

POLICY PROPOSAL

TITLE: GOVERNANCE REFORM

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SECONDED BY: JOANNA PHILLIPS (JP812)

REASON FOR CHANGE

Considering that...

1. The SU plans to undergo a governance review in the near future.
2. The Board of Trustees of the SU does not include any current students who are not SU Officers, which limits the wider student memberships' ability to hold the SU to account.
3. A partially-elected Student Council, as exists in other Students' Unions including Cambridge University Students Union and Queen's Students Union, would give students an avenue to hold SU officers to account, have a greater role in shaping policy and will make the SU thoroughly student-led. As in other SU's, the SU Board of Trustees will have the power to overrule council – albeit in exceptional circumstances.
4. Requiring low budgets for SU officer campaigning makes it difficult for candidates to break through. A higher budget provided by the SU would mitigate this without an unfair distributional impact.
5. The introduction of election endorsements from student activity groups could benefit candidates with experience in leadership and with the SU and will encourage more students to get involved with elections both through making and reading endorsements.

PROPOSAL

1. In the next governance review, the SU will consider the direct election of non-Officer students to the Board of Trustees of the SU.
2. In the next governance review, the SU will consider the establishment of an Student Council to hold SU Officers to account and set SU policy outside of policy rounds.
3. The SU will develop and publish rules and guidelines permitting physical campaigning and campaign budgets for policy proposals in policy rounds.

RATIONALE

1. The SU's values include "being student led in all we do". Introducing student oversight at several levels of operation will directly contribute to this value.
2. The SU's mission is to promote the interests and welfare of students at the University of Bath. Direct student oversight at every level will directly ensure that the SU can meet this mission, whilst contributing to the other values, mission and vision of the SU.
3. The SU's values include "empowering students to achieve their full potential". Empowering students to hold the SU to account directly contributes to this value.

IMPLICATIONS

What are the estimated financial costs of the policy proposal? (estimate both set-up and ongoing annual costs) What are the potential legal implications of the policy?

1. Advocating positions in a governance review will not substantially alter the process of a governance review.
2. The introduction of a stipend to fund SU officer campaigns would have an annual financial cost to the SU.