

Council Reform Proposal

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Notes

- Council has had a serious and ongoing issue with quoracy for at least the last two years
- The current format of council is not currently effective
- Sub-committees already have policy making powers within their respective areas, though these policies can be overruled by Council as a whole
- Trustee Board has agreed these changes on principle

Beliefs

- A large and diverse Council is important, in order to ensure the Union's highest democratic body is sufficiently representative.
- Much of the business addressed at Council does not cross between interest groups and, as such, could be better addressed at one of Council's sub-committees (which are composed of representatives with the relevant knowledge & experience).
- Bringing together the entire Council for items of business which are irrelevant to the roles of most of its ex-officio members is an inefficient method to produce Policy.
 - This approach also wastes the time of a large number of valuable volunteers – time which could be spent pursuing the mandates to which they were elected.
- Council has insufficient business to require monthly meetings beyond Officer Trustee accountability, particularly since much of its day-to-day policy-making can be devolved to the sub-committees.

Resolves

- To reduce the mandated frequency of Council meetings to termly
- Instruct sub-committees to take whole ownership of policies that are relevant to their respective areas
- Each sub-committee shall prepare a report on their activity for the termly Council meeting for Council to scrutinise and approve.
 - This should at least include a list of any policies passed
 - This should be distinct from the Officer Trustee reports
- To create a sub-committee that shall:
 - Meet at least monthly during term-time, to take reports from the Officer Trustees to ensure continuing officer accountability.
 - Have the ability to make recommendations on policy to Council in areas that may not fall under the remit of other sub-committees.
 - Be elected from Council
 - Ex Officio membership shall comprise the Officer Trustees and Council Chair (Committee Chair)
 - Usual membership to include at least one representative of Constituent Unions, Management Groups, Liberation Officers and Ordinary Member roles.

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- At minimum a further five members elected by council from its membership
- Contain no more than 20 voting members
- Remain open to all members of Council to attend with speaking rights
- Additional meetings may be called by:
 - The Union President
 - Council Chair
 - Five members of the Sub-Committee
 - Any ten members of Union Council (that may not otherwise sit on the Committee)

Implementation:

- To amend the Bye-Laws such that Council is required to meet only once a term
- To re-instate Standing Orders for Executive Committee as defined within the Appendix