



Student Council
29/01/2015

Motion Name: Detail the definition of 'woman' in the UBU byelaws

Background:

1. UBU Byelaws 7.1d, and 7.3a&b, regarding liberation forums, state that UBU has a liberation forum for women, chaired by the Women's Officer, which may be attended by any self-defining woman who is a member of the Students' Union.
2. There is currently no detail of what 'woman' means other than one needs to self-define as a woman.
3. In 2012 the NUS Women's Conference voted to change their membership criteria for The NUS Women's Campaign to be open to 'all who self-define as women, including (if they wish) those with complex gender identities which include 'woman', and those who experience oppression as women.'
4. Last academic year, in the creation of the Facebook page for the UBU Women's Campaign, it was decided that the description of the group's membership would reflect this new definition.
5. This is in light of the fact that there are students who do not necessarily define as 'women' but who have complex or non-binary gender identities (including but not limited to genderqueer, bigender and genderfluid) that may include the identity of 'woman', and who may experience oppression as women. These students should have the right to be included in women's spaces and in women's liberation activism if they so wish.

Purpose:

1. For this specified group of students to feel welcome at the UBU Women's Liberation Forums.
2. In making it explicit that these students are welcome at the forum, they will have a chance to be elected as delegates to the NUS Women's Conference, which has already changed its definition of 'woman.'
3. For the role of Women's Officer to be open to this group.

Action:

1. Edit the byelaw 7.1a to include information about the definition of 'Woman' as "all who self-define as women, including (if they wish) those with complex gender identities which include 'woman', and those who experience oppression as women,'. This will match the NUS definition.

Proposed by:

Your first and last name: Megan Armstrong

Seconder first and last name: Nicky Black