

TO: Assembly
FROM: Sarah McAllister
RE: Creating an Open Forum
DATE: 6th February

Assembly notes:

- Durham SU's current standing orders define forums and how they should be conducted.
- Assembly often has a low attendance of non-voting members.
- One of the aims of the charitable objectives of Durham SU is to ensure that the democratic governness will champion student activity.

Assembly believes:

- Holding an Open Forum in which any member of Durham SU can submit and talk about an agenda item, in an environment where there are no voting members, will allow more people to participate and ensure everyone present has an equal influence and opportunity to voice their opinion.
- The time constraints in which people are able to speak about motions is part of the way in which Assembly is run, however this often constrains discussions between its members.
- Having an Open Forum will allow a collaborative culture where people are able to discuss issues in Durham openly. This would also allow a greater democratic process and inclusivity.
- Enhancing participation in democratic structures is vital to ensure Durham SU fulfils its charitable objectives.
- Holding an Open Forum at the beginning at term, allows members of Durham SU to discuss motion ideas which they may be considering bringing to Assembly. By allowing these ideas to be discussed in an open manner, without the time constraints that exist in Assembly, will allow people to work together on motions and amend their ideas before it is submitted to assembly.
- The Open Forum will not usurp the importance of Assembly. Any motion ideas that are discussed in the Open Forum will still have to be submitted to assembly following the standing orders and will be voted on in the same manner. Furthermore, motions do not have to be discussed at an Open Forum before they are taken to Assembly.
- The Open Forum will not only influence motions that are brought to Assembly, but may also influence campaigns and other collaborative projects carried out by members of Durham SU.

Assembly resolves:

- To create an Open Forum.

- To approve the following amendment to Standing Order: Appendix E1: Committee and Forum Membership and Objectives.

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Academic Affairs Committee</i>	<i>To identify and discuss matters relating to academic affairs and academic support across the University. To develop or recommend academic policy for the Union To share best practice and learn from each other's experiences To work with and advise the Academic Affairs Officer To direct the work of the Union on all academic and academic support matters To elect representatives for Assembly</i>	<i>Postgraduate and Undergraduate Academic Officers Faculty Representatives</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Elected by and from the core membership excluding the Academic Officers</i>
<i>DUCK Committee</i>	<i>To discuss matters and work on issues relating to fundraising at Durham University</i>	<i>DUCK Chair Elected members of the DUCK Executive Committee (DUCK handbook)</i>	<i>Fortnightly</i>	<i>DUCK Chair</i>
<i>Governance and Grants Committee</i>	<i>To review and make recommendations on governance To review policy seeking adoption by Assembly To oversee the administration of all elections To work towards increasing democratic participation in the Students' Union To adjudicate on appeals against decisions of the Senior Returning Officer To monitor the progress of policy implementation To allocate grants in accordance with regulations agreed by Assembly and the Board of Trustees To ensure allocated funding is used in compliance with</i>	<i>President Opportunities Officer Chair of Assembly 5 x Members elected by Assembly with three of those reserved for those who are members of a society 1 x Student Trustee</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Elected from the membership of the committee excluding officers</i>

	<p><i>stipulations</i></p> <p><i>To review and act on delegation requests</i></p>			
<p><i>Junior Common Room Presidents Committee</i></p>	<p><i>To discuss matters relating to Junior Common Rooms (JCRs)</i></p> <p><i>To work to enhance the college experience of members of JCRs</i></p> <p><i>To work to improve the governance and support available to JCRs</i></p> <p><i>To identify, draft, adopt or recommend policy on issues relating to Junior Common Rooms</i></p>	<p><i>President</i></p> <p><i>President or equivalent of each JCR</i></p> <p><i>President of Ustinov Graduate Common Room</i></p>	<i>Fortnightly</i>	<p><i>Elected by and from the membership excluding the President</i></p>
<p><i>Middle Common Room Presidents Committee</i></p>	<p><i>To discuss matters relating to Middle Common Rooms</i></p> <p><i>To work to enhance the college experience of members of Middle Common Rooms</i></p> <p><i>To work to improve the governance and support available to Middle Common Rooms</i></p> <p><i>To identify, draft, adopt or recommend policy on issues relating to Middle Common Rooms</i></p>	<p><i>President</i></p> <p><i>One representative from the postgraduate communities as elected by each of the colleges</i></p>	<i>Fortnightly</i>	<p><i>Elected by and from the membership excluding the President</i></p>
<p><i>Students' Union Reps Committee</i></p>	<p><i>To provide a forum for feedback to the SU from common room exec and students via Students' Union Reps</i></p> <p><i>To scrutinise and contribute to the effectiveness of SU campaigns and events using feedback from Common Rooms</i></p> <p><i>To provide a forum for the SU President and relevant Officers to update Students' Union Reps regarding the activities of the SU and University-wide issues</i></p> <p><i>To nominate Students' Union Reps to represent students on relevant University Working Groups</i></p>	<p><i>President</i></p> <p><i>1 x elected representative from each college</i></p>	<i>Fortnightly</i>	<p><i>Elected by and from the membership excluding the President</i></p>

	<p><i>To support Students' Union Reps in the drafting of relevant policy for Assembly</i></p> <p><i>To set priorities for Students' Union Reps to collectively work towards throughout the year d to monitor progress towards these goals</i></p>			
Student Groups Committee	<p><i>To identify and discuss matters relating to Student Groups excluding Associations</i></p> <p><i>To review and recommend changes to the Student Group Agreement</i></p> <p><i>To identify, draft, adopt or recommend policy on issues relating to student groups</i></p> <p><i>To work to develop Student Groups and their members</i></p> <p><i>To enhance collaboration between Student Groups</i></p> <p><i>To work to improve the governance and support available to Student Groups</i></p> <p><i>Attend Societies Forum to help facilitate discussion</i></p> <p><i>To work with and advice the Opportunities Officer</i></p>	<p><i>Chair</i></p> <p><i>Opportunities Officer</i></p> <p><i>6 x Members elected by society members at Societies Forum representing each category of societies</i></p> <p><i>1 x media rep</i></p> <p><i>1 x Association Liaison Rep</i></p>	Monthly	Elected by Societies Forum
Societies Forum	<p><i>To identify and discuss matters relating to Student Groups, specifically Societies</i></p> <p><i>To enhance collaboration between Student Groups, specifically Societies</i></p> <p><i>To receive updates regarding issues affecting Student Groups, specifically Societies</i></p>	<p><i>Opportunities Officer Student Groups Committee members Any member of a Union student group</i></p>	Termly	Opportunities Officer and Student Groups Committee Chair
Open Forum	<p><i>To identify and discuss matters relating to students across Durham</i></p> <p><i>To enhance collaboration between students at Durham university</i></p> <p><i>To support members of Durham Student Union drafting motions for Assembly</i></p> <p><i>To support members of Durham Student Union to</i></p>	<p><i>Any member of Durham Student Union</i></p>	Termly	Assembly Chair

	<i>work on cross-campus campaigns.</i>			
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