

Policy Proposal:

Date: 14/01/2025

Proposer/s: Holly Lloyd/Pournami Padmanabhan

Current Policy/Situation

What happens at the moment?

Standing Order 3 is for elections

<https://www.derbyunion.co.uk/pageassets/change/governance/Standing-Orders-November-2023-v2.pdf>

New Proposal

What is your new proposal? This must include the exact wording that you would like in the Standing Orders?

These changes will make the rules around elections clearer so that students understand more fully what is expected of them.

There is also a full review of student voice being undertaken at present, which is going to involve changes to the Student Officer roles, so some of Standing Order 3 and section 4.2 of Standing Order 4 are being amended or removed to allow for changes and these sections will be proposed and re-written to reflect the changes once the review has been concluded.

STANDING ORDER 3 – ELECTIONS

This change will mean that the Union is less restricted around when the elections can take place, and removes the requirement to elect the Student Officers until the review has been concluded.

3.1. Elections

3.1.1. Elections shall take place ~~before 31 March in~~ each academic year ~~for each of the following: Executive Officers elected by cross campus secret ballot; Student Officers elected by cross campus secret ballot; and National Union of Students (NUS) delegates.~~

3.1.2. ~~Executive Officers and Student Officers All elected positions~~ shall hold office for one calendar year, commencing in the July following the election, with the exact date of handover to be noted within the Elections Candidate Guide produced each year. The last day in office for outgoing Officers will be the second Friday in July on whichever date this falls.

This section is being removed until the student voice review has been concluded.

~~3.1.5. There shall be one Student Officer for Education per University College School or equivalent.~~

The name of the Student Affairs Committee meeting has changed, so this update reflects this.

3.4. Returning Officer

3.4.9. Following each election, the Returning Officer, or their nominated Deputy Returning Officer, shall submit a report outlining on the number of complaints received and acted upon and any other information as deemed appropriate in the running of a free and fair election. This will be circulated to the Student ~~Affairs Voice~~ Committee to provide reassurance to the University of their duties under the 1994 Education Act.

This change reflects best practice and advice from NUS on Executive Officer engagement in the promotion of elections when they are re-running.

3.6. Nominations

3.6.2. Any elected Executive Officer who wishes to re-run as a Candidate should ~~declare this prior to the opening of nominations and then:~~

- ~~3.6.2.1. Declare this prior to the opening of nominations and should be removed completely from the election process Will be able to promote the elections and their specific role but must not mention that they are re-running, or their specific achievements; and~~
- ~~3.6.2.2. Declare their conflict of interest in meetings where the election process they wish to participate is in being discussed.~~
- ~~3.6.2.3. The Union will not promote any work that Executive Officers who are re-running for a position are working on throughout the voting period.~~

This change updates the Standing Orders in line with NUS recommendations

3.11. Complaints and Appeals

~~3.11.1. Any challenge or complaint concerning the administration or good conduct of the election should be submitted in writing to the Returning Officer. Complaints about candidates can be received throughout the election period up until **3 hours prior to the commencement of the count 1 hour after the close of voting**. Complaints received after this time may be about the count only.~~

STANDING ORDER 4 – ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

This section is being removed until the student voice review has been concluded.

~~4.2. Student Officers~~

- ~~4.2.1. Student Officers shall hold post from 1 July to the second Friday of July the following year.~~
- ~~4.2.2. There is no time limit for students undertaking the role of a Student Officer, providing they are elected on an annual basis and remain an enrolled student at the University of Derby.~~
- ~~4.2.3. The fundamental role of all Student Officers is to represent our members.~~
- ~~4.2.4. Student Officer duties related to a specific role are outlined in their role descriptions (Appendix H).~~
- ~~4.2.5. Student Officers shall be elected in accordance with the Union Elections (See Standing Order 3).~~
- ~~4.2.6. Student Officers for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion must be students who self define within the respective demographic.~~
- ~~4.2.7. Student Officers for Education must be a student of the College and School of which they wish to be the representative and throughout their term in office.~~
- ~~4.2.8. One of the categories of Student Officer is the Education Officer~~
- ~~4.2.8.1. Education Officer duties are outlined in their role descriptions; these are found within the Academic Representation Policy).~~
- ~~4.2.8.2. There shall be one Education Officer for each recognised University School or equivalent within the University structure. The Union shall change the Education Officer structure to mirror changes the University may make to the Departments recognised within each College to be made available in the next main election.–~~

Rationale for the change

What are the pros and cons of the change? How will any cons be managed/mitigated?

Most of these changes are updating due to changes with the university and remove deadlines.

Changes to the Student Officer roles are due to the Student Voice Review still being underway, once this concludes another proposal will be brought to the next ASM with the proposed changes.

What consideration or consultation have you taken prior to submitting this proposal? *All proposals go the exec team to be confirmed, so having insufficient consultation/consideration could mean the proposal is rejected.*

These amendments have been discussed with the Voice and Insight Manager and the CEO.

Have you considered any impact of the new proposal on any of the protected characteristics as listed in the Equality Act 2010? *What are the impacts and how will any negative impacts be managed/mitigated? For more information on the protected characteristics please see [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)*

Appendices *if necessary.*