

Passed 04/05/16

## **Democratic Review**

### The Union Notes:

- 1) Student Council has the authority to set the policy of the Union and refer policy to referenda
- 2) The operating name for Student Council is currently Student Senate (Senate)
- 3) Senate has no control over any of the Unions finances
- 4) The Trustee Board has the authority to delegate power to other committees

### The Union Believes:

- 1) Senate is the supreme democratic body of the union, subject to any referenda decisions.
- 2) A strong democratic body is vital in ensuring the Sabbatical Officer are held accountable and the Union acts in the interests of students
- 3) Senate currently has few powers and the powers it does have are seldom used.
- 4) The Trustee Board have delegated little of their power to other committees
- 5) The Trustee Board should regularly report to the student body via Senate
- 6) The Trustee Board should remain an impartial non-political body.
- 7) Activity groups, sports groups and other groups of the Union (e.g. Denizen Halls reps) are underrepresented in Union decision making processes and many decision making processes are currently unwritten and not controlled by students
- 8) A restructure of how Senate and democratic processes function is required to ensure the Union is representing all students. This restructure should be carried out using the following principles:
  - a) Decisions that affect students should, as far as possible, be taken by students that are affected by them
  - b) Elected Officials and representatives must be held to account in accessible and transparent ways
  - c) Greater powers should be given to students to influence the functioning of their Union, this must include budgetary control.
  - d) Democratic committees and representatives should, as far as possible, represent the full range of students at Salford.

### The Union Resolves:

- 1) To reaffirm that Senate is the supreme democratic decision making and policy creating body of the Union.
- 2) To request that the trustees of the union, as far as is in their power to do so, formally devolve authority for the creation, oversight and budget of student groups and representatives to Senate. This would include Sports groups, activity groups, student representatives, halls representatives and other student representatives and groups. This would not affect the trustee's oversight responsibilities for the Unions finances.
- 3) To regularly report back to the Trustee Board on the distribution of funds and running of activity groups and representatives referred to in resolves 2.
- 4) To create new executive committees which will be responsible for the oversight, student leadership, budget and policy for a specific area. These will report regularly to Senate and the committee's membership should be made up of representatives from those areas.
- 5) To create new accessible ways to scrutinise Sabbatical Officers
- 6) To request the trustees amend as necessary the Bye-laws of the Union and make any further changes to implement these changes.
- 7) To feedback on the draft structure proposed below:



