

Implementation of the Recommendations of the PG Engagement Review

Proposer: Dr Lloyd James (Union President)

Seconders: Michaela Flegrova (Council Chair), Milia Hasbani, Ceire Wincott (FoNS PGR AWO)

Union Notes:

1. In recent years, Postgraduate representation and organisation of PG events has been handled by the Graduate Students Union (GSU), a volunteer committee led by a GSU President.
2. Since July 2021, a review of the Union's provision for Postgraduate students has been taking place, covering both our representative structures for PGs (the GSU) and how PGs engage with the Union more broadly.
3. Following the resignation of the GSU President in July, and in light of the absence of a functioning GSU Committee, the GSU and GSU elections were temporarily suspended pending the outcome of the PG Engagement Review.
4. This review has been directed by a PG Engagement Review Working Group, chaired by the Union President and comprised of Postgraduate students including past GSU Committee members.
5. The Working Group examined evidence from a variety of sources, including a PG Engagement Survey, focus groups, and interviews with past engaged Postgraduate volunteers that were undertaken as part of the review. The Working Group also looked at existing data from surveys, such as the Student Experience Survey and PG Space Review Survey, as well as other forms of data held by the Union such as elections and CSP data.
6. The Working Group has now produced a report, summarising their findings as well as a number of recommendations for improving the Union's PG provision (this report is included as Appendix A). The recommendations include changes to elected roles, and the removal of the GSU as a Constituent Union, which will require changes to the Bye Laws.

Union Believes:

1. The recommendations of the PG Engagement Review Working Group are the result of extensive research and deliberation, and should be trusted to set out a future direction for the Union's Postgraduate provision.

Union Resolves:

1. To formally endorse the recommendations of the PG Engagement Review Working Group.
2. To amend Bye Laws A and F as set out in Appendices B and C, effectively disestablishing the GSU as a Constituent Union and creating new PG representation roles, effective August 1st 2022.
3. To establish the Postgraduate Representation Committee as a Subcommittee of the Education and Representation Board, with Standing Orders as set out in Appendix 4 of the PG Engagement Review Report, effective August 1st 2022.
4. To amend the Voting Membership of the Education and Representation Board, effective August 1st 2022, to:
 - a. The Deputy President (Education)

- b. The Faculty Union Academic Officers
 - c. The Postgraduate Taught Representation Chair (or PGT delegate)
 - d. The Postgraduate Research Representation Chair (or PGR delegate)
5. To amend the Voting Membership of the Community and Welfare Board, effective August 1st 2022, to:
 - a. The Deputy President (Welfare)
 - b. The Faculty Union Welfare Officers
 - c. The Postgraduate Taught Representation Chair (or PGT delegate)
 - d. The Postgraduate Research Representation Chair (or PGR delegate)
 - e. The Liberation and Community Officers
 6. To amend the Representation Policy as set out in Appendix D, to include the new PG representation roles and the PG Representation Committee, effective August 1st 2022.
 7. Pending the outcome of the Democratic Structures Review, to ensure continued PG representation on Union Council by indefinitely extending the number of votes on Council to be shared between the Academic and Welfare Officers to three, as per Appendix B.
 8. To mandate the Deputy President (Education) to propose an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the College's Postgraduate Research Quality Committee, replacing the GSU President with the Postgraduate Research Representation Chair as a PRQC member, effective August 1st 2022.
 9. To mandate the Deputy President (Education) to propose an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the College's Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee, replacing the GSU President with the Postgraduate Taught Representation Chair as a QAEC member, effective August 1st 2022.
 10. To mandate the Union President to propose an amendment to Clause 1.b of College Ordinance A8, replacing the GSU President with "one of the Postgraduate Representation Chairs" as a member of Senate, effective August 1st 2022. This proposal should be heard by Senate in the first instance but will require ratification by College Council.
 11. To mandate the Union President and the Constituent Union Presidents to agree a role name and description for the CU Postgraduate officers with responsibility for coordinating interdepartmental PG events, and to approve the inclusion of such a role in CU Constitutions, with the aim that these may be elected in Autumn 2021.
 12. To mandate the Democratic Structures Review Working Group to note these changes to PG representation and the report's recommendations concerning campus representation and PG representation in CUs, and consider these as part of the review. To action this Working Group to develop an overall approach for campus representation, with the aim that any established roles will be elected in Autumn 2021.
 13. To action the Union President to convene focus groups of MRes students, to better understand how these students feel represented in respect of their unique status as 1-year research students.
 14. That Council should actively monitor the implementation of these recommendations, until the end of the 2022/23 academic year at which point a review should be undertaken as to whether the overall plan has been implemented successfully and is working as intended (i.e. whether this new approach is indeed an improvement over the current approach).