

Discussion: Breadth of Sources of Council Business

Proposer: Lloyd James, Council Chair

Introduction: Across the 5 Council Ordinary Meetings this year, no matters for decision / discussion have come from Council Members other than: Council Chair, President, DPW (if ratification of CU constitution changes is excluded). This is unusual, and a sharp decline from previous years which saw submissions from: 13 (2018/19), 10 (2017/18), and 9 (2016/17) unique Council members across the first 5 meetings, for a total of: 16 (2018/19), 17 (2017/18) and 8 (2016/17) submissions from outside of Chair + OTs. There has also been a drop-off in submissions of business from non-members of Council. This has been reflected in a perceived lack of diversity in Council business this year.

While it has always been the case that the majority of Council Members do not submit any items of business over the year, the Chair is concerned by the sharp decrease this year and would encourage feedback from Council along the following lines:

Points for Discussion:

1. Do Members feel confident that they would be able to submit a matter for discussion or decision, should they feel the need to? i.e. do they feel that they understand the process for submitting a paper, and they would be supported in submitting a paper if they chose to?
2. Do Members feel that they understand the sorts of matters that might be brought to Council, and can they think of examples of such matters that might lie within their remit?
3. Are Members reluctant to bring matters to Council because they feel they would be better dealt with at a Council subcommittee?
4. What could be done going forward to encourage more participation and submissions from the wider Council membership?

For Reference:

See below a table, showing who submitted matters for discussion or decision for each ordinary meeting of Council in terms 1 and 2, from 2016/17 to this year. CU Constitution ratification papers are italicised.

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
OM 1	Chair President x2	Chair KN Chair UG FoE Rep Non-Member UG FoNS Rep President PG FoNS Rep	CGCU President x2 Chair x2 President Non-member	
OM 2	Chair x2 President	Chair x2 PG FoNS Rep UG FoE Rep UG FoE Rep	RCSU President x2 President Chair	Chair x2 UG FoNS Rep
OM 3	President DPW	Silwood Chair PG FoE Rep ICSMSU President KN Chair Chair	President Mental Health Officer Chair RCSU President	Ethics & Environment Officer Non-member UG FoNS Rep PG FoE Rep Chair
OM 4	DPW President Chair <i>RCSU President</i> <i>ICSMSU President</i>	KN Chair DPCS President DPW <i>RSMU President</i> <i>GSU President</i> UG FoE Rep UG FoM Rep DPW	<i>RCSU President</i> <i>CGCU President</i> <i>ICSMSU President</i> <i>GSU President</i> <i>RCSU President</i> <i>RSMU President</i> President UG FoNS Rep x2 Non-member x2	Non-member UG FoM Rep DPCS DPFS President
OM 5	Chair x4 Non-Member	Chair <i>ICSMSU President</i> UG FoNS Rep DPW	RCSU AAO A&E Chair x3 Non-member UG FoNS Rep	RCSU President President <i>ICSMSU President</i>
OM 6		Chair DPW	President x3 RCSU President Non-member A&E Chair Non-member UG FoE Rep ICSMSU Welfare	Chair Non-member RCSU President