

1914 Amendment to the Bye-Laws: A Strategy for Postgraduate Representation

Proposer: Liam McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer)

Seconder: Chris Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer)

Union Notes:

- 1) Nearly 30% of our student population are currently registered on postgraduate taught or postgraduate research qualifications.
- 2) That last year only 5% of union councillors were postgraduate students.
- 3) That last year the union launched its Graduate Students' Strategy as a framework for how all sections of the union increase its provision for and relevance to those students.
- 4) This includes PostgraduateSU – which launched this year as an autonomous 'union within a union' of postgraduate students. The governance structure comprises of the Graduate Assembly open to all postgraduate students, an elected PostgraduateSU Committee, and the Graduate Centre Management Group.
- 5) That university council recently made the decision to fold the Graduate Students Association, transferring all of its functions, responsibilities, and associated funding to PostgraduateSU.

Union Believes:

- 1) The Students' Union has a responsibility to represent students of all levels of study at UEA.
- 2) The proportion of postgraduate students on Union Council should reflect the proportion of postgraduates in the student community as a whole.
- 3) That although launch of PostgraduateSU has been an overall success, more needs to be done to encourage participation.

Union Resolves:

- 1) To delete the following from the Bye-Laws and renumber accordingly:
 - a) '**1.11.9** The Committee of the Graduate Students' Association'
 - b) '**4.20** The President of the GSA shall:
 - 4.20.1** Liaise with the members of the relevant clubs, societies or peer support groups;
 - 4.20.2** Engage with the University and other relevant organisations to achieve improvements for postgraduate students on the issues they face as postgraduate students at university; and
 - 4.20.3** Be an observer at the NUS Postgraduate Conference.
 - 4.20.4** Be an ex-officio member of the Student Officer Committee.'
 - c) **4.3.6** Being politically accountable for support for the Graduate Students Association
- 2) To amend the following Bye-Laws:

- a) **1.22** There shall be Postgraduate Committee which shall consist of: the Postgraduate Education Officer; the Campaigns & Democracy Officer; the Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer; the Activities & Opportunities Officer; five members elected by the Single Transferable Vote by the Graduate Assembly, at least two of whom shall self-define as Women; and one registered as a Postgraduate Research Student; one part time officer elected by the Student Officer Committee; one member elected from the Student Voice Committee of the Institute for Food Research and one member elected from the Student Voice Committee of the John Innes Centre.'
 - b) **1.27** There shall be a Graduate Centre Management Group which shall consist of: the Postgraduate Education Officer; The Campaigns & Democracy Officer; 2 lay members nominated from the Postgraduate Committee; the member of the Trustee Board elected by the Graduate Assembly; the Mature Students Officer and one member of Graduate Centre student staff elected by their peers.
 - c) **4.28 c)** A member of the Student Officer Committee shall cease to hold office if they are subject to a motion of no confidence, submitted by ten or more members of Union Council, passed by a 75% majority of those members of the Union Council present and voting at a quorate meeting.'
 - d) **'4.28 h)** Any voting member of the Student Officer Committee, who is absent without valid apology for three meetings of the Student Officer Committee per semester shall cease to hold office unless the Student Officer Committee, at its sole discretion, shall decide otherwise. The Chair of the PostgraduateSU Committee, can only be removed by the Graduate Assembly.
- 3) To add to the Bye-Laws and renumber accordingly:
- a) **4.20** The Chair of the PostgraduateSU Committee shall:
 - 4.20.1** Fulfil the responsibilities as defined by Bye-Law 1.22
 - 4.20.2** Be an observer at the NUS Postgraduate Conference.
 - 4.20.3** Be an ex-officio member of the Student Officer Committee.
 - b) **1.22.3** The Postgraduate Committee shall elect a Chair of the PostgraduateSU Committee from amongst the five members elected from the Graduate Assembly.
 - c) **1.22.4** The Chair of the PostgraduateSU Committee Shall:
 - a) Be responsible for preparing the Postgraduate Committee agenda.
 - b) Liaise with the Postgraduate Education Officer on day-to-day operational issues relating to the Graduate Centre, managing the budget, and implementing student feedback.
 - c) To be the lead officer with responsibility for non-academic activities relating to postgraduate students.
 - d) **3.1.7** The Graduate Assembly shall have the power to pass motions of no confidence in The Postgraduate Education Officer by a 2/3rds majority of Graduate Assembly meeting that has a special quorum of 2.5% of the eligible membership.
- 4) To embed the aim to move towards a fully representative union council membership into upcoming democratic review.