

Proposal: **New Student Representation for a New Union**

This Union Notes:

1. That the current Student Council is not representative of the student population at the University of Leicester.
2. That Postgraduates are significantly underrepresented on the Council and so in the thinking and priorities of the Union.
3. That the current membership of Student Council and the actual student population is:

	Council	Population
a. Social Science	35%	53%
b. Arts & Law	30%	20%
c. Science	20%	11%
d. Medicine	15%	17%

4. That the proportions of Undergraduate and postgraduate members of council and the University population are:

	Council	Population
a. Undergraduate	76%	48%
b. Postgraduate	24%	50%

5. That the current Council rarely elects a full complement of Councillors in the normal election cycle.

This Union Believes:

1. That to enable the Union to fully represent the students of the University of Leicester the Student Council must reflect the actual population of the University.
2. That the Union must focus upon the issues that really matter to the students of the University of the Union is to be truly important to them.
3. The Union should be the preeminent representative body for the Students at the University, and that the Council should be the forum for this representation.
4. That the formal processes of the current Council meetings have had a tendency to stifle debate and acts as a disincentive for students bringing issues that matter to them.
5. That the current Council does not spend enough time discussing the student experience or passing relevant policies.
6. That the current Council finds it very difficult to draw up policies because of the way in which policies are presented and debated.
7. That policy should be drawn up after careful deliberation and with the input of informed knowledge.
8. That it is not clear what the role of the various posts on Council are and that they do not represent any clear constituency of students.

This Union Resolves:

1. To suspend the election of the existing Student Council in March and to organise new elections for a new Student Parliament drawn from the new constitution to meet from the start of the new academic year, September 2010.

2. That the Student Parliament should have members elected by the students of the Colleges in proportion to their numbers both of the Colleges and the Undergraduate and postgraduate student numbers.
3. That these new Student Members shall be formed into various forums and committees as deemed appropriate by the Parliament. Examples might be Sports, Postgraduates etc. These forums and committees may decide to have a far wider membership than just Parliament Members to include all students that may be interested.
4. That one of these committees shall be an Elections and Rules committee.
5. That policy initiatives should be discussed at the Parliament before being presented before a Policy Committee to draw up detailed proposals, the membership of which should include interested Parliament members, other students and supported by an appropriate staff member. The Policy Committee should then present the final policy resolution to the Parliament for approval (or not).
6. That the current Student Council shall form a small working group (of no more than 10) to draw up the detailed arrangements for the composition, election and future operation of the Student Parliament based upon the matters agreed in this resolution.

Proposed by: Owen Jones, Campaigns & Involvement Officer

On behalf of the Students' Union Executive Committee