUSU Co-Ordinator and one member of the Trustees, unless otherwise determined by the Council."
- 4) Schedule E.9 states, "the Returning Officer for elections shall normally be the President, or their deputy appointed by the Elections Committee or Student Council".
- 5) Poppy Ellis Logan (CUSU-GU Welfare and Rights Officer), Jemma Stewart (CUSU Coordinator) and Katharina Greve (GU Communications Officer) wish to stand as members of the Elections Committee. Jemma Stewart has stood to act as Returning Officer.

GU Believes

- 1) The persons stated under notes 5), should be approved as members of the Elections Committee
- 2) Any members of Council wishing to stand as members of the Elections Committee should do so under item 8a) on the agenda.

GU Resolves

- 1) To establish an Elections Committee for the by-election of the office of President
- 2) To elect Poppy Ellis Logan, Jemma Stewart and Katharina Greve as members of the Elections Committee
- 3) To approve Jemma Stewart as Returning Officer for the election

Proposed: Poppy Ellis Logan, Welfare and Rights Officer

B) Motion to allow the Elections Committee to report the rules and timeline for the by-election of GU President to Council by electronic circulation

GU Notes

- 1) That the office of President, the GU's only-full time officer, is currently vacant
- 2) That scheduled Council meetings over the last 12 months have rarely been quorate
- 3) That according to Schedule C8, "a meeting of the Student Council shall only be quorate if 15 voting members are present. If such a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place, or to such other day, time and place as the Executive Committee may determine, and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting the members of Student Council who are present and eligible to vote shall be a quorum"
- 4) That during an election, according to Schedule E12, the Elections Committee should establish rules for the conduct of the election and report these back to Council
- 5) That Schedule E.2 states "the Council shall determine dates for the sabbatical officer and executive committee elections, and the timetable for nomination and appointment of student trustees, giving at least 24 days' notice of the opening of the ballot in the case of elections."
- 6) There is no current constitutional provision regarding the reporting of information to Council electronically.

GU Believes

- 1) That without a President, the capacity of the GU is limited
- 2) That the swift by-election of the position of President is a key priority
- 3) That as there is a risk of Council meetings being inquorate, the additional week between a scheduled meeting and the rearranged time would add significant delay to the election timeline.
- 4) That the Elections Committee reporting rules and the timeline for the election electronically would be an efficient means by which the GU can run the by-election democratically and in line with its constitution

GU Resolves

- 1) That the process of the Elections Committee reporting the elections rules and timeline to Council can be carried out via electronic circulation, using the Council mailing list
- 2) That such measures would apply to the reporting of elections rules and the timeline for the Presidential by-election only

Proposed- Poppy Ellis Logan, Welfare and Rights Officer

For Information- The election of an Elections Committee

Extract from Schedule E, on the formation of an Elections Committee

7. An Elections Committee shall be convened by the Council before the opening of nominations for all GU elections or by-elections, or by the Trustees in relation to the conduct of a Referendum, and shall sit until all complaints are ruled upon and the Returning Officer's report has been approved by the Council. The Elections Committee shall carry out and uphold all rules pertaining to the conduct of elections. No member of the Elections Committee may stand for election for any position whilst also still a member of the Committee.

8. The Election Committee shall normally comprise five people, consisting of the Returning Officer, two members of the GU Council, the CUSU Co-Ordinator and one member of the Trustees, unless otherwise determined by the Council.

9. The Returning Officer for elections shall normally be the President, or his/her deputy appointed by the Elections Committee or the Student Council.

10. The Returning Officer and Elections Committee are required to act impartially at all times, and may not campaign for any candidate.

12. The Elections Committee shall establish Rules for the conduct of an election. For the annual cross-campus elections, these Rules shall be reported to GU Council no later than the First Council of Lent Term. Election Rules and rulings on the conduct of elections made by the Elections Committee shall have the force of Schedules, providing they do not conflict with the Constitution or Schedules.

13. Nominations for an election will be in such form as the Elections Committee determine in the Rules, but shall normally comprise an electronic statement to include the name, degree course and college of the nominee, a statement of their eligibility, and a candidate statement in English of no more than 500 words in length.

Any members of Council wishing to stand to be on the Elections Committee will be elected alongside Poppy Ellis Logan, Jemma Stewart and Katharina Greve (subject to the passing of motion 5a).

Emergency Motions

- a) **Motion to allow the Welfare & Rights Officer (or their appointed deputy) to act as Acting President and Secretary in the interim period until a President is elected**

GU Notes

- 1) That the offices of President and Secretary are currently vacant
- 2) That the Welfare and Rights Officer is currently the GU's only sabbatical officer
- 3) Schedule C to the constitution states that Council meetings should be convened by the Secretary

GU Believes

- 1) That in the interim period until a new President is elected, many of the duties of the President are fulfilled by the Welfare and Rights Officer
- 2) That the Welfare & Rights Officer should act as Acting President until a full-time President is elected
- 3) That the Welfare & Rights Officer, or a deputy appointed on their behalf, should be able to act as Secretary until a new Executive Committee is elected.

GU resolves

- 1) To allow the Welfare & Rights Officer, or their appointed deputy, to act as Acting President until a President is elected
- 2) To allow the Welfare & Rights Officer, or their appointed deputy, to act as Secretary until a new Executive Committee is elected.

Proposed- Poppy Ellis Logan, Welfare & Rights Officer

- b) **Motion to allow the current student trustee to continue in position until such time as new student trustee(s) are appointed**

GU Notes

- 1) That Deniz Vatansever is currently the only student trustee
- 2) That the GU trustee board is currently made up of five trustees- the Welfare and Rights Officer, the student trustee, two external trustees, and one alumnus trustee
- 3) That quoracy for trustee board meeting is 4

GU Believes

- 1) If the position of student trustee is empty, meetings would require all trustees to be present in order to be quorate
- 2) That without a student trustee, the balance of the board would be tipped away from students

GU Resolves

- 1) To extend the term of the current student trustee until new student trustee(s) can be appointed

Proposed- Poppy Ellis Logan, Welfare and Rights Officer