

**Student Council**

***11th March 2014***

**By-elections**

**Purpose: To review the roles and make-up of the Executive Committee and to look at the timetable of a by-election**

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With previous discussions on the make-up of the Executive Committee faltering over the last few meetings, and with several part-time officer positions having no candidates stand for them in the recent SU Leadership Elections, this paper will present Council with some suggestions on what could happen next.

After this year’s elections we could end up with an Executive Committee of four officers for the next academic year (President, VP Student Activities, VP Education and Mature Students Officer) which clearly needs to be addressed. After discussions with the current Executive Committee and SU staff, below is how I see us moving forward in addressing this. Please feel free to disagree, make suggestions and question what I have outlined.

**Executive Make-up**

The current make-up of the Executive Committee is as follows:

* President
* Vice-President Student Experience (Student Activities for 2014/15)
* Vice-President Education
* Representation Officer (part-time officer)
* Diversity Officer (part-time officer)
* Sustainability Officer (part-time officer)
* Mature Students Officer (part-time officer)
* International Students Officer (part-time officer)
* RAG officer (part-time officer)

After reviewing the various discussions Council has had over the various roles, this is what I propose we change the make-up to look like:

* President
* Vice-President Student Activities
* Vice-President Education
* Welfare Officer (part-time officer) replacing Representation Officer
* Diversity Officer (part-time officer)
* Women’s Officer (part-time officer)
* Sustainability Officer (part-time officer)
* Mature Students Officer (part-time officer)
* *International Students Officer?? (part-time officer)*
* RAG Officer (part-time officer)

Due to the elections having candidates for four of the positions (at the time of writing they no-one had been elected, but it’s a safe bet that someone will be elected for each position contested), we can’t change these roles. They are President and both VPs and Mature Students Officer. We originally decided to replace Representation Officer with Welfare Officer to support the VP Student Activities in Welfare campaigns, and also due to the fact that the role of Representation Officer is all but redundant.

In terms of Diversity Officer, Council has lots of discussion about separating this role into the various liberation campaigns. As it stands there are several difficulties in setting up the various liberation groups with separate officers and holding a cross-campus election where only the students who identify themselves under each liberation group can vote. This is due to the data in which we receive from the University, and currently we don’t have the resources to facilitate this. However, there is one particular liberation group that we can do this for, and that is to develop the role of a Women’s Officer, and only allow Women to vote for this particular role. This is by no means a fix, however it is a positive step to developing liberation officers here at Worcester.

Diversity officer would therefore still pull together the other liberation groups, who would all still have officers on Council. The other liberation groups are BAME, Disability and LGBT.

RAG and Sustainability Officers would continue in their current capacity.

International students’ officer needs discussion. Please see the motion put forward by the International Officer.

**Job Descriptions**

A slight amendment is to be made to the job descriptions of all part-time officers, with a minimum of 50 hours committed over the course of the year. This requires a minimum commitment over their period in office, as well as enabling them to have it recorded on their Higher Education Achievement Report if they log their hours via the V-record system.

**By-Election Timetable**

So there are two schools of thought regarding this one. We could hold a by-election immediately or one in October for the unfilled positions. We will have a brief discussion at Council about the merits of both. For the purpose of this paper, I am suggesting that we hold a by-election immediately with the following dates:

* Nominations open: 17th March
* Nominations close: 26th March
* Candidates Briefing: 26th March
* Campaigning: 26th March – 4th April
* Voting: 1st – 4th April

I welcome any suggestions and questions regarding this paper.