

1769B Making our democracy more accessible passed 29 October 15

Proposed: Aaron Hood, Students with Disabilities Officer
Chris Jarvis, Campaigns and Democracy Officer

Union Notes

1. That at most meetings of council, concerns are raised by members about accessibility
2. That according to the Constitution, the Democratic Procedures Committee is required "to structure and run Union Council in such a way as to guarantee the accessibility of proceedings for members"
3. That it is also required to "annually report on endeavours designed to meet its duty to structure and run procedures in such a way as to guarantee accessibility"
4. That members have raised access concerns about papers, meeting format, meeting length, meeting atmosphere and motions amongst other things.

Union Believes

1. That the Democratic Procedures Committee has not so far been successful in discharging these two duties.
2. That the people that should drive access changes to Union Council are people who experience challenges in accessing our democracy.
3. That in the Union we are committed to ensuring that all of our events are fully inclusive so that all participants can share in the experience. We have a long history of putting in place measures designed to facilitate delegate access and a substantial amount of staff time and budget is allocated each year to this end.

Union Resolves

1. To form a Task and Finish Group on access to Union Meetings.
2. The role of the group will be to:
 - a. Consider feedback from members on access at meetings
 - b. Consider the fitness for purpose of current systems and provision relating to access
 - c. Make recommendations for future events
3. The Group will meet three times this term:
 - a. Meeting one will focus on sources of feedback and consultation to be carried out
 - b. Meeting two will analyse and synthesize feedback received and generate ideas for the future
 - c. Meeting three will consider a draft report with feedback, analysis and recommendations
4. The group's membership shall be as follows:
 - a. Students with Disabilities Officer
 - b. Chair of the Democratic Procedures Committee
 - c. 3 members nominated to represent the Disabled Students Caucus
 - d. A self-defining member of the Student Officer Committee
5. To bring the group's report to the final meeting of 2015