

1899 For a BME inclusive election

Proposer: Hussam Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer)

Seconder: Emmanuel Agu (CHE YR3 UG)

Union notes:

1. During the 2016 Union Elections ('Leadership Race') there was frequent miscommunication of rules to candidates- many candidates running for positions with little experience of council or union structure were impacted by this.
2. Union council representatives, and UEASU elected officers are predominantly white.
3. None of the Elected full time officers self-identify as BME.
4. Outside of Elected roles that are guaranteed for BME students and international students, there are only 2 self-identifying elected BME officers.
3. In the miscommunication of rules, Husting times/locations and manifesto submitting processes etc., BME identifying students & candidates were disproportionately affected.
4. Several BMEs candidates have voiced that they have felt overwhelmed by the elections campaigns and did not know how to run an electoral campaign.

Union believes:

1. That any student should be able to run in the elections, regardless of prior involvement in campaigns and democratic structures within the student's union.
2. That the rules of the elections should be easily accessible and clear to all candidates
3. That the Students Officers Committee should endeavour to be representative of *all* students, including BMEs students.

Union resolves:

1. To mandate the Ethnic Minorities Officer and the Campaigns and Democracy Officer to run a campaign to BME students (*similar to that of the "Yes she can! Be a leader" campaign*) to support their involvement in the SU democratic institutions, participation in the elections as candidates, including sessions on how to run a successful campaign.
2. To mandate the Campaigns and Democracy Officer to ensure that election rules are made sufficiently clear before, and oversee rulings are made in line to the rules.