

The Bye-Laws of Cardiff University Students' Union

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Approved by Student Senate: November 2025

Approved by the Board of Trustees: September 2025

1. Membership

1.1 Student membership shall be open to all Students of the University as defined by paragraph 11 of Statute 1 of the University.

1.2 There shall be 3 classes of non Student Membership of the Union:

- a) Honorary;
- b) Life; and
- c) Associate.

1.2.1 Honorary membership shall be open to distinguished persons subject to the approval of Student Council.

1.2.2 Life membership shall be open to all persons who hold Honorary or Life membership of University College Cardiff Students' Union Society or University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology Students' Union or University of Wales College of Medicine Student Club who shall be deemed to hold Honorary or Life Membership of Cardiff University Students' Union upon payment of the appropriate annual membership fee.

1.2.3 Associate membership shall be open to any other person with a valid reason upon application to the Union.

1.2.4 All members of staff of Cardiff University Students' Union and Cardiff University shall hold automatic Associate Membership.

1.3 Privileges of Membership

1.3.1 Student Members shall be entitled to:

- a) attend, speak and vote at Student Members' Meetings;
- b) stand and vote in Union elections;
- c) use all recreational facilities and services of the Union;
- d) introduce guests into the Union building; and
- e) apply for and utilise student membership of student activity groups.

1.3.2 Honorary and Life Members shall be entitled to:

- a) use all recreational facilities of the Union;
- b) apply for associate membership to student activity groups; and
- c) introduce guests into the Union building.

1.3.3 Associate Members shall be entitled to:

- a) apply for associate membership to student activity groups; and
- b) use all social facilities of the Union.

1.4 Responsibilities of Membership

- 1.4.1 All forms of membership shall be subject to the adherence to the Union's policies, Code of Conduct and terms of membership.

1.5 Withdrawal of Membership

- 1.5.1 Any or all privileges of Student Membership may be suspended for breach of Union policies, Code of Conduct, terms of membership or any such cause as is defined by the Trustees, however membership itself will not be withdrawn.
- 1.5.2 Honorary, Life and Associate forms of membership shall be subject to withdrawal or suspension for breach of Union policies, Code of Conduct, terms of membership or any such cause as is defined by the Trustees.

1.6 Students that opt out of membership

- 1.6.1 Every Student shall have the right to:

- a) not to be a member of the Union; and
- b) signify that he/she does not wish to be represented by a representative body.

- 1.6.2 Every Student who has exercised their right not to be a member of the Union, or not to be represented by a representative body which is not an association, shall not be unfairly disadvantaged, with regard to the provision of Union services or otherwise, by reason of having done so.

- 1.6.3 No student who has exercised their right to opt out of membership of the Union shall be permitted to engage with the democratic functions of the Union.

- 1.6.4 A member may withdraw their membership through notification in writing to the President.

2. Complaints & Discipline

2.1 Complaints

- 2.1.1 In the event that any Student Member or non Student Member is of the opinion that they have been unfairly treated, represented or maligned by the Union or any member of its staff (including the Officer Trustees) or by any Student Member or non Student Member of the Union, they shall have the right to submit a complaint. The Code of Conduct: Complaints, Discipline & Appeals Procedure sets out the process for bringing complaints against the Union or any member of its staff (including the Officer Trustees) or any Student Member or Associate, Life or Honorary Member of the Union.

2.2 Discipline

- 2.2.1 No member or affiliated group shall engage in conduct detrimental to the social life, well- being or good standing of the Union or its members. Expectations of behaviour are laid out in the Code of Conduct.
- 2.2.2 All Student Members and non Student Members of the Union are subject to the Union's Memorandum and Articles of Association, Bye-Laws and Policy.
- 2.2.3 The Union reserves the right to take disciplinary action in accordance with the disciplinary procedure against any Student Member, non Student Member or club or society of the Union that contravenes the Union's Memorandum and Articles of Association, Bye-Laws, or Policy.

3. Referenda

- 3.1 A referendum, triggered in accordance with Article 18 shall be conducted in line with the process outlined below.
- 3.2 In accordance with Article 18, a Referendum can be triggered by:
 - (ii) A Secure Petition of not less than 500 Student Members relating to any issue, including affiliation to external organisations;
 - (iii) A motion passed by a simple majority of Student Council;
 - (iv) A resolution of the Trustees.
- 3.3 A Referendum shall be organised by the Union as soon as possible after the trigger, but no longer than 10 working days
- 3.4 The Returning Officer shall be appointed in line with Bye-Law 20 and shall have the authority detailed within Bye-Law 20. The Returning Officer shall confirm the question to be put.
- 3.5 Notice shall be given of a Referendum, including the question, the date of the referendum and where Student Members can find information regarding the Yes/No cases.
- 3.6 There shall be at least five days' notice between the publication of notice of the referendum and the referendum.
- 3.7 Expectations of conduct and regulations regarding campaign activity shall be laid down by the Returning Officer.
- 3.8 There shall be at least two consecutive days of voting.
- 3.9 Measures shall be put in place by the Returning Officer to ensure Student Members may only vote once.
- 3.10 The proposer of the referendum motion shall be responsible for publicity in putting the case to Student Members.
- 3.11 The referendum question shall be phrased as a question requiring a yes/no response.
- 3.12 The Count shall commence when reasonably possible after closure of the Poll. The following people shall be allowed to observe the Count:
 - a) the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officers; and
 - b) any other people at the discretion of the Returning Officer.

- 3.13 The Returning Officer shall be required to publish the result to all Student Members at the earliest reasonable opportunity.
- 3.14 In the event of a tie, the motion will be deemed to have fallen.
- 3.15 In accordance with Article 28, a referendum on a motion of no confidence in a Sabbatical Trustee can only be triggered by a Secure Petition of no confidence in that Sabbatical Trustee signed by at least 500 Student Members.
- 3.16 A Referendum on a motion of no confidence in a Campaign Officer can be triggered by the passing of a motion of no confidence in that Campaign Officer by Student Council.
- 3.17 Additional guidelines for the tabling and conduct of motions of no confidence are contained within the bye-laws.

4. Student Members' Meetings

- 4.1 A Student Members' Meeting, including the Student Members' Annual General Meeting, shall be conducted in line with the procedures detailed below.
- 4.2 There shall be at least five days' notice between the publication of notice of the Student Members' Meeting and the deadline for submission of agenda items.
- 4.3 The agenda for each Student Members' Meeting shall be published and displayed at least four days before the commencement of the meeting.
- 4.4 The quorum for Student Members' Meetings shall be 500 Student Members and shall be competent to amend, pass or reject any tabled business.
- 4.5 In the event of a meeting being or becoming inquorate no business shall be transacted other than the adjournment of the meeting. At least three days' notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given. At the adjourned meeting only the unfinished business from the original meeting shall be transacted. The quorum for an adjourned meeting shall be 250. In the event of the adjourned meeting being or becoming inquorate the unfinished business (other than proposed amendments to the Memorandum and Articles) shall be referred to the Student Council whose decision thereon shall be final.
- 4.6 A Members' Meeting can be triggered by:
 - (ii) A Secure Petition of no less than 500 Student Members
 - (iii) A motion passed by a simple majority of Student Council;
 - (iv) A resolution of the Trustees.
- 4.7 A Members' Meeting shall be organised by the Union as soon as possible after the trigger, but no longer than 21 days.

4.8 Standing Orders for Members Meetings

4.8.1 The Chair

- a) The Chair of Student Council shall chair a Members Meeting.
- b) In the absence of the Chair of Student Council, the Student Members present shall confirm acceptance of another Student Council Member to chair the meeting.

4.8.2 The Order of Business:

- a) The order of business shall include any content required by Article 19. If the meeting is not an Annual General Meeting under Article 19, the order of business shall be determined by the Chair. The Chair shall have the power to change the order of business subject to the approval of the meeting.
- b) At a Members Meeting any business that has not been publicised in advance shall be provided for information only and no decision may be taken on such matters.
- c) Multiple copies of all relevant papers shall be made available at the beginning of the meeting.

4.8.3 The policy process for members meeting shall be outlined within the Notice of the Members Meetings.

4.8.4 Procedure for debate for Members Meetings

- a) The Chair shall have the authority to adjust timings and order of debate in order to facilitate an effective discussion:
 - (ii) The Proposer of the Motion shall speak for up to four minutes.
 - (iii) The Chair shall then call for a speech against the motion, which shall last for up to four minutes.
 - (iv) The Chair will then allow a period of debate calling speakers who may speak for, against or on the motion for up to two minutes.
 - (v) The Chair shall call such speakers in the order they catch their eye whilst trying to keep a balanced debate.
 - (vi) If at any time there is no speaker available, the Chair shall move directly to the summation and a vote.
 - (vii) The summation shall include a final speech for the motion by the proposer or their nominee and from an opposer. The summation should not include new information not included in the debate.
 - (viii) At the end of this period of debate, the period may be extended at the discretion of the meeting

4.8.5 Procedural Motions

4.8.5.1 Between speeches on a motion or an amendment, or in the case of procedural motion (ii) following a ruling of the chair, debate may be interrupted by any of the following procedural motions in the following order of ascendance:

- (ii) that the meeting has no confidence in the Chair
- (iii) that the chair's ruling be overturned
- (iv) that the question now be put
- (v) that the question be not put

- (vi) that the question be referred to an appropriate committee
- (vii) that the question lies on the table until the next meeting
- (viii) that the question be voted on in parts

- 4.8.5.2 Prior to the start of motion debate the Chair shall be required to outline how a procedural motion may be submitted.
- 4.8.5.3 In the case of procedural motion (i) and (ii) the procedural motion shall be moved as soon as the procedural motion is known.
- 4.8.5.4 In the case procedural motion (i) and (ii) the Vice-Chair shall ask the meeting whether they wish to hear the procedural motion. Should less than one third vote in favour of hearing the procedural motion the procedural motion shall be considered defeated and the same procedural motion may not be heard again until the motion being debated has been voted on. Should more than one third vote in favour of hearing the procedural motion the procedural motion shall be debated.
- 4.8.5.5 The proposer shall have the right to speak. If the Chair so wishes, they shall have the right to leave the Chair and reply. A vote shall be taken without further discussion. If procedural motion (i) is passed, the Chair must leave the Chair for the remainder of the meeting. If procedural motion (ii) is passed, the decision shall be binding upon the Chair.
- 4.8.5.6 In the case of procedural motion (iii) the procedural motion shall not be moved before there have been two speeches for and one against the motion or amendment under discussion.
- 4.8.5.7 In the case of procedural motion (a)(iv), (v), (vi), (vii) the procedural motion shall only be moved once debate on the motion has been completed but prior to the meeting voting on the motion.
- 4.8.5.8 In the case of procedural motion (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii) the Chair shall ask the meeting whether they wish to hear the procedural motion. Should less than one third vote in favour of hearing the procedural motion the procedural motion shall be considered defeated. Should more than one third vote in favour of hearing the procedural motion the procedural motion shall be debated.
- 4.8.5.9 In cases procedural motion (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) the proposer of the procedural motion shall speak to their motion and the proposer of the main motion shall have the right to reply if they wish. If the proposer of the main motion forgoes this right, the procedural motion shall now be taken without further discussion.

4.8.5.10 In the event of two or more different procedural motions arising, the order of precedence shall be according to bye-law 4.8.5.1.

4.8.5.11 Procedural Motions shall require a two-thirds majority to pass.

4.8.5.12 There shall be no further procedural motions except procedural motion (i) and (ii) until the preceding one has been disposed of.

4.8.5.13 No procedural motion, if defeated, may be put again during the same debate.

4.8.5.14 Procedural motions may not be moved while a vote is being conducted.

4.8.6 Adjournment or Closure of Meeting

- a) If, in the opinion of the Chair, orderly debate of the business has become impossible, the Chair shall declare the meeting adjourned until order is restored or shall declare the meeting closed when the time allotted for the meeting has expired.

5. Student Council

5.1 Student Council shall, for publicity purposes be known as Student Senate in accordance with Article 49.1 until such time as this Bye-Law is changed. For consistency the term Student Council shall be used in the Bye-Laws.

5.2 Composition

5.2.1 The members of Student Council shall be:

- a) any two Sabbatical Trustees of the Union;
- b) all Campaign Officers. Any Campaign Officer unable to attend a meeting of Student Council shall be entitled to appoint a proxy from their respective network to attend in their place, who shall carry their vote;
- c) 25 Student Members, elected by way of cross campus ballot, with 12 places reserved for self-defining women;
- d) ten Student Members who are elected Academic Reps, selected at random on a meeting-by-meeting basis; and
- e) one undergraduate, one postgraduate taught, and one postgraduate research student randomly selected per college on a meeting-by-meeting basis

5.2.2 The Chief Executive or their nominee shall be in attendance, but shall not be a member.

5.3 The Chair of Student Council shall be elected by secret ballot by and from the members of Student Council. The term of Student Council Chair shall be from the 1st July to the 30th of June the following year. The Chair cannot be a Sabbatical Trustee or one of the ten Academic Reps randomly selected to attend Student Council meetings. For the avoidance of doubt, the election shall be conducted using the Single Transferable Vote Electoral system as defined by the Electoral Reform Society.

5.4 The Vice Chair of Student Council shall be elected by secret ballot by and from the members of Student Council at the first meeting of the Academic Session. The Vice Chair cannot be a Sabbatical Trustee or one of the ten Academic Reps randomly selected to attend Student Council meetings. For the avoidance of doubt, the election shall be conducted using the Single Transferable Vote Electoral system as defined by the Electoral Reform Society.

5.5 Meetings

5.5.1 The quorum for a meeting of Student Council shall be 50% of the elected members of Student Council plus one. Academic Rep members shall not form

part of quorum if they are not in attendance. A meeting shall also be deemed inquorate if no Sabbatical Trustee is present.

5.5.2 In the event of a meeting being or becoming inquorate no business shall be transacted other than the adjournment of the meeting. At least five days' notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given, and occur no later than ten days' following the originally scheduled meeting. At the adjourned meeting the unfinished business for which the original meeting was called may be transacted in the absence of a quorum

5.5.3 In the event that more than 50% of members in attendance abstain from a vote within Student Council, the vote shall be deemed as inquorate.

5.5.4 In the event a motion falls in any policy-making body the same motion shall not be submitted for consideration again in the same academic year. It shall be at the Chair's discretion as to whether a motion is the same.

5.5.5 In the event of a tied vote, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

5.5.6 Student Council shall meet no less than five times per academic session. At least one meeting should be held in each term.

5.5.7 Student Council shall be convened by the Chair and shall require at least 48 hours' notice.

5.5.8 The Chair shall convene an extraordinary meeting at the request of:

- a) the President;
- b) a majority of the Sabbatical Trustees;
- c) a majority of Campaign Officers; or
- d) a majority of the members of Student Council.

5.5.9 Student Council shall be conducted according to the Standing Orders detailed below.

5.6 Responsibilities

5.6.1 The responsibilities of Student Council shall include:

- a) to represent the voice of Students;
- b) to set the Policy of the Union and refer Policy to the Members in accordance with Article 49.1.2;
- c) to make, repeal and amend the Bye-Laws jointly with the Trustees in accordance with Article 50;
- d) to receive quarterly reports from the Trustees;
- e) to receive any elected officer team expenditure that is over £500 which is not NUS or induction related;

- f) to form, direct, receive reports from and disband working groups; and
- g) to receive the Union's budget at the first meeting of the Academic Session.
- h) to receive verbal reports from the Campaign Officers
- i) to receive updates from the Sabbatical Trustees on progress made in accordance with live policy, and to feed into this work where appropriate.

5.7 Removal of Councillors

5.7.1 Any Councillor absent without good cause from three meetings of Student Council in any one Academic Session shall be deemed to have resigned.

5.7.2 The definition of "good cause" shall be determined by Student Council.

5.8 Replacement of Councillors

5.8.1 Where vacancies on Student Council occur as a result of the removal or resignation of Councillors, their vacancy will be filled in line with the election procedure given in Bye-Law 20.

5.8.2 If deemed appropriate a vacancy on Student Council can remain vacant and quorum will be adjusted accordingly, but never be lower than 13. For avoidance of doubt Student Council shall decide what is deemed appropriate.

5.9 Standing Orders for Student Council Meetings

5.9.1 Observers

- a) Student Members shall have the right to attend Student Council on the condition that there is sufficient room for them and that they remain orderly.
- b) It shall be at the discretion of the Chair to declare the meeting room full and to ask any disorderly member to leave the room.

5.9.2 Policy Submission Process

5.9.2.1 Policy ideas must be submitted through the students' union online voting mechanism before they are added to the Student Senate Agenda:

- (ii) Students submit their policy idea via the students' union website
- (iii) If the policy idea is of operational concern it will be added to the next Leadership or Management Team meeting and will not require a vote
- (iv) If the policy idea is a political stance or request for action from the elected representatives of the students' union, the policy idea will be made available for students to vote on within one working day of the submission
- (v) Policy ideas will be given three months to receive a minimum of 25 votes in order to be added to the next available Student Senate agenda, outside of the

academic term this timeframe may be extended. No more than five policy submissions may be tabled in one Student Senate

5.9.3 Procedure for debate

- (ii) The Chair shall have the authority to adjust timings and order of debate in order to facilitate an effective discussion:
- (iii) The Proposer of the Motion shall speak for up to four minutes.
- (iv) The Chair shall then call for a speech against the motion, which shall last for up to four minutes.
- (v) The Chair will then allow a period of debate calling speakers who may speak for, against or on the motion for up to two minutes.
- (vi) The Chair shall call such speakers in the order they catch their eye whilst trying to keep a balanced debate.
- (vii) If at any time there is no speaker available, the Chair shall move directly to the summation and a vote.
- (viii) The summation shall include a final speech for the motion by the proposer or their nominee and from an opposer. The summation should not include new information not included in the debate.
- (ix) At the end of this period of debate, the period may be extended at the discretion of the meeting

5.9.4 Amendments to motions

- a) Amendments shall only be considered for motions submitted to Student Senate. Motions submitted to Members Meetings shall not be subject to amendments once published.
- b) Only one amendment to a motion may be moved at a time and no other amendment shall be taken into consideration until the last one has been disposed of.
- c) Amendments shall be taken in the order in which they are submitted.
- d) Amendments may not negate the substantive motive and no amendment shall be discussed which is not relevant to the content of the substantive motion. The Chair's ruling on the question is final.
- e) Amendments which are accepted by the proposer of the substantive motions shall be incorporated into the substantive motion without debate or vote, and the proposer of the original motion shall remain as proposer of the motion as amended.
- f) Amendments which have not been accepted by the proposer of the substantive motion shall be debated immediately after the proposing speech for the substantive motion.
- g) The proposer of such an amendment shall have the right to make a proposing speech and to sum up before a vote is taken. The summation shall contain no new information on matters which have not been directly referred to during the course of the debate.

- h) The proposer of an original motion shall have the right to speak immediately after the summing up by the proposer of an amendment which has not been accepted by them.
- i) If an amendment is passed which substantially alters the original motion, the motion shall then become the property of the proposer of the amendment. Therefore that person shall own the summation speech.

5.9.5 Procedural Motions

5.9.5.1 Between speeches on a motion or an amendment, or in the case of procedural motion (ii) following a ruling of the chair,, debate may be interrupted by any of the following procedural motions in the following order of ascendance:

- (ii) that the meeting has no confidence in the Chair
- (iii) that the chairs ruling be overturned
- (iv) that the question now be put
- (v) that the question be not put
- (vi) that the question be referred to an appropriate committee
- (vii) that the question lies on the table until the next meeting
- (viii) that the question be voted on in parts

5.9.5.2 Prior to the start of motion debate the Chair shall be required to outline how a procedural motion may be submitted.

5.9.5.3 In the case of procedural motion (i) and (ii) the procedural motion shall be moved as soon as the procedural motion is known.

5.9.5.4 In the case of procedural motion (i) and (ii) the Vice-Chair shall ask the meeting whether they wish to hear the procedural motion. Should less than one third vote in favour of hearing the procedural motion the procedural motion shall be considered defeated and the same procedural motion may not be heard again until the motion being debated has been voted on. Should more than one third vote in favour of hearing the procedural motion the procedural motion shall be debated.

5.9.5.5 The proposer shall have the right to speak. If the Chair so wishes, they shall have the right to leave the Chair and reply. A vote shall be taken without further discussion. If procedural motion (i) is passed, the Chair must leave the Chair for the remainder of the meeting. If procedural motion (ii) is passed, the decision shall be binding upon the Chair.

5.9.5.6 In the case of procedural motion (iii) the procedural motion shall not be moved before there have been two speeches for and one against the motion or amendment under discussion.

- 5.9.5.7 In the case of procedural motion (iv), (v), (vi), (vii) the procedural motion shall only be moved once debate on the motion has been completed but prior to the meeting voting on the motion.
- 5.9.5.8 In the case procedural motion (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii) the Chair shall ask the meeting whether they wish to hear the procedural motion. Should less than one third vote in favour of hearing the procedural motion the procedural motion shall be considered defeated. Should more than one third vote in favour of hearing the procedural motion the procedural motion shall be debated.
- 5.9.5.9 In cases procedural motion (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) the proposer of the procedural motion shall speak to their motion and the proposer of the main motion shall have the right to reply if they wish. If the proposer of the main motion forgoes this right, the procedural motion shall now be taken without further discussion.
- 5.9.5.10 In the event of two or more different procedural motions arising, the order of precedence shall be according to Bye-law 5.9.5.1.
- 5.9.5.11 Procedural Motions shall require a two-thirds majority to pass.
- 5.9.5.12 There shall be no further procedural motions except procedural motion (i) and (ii) until the preceding one has been disposed of.
- 5.9.5.13 No procedural motion, if defeated, may be put again during the same debate
- 5.9.5.14 Procedural motions may not be moved while a vote is being conducted.

5.9.6 Adjournment or Closure of Meeting

- a) If, in the opinion of the Chair, orderly debate of the business has become impossible, the Chair shall declare the meeting adjourned until order is restored or shall declare the meeting closed when the time allotted for the meeting has expired.

5.9.7 **Motions of No Confidence (in Sabbatical Trustee or Campaign Officer) at Student Council**

- 5.9.7.1 The proposer of the motion of no confidence at Student Council may be:
- (ii) A representative of the Accountability Panel where the motion is recommended by the Accountability Panel, or
 - (iii) A member of Student Council.
 - (iv) A student member

- 5.9.7.2 The proposer of the motion of no confidence shall have the right to speak for the motion.
- 5.9.7.3 In either case, the Sabbatical Trustee or Campaign Officer concerned shall have the right to speak against the motion.
- 5.9.7.4 The Chair shall allow an appropriate amount of time for discussion, which shall not include any personal attack(s) on the individual concerned.
- 5.9.7.5 After discussion, the Chair shall call a vote, which will require a 75% majority in order to pass.

Sabbatical Trustee Accountability

5.10 Each Sabbatical Trustee shall be required to have at least one Executive Committee.

5.11 An Executive Committee shall refer to any group of student volunteers who aid the Sabbatical Trustee in their duties.

5.12 Executive Committees duties and responsibilities

5.12.1 To be familiar with the role and responsibilities of the elected officer.

5.12.2 To support the work and projects of the elected officer.

5.12.3 To provide student voice input into the elected officers portfolio and assist in the prioritisation of their work.

5.12.4 To feed into the elected officers regular accountability

5.13 Executive Committees composition

5.13.1 Each Executive Committee shall be required to include a number of elected positions available to students through a cross campus ballot.

5.13.2 Additional spaces may be available on the committee for students who hold positions of elected responsibility related to the Officers portfolio, For example, this may include student group committee members or student academic representatives but may not include Sabbatical Trustees or Campaign Officers.

5.13.3 Each Executive Committee shall require a minimum of 8 members appointed in accordance with 6.4.1 and 6.4.2. Additional members may be recruited through an appointment process lead by the Sabbatical Trustee.

5.13.4 Student Senate shall have the power to review the membership arrangements for each Executive Committee annually.

5.14 Removal of Executive Committee members

5.14.1 Any member absent without good cause from two meetings in any one academic session shall be deemed to have resigned.

5.14.2 The definition of good cause shall be determined by the executive committee.

5.15 Accountability Panel

- 5.15.1 There shall be an accountability panel who are responsible for ensuring the Sabbatical Trustees are held to account on their work in accordance with their manifesto, year priorities, and actions on relevant passed policy.
- 5.15.2 The accountability panel shall meet 3 times per year, with at least 1 meeting per term.
- 5.15.3 The accountability panel shall be made up of 2 representatives appointed from each of the Sabbatical Trustees' executive committees.
- 5.15.4 The representatives shall be appointed by a simple majority vote of each executive committee and may change for each meeting of the accountability panel.
- 5.15.5 The appointed representatives shall be responsible for chairing the section of the accountability panel relevant to the Sabbatical Trustee of which Executive Committee they are a member.

5.16 Motions and Notices

- 5.16.1 Accountability panels shall have the ability to apply Motions of Censure, Notices of Requires Improvement, and Notices of Satisfaction to an elected officer.
- 5.16.2 Motions of Censure shall be considered when the panel believes the elected officer has committed a serious offence against their office or democratic responsibility.
- 5.16.3 Notices of Requires Improvement shall be considered when the panel is dissatisfied in an elected officers work or conduct. In relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto commitments.
- 5.16.4 Notices of Satisfaction shall be considered when the panel wish to formally recognise an elected officer for outstanding work in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto commitments.
- 5.16.5 No motion or notice shall be served until the panel have informed the officer of a plan to consider and provided the officer with the opportunity to formally respond.

5.17 Motions of Censure at Accountability Panels

- 5.17.1 A Censure may be applied to a Sabbatical Trustee

5.17.2 Automatic Censures - These shall be deemed passed automatically, unless extenuating/mitigating circumstances are presented at Accountability Panels:

- a) Failure to submit a report without good reason
- b) Failure to attend Accountability Panel without apologies, or repeated absence.
- c) An Officer receives three Notices of Required Improvement in one academic session.

5.17.3 Non-Automatic Censures

5.17.3.1 The Accountability Panel shall have the authority to apply censures for other means. In considering such a censure, the Panel shall confirm their intention with the officer and give them appropriate opportunity to respond before any decision is made to apply the censure. Such censures may be applied for

- a) Neglect of duties or obligations
- b) Frustration of democratic processes
- c) Failure to fulfil a mandate from decision making bodies
- d) This is not an exhaustive list.

5.17.3.2 Upon the passing of three motions of Censure within one academic session a motion of no confidence in the Sabbatical Trustee shall be automatically tabled for the following meeting of Student Council.

6.9. Any meetings of the executive committee and accountability panel shall be available in a hybrid method, and all members including the elected officers shall have the option to attend in-person or online wherever possible.

6. Sabbatical Trustees

6.1 All Sabbatical Trustees are required to support the other Trustees of the Union to effectively execute the duties required of Trustees of registered Charities.

6.2 Sabbatical Trustees' eligibility, responsibilities and remuneration

6.2.1 All Sabbatical Trustees shall sign a contract of employment with the Union, and must have a right to work in the United Kingdom for the duration of their expected employment.

6.2.2 The term of office shall normally be defined as a calendar year beginning on 1st July. A Student shall not normally hold a Sabbatical Trustee role if they have any academic commitments during their year of office other than end of session re-examinations.

6.2.3 At the time of their election each Sabbatical Trustee must be a student or a Sabbatical Trustee, in accordance with Article 23.4.

6.2.4 At the time of their election each Sabbatical Trustee must not be disqualified or precluded from being a charity trustee or company director in accordance with relevant legislation.

6.2.5 Sabbatical Trustees shall be deemed to be a registered students of Cardiff University and Student Members of the Union.

6.2.6 Provisions for Sabbatical Trustees' duties and remuneration shall be detailed in a contract of employment.

6.2.7 Sabbatical Trustees pay shall be determined and reviewed by the Appointments and Remuneration Committee.

6.2.8 Sabbatical Trustee roles shall be determined by a Members' Meeting or a Referendum, but will at all times include a President and a Vice President Cymraeg.

6.3 All Sabbatical Trustees shall be required to:

- a) use due diligence in governing the Union;
- b) represent Student Members' interests to the best of their ability;
- c) positively engage in the work of the Scrutiny Committee;
- d) uphold the values of the Union; and
- e) uphold the principles of public life.

- 6.4 Each Sabbatical Trustee shall be required to have an Executive Committee. An Executive Committee shall refer to any group of student volunteers who aid the Sabbatical Trustee in their duties.

6.5 Replacement of Sabbatical Trustees

- a) Should the office of a Sabbatical Trustee become vacant in accordance with Article 30.1 the vacancy shall be filled by way of a By-Election.
- b) If the office of a Sabbatical Trustee is not successfully filled in line with election regulations detailed within the bye-laws.
- c) If the office of a Sabbatical Trustee becomes vacant in accordance with Article 30.2 the office shall remain vacant for the duration of the term, unless Student Council call for the vacancy to be filled by cross campus ballot by a 75% majority vote.

7. Campaign Officers

- 7.1 Campaign Officers shall not be required to define themselves as a member of a caucus group in order to represent that group.
- 7.2 Campaign Officers shall be elected by Cross Campus ballot.
- 7.3 All Campaign Officers shall be required to:
 - a) use due diligence in undertaking their roles;
 - b) represent Student Members' interests to the best of their ability;
 - c) positively engage in the work of the accountability council;
 - d) uphold values of the Union; and
 - e) uphold the principles of public life.
- 7.4 In order to co-ordinate the work of Officers, there shall be an Officers Executive Committee consisting of the Campaign Officers and Sabbatical Officers.
- 7.5 In order to ensure students remain updated with the work of a Campaign Officer they shall be required to:
 - 7.5.1 Provide verbal updates on their work to Student Council at least once per semester.
 - 7.5.2 Provide at least one comprehensive update on their work to students using a Students' Union medium of their choice.
- 7.6 **Campaign Officer Recess:**
 - 7.6.1 In the event that a Campaign Officer wishes to take a recess from their duties, they may do so by submitting notice to a Vice President.
 - 7.6.2 A Campaign Officer may specify a date on which they intend to resume their duties in their notice to the Vice President, and a period of recess may be extended by giving further notice to the Vice President.
 - 7.6.3 There shall be no-time on the recess a Campaign Officer may take during the Academic Year.
 - 7.6.4 The Vice President shall maintain regular and appropriate contact with a Campaign Officer during a period of recess.
 - 7.6.5 A Campaign Officer shall not be required to attend accountability meetings during a period in which they have taken a recess from their role.

7.6.6 Vice President, to the best of their ability, continue the work of a Campaign Officer while an officer has taken a period of recess from their duties.

7.7 Campaign Officers must fulfil the requirement set out in their Code of Conduct and minimum expectations document, failure to do so may result in them being automatically removed from their role. Decisions made to remove a campaign officer for failure to fulfil such requirements may be challenged to Student Senate.

7.8 Resignation and Dismissal of Campaign Officers

7.8.1 The office of a Campaign Officer shall be vacated if:

- (ii) they cease to be a Student;
- (iii) they are removed from Student Membership of the Union in accordance with the Union's code of conduct;
- (iv) they resign by notice to the Union.
- (v) they die; or
- (vi) they are removed from office by either:
 - (vii) a motion of no confidence in the Campaign Officer is passed by a simple majority of the Student Members voting in a Referendum, provided that at least 1,500 of the Student Members cast a vote in the Referendum. Such a motion shall only be triggered by a Secure Petition of no confidence signed by at least 500 Student Members; or
 - (viii) a motion of no confidence in the Campaign is passed by a 75% majority in a vote of the Student Council; or
- (ix) The office of Campaign Officer shall be vacated if a majority resolution of no confidence is passed by the Trustees.

7.9 Replacement of Campaign Officers

7.9.1 If a Campaign Officer resigns, is disqualified or is removed from office at any time prior to the commencement of the Academic Year, the vacancy that results shall be filled through a By-Election.

7.9.2 If the office of a Campaign Officer is not successfully filled in line with election regulations detailed within the bye-laws.

7.9.3 If a Campaign Officer resigns, is disqualified or is removed from office after the commencement of the Academic Year, the office shall remain vacant.

7.9.4 Student Council shall have the power to call for the vacancy to be filled by cross campus ballot by a 75% majority vote.

8. Sabbatical Trustee Resignations and Dismissals

- 8.1 A Sabbatical Trustee or Sabbatical Trustee-elect may resign for personal reasons. The vacancy shall be filled as soon as possible as provided in the bye-laws or it may remain unfilled if deemed appropriate by Student Council.
- 8.2 The procedure for the dismissal of a Sabbatical Trustee or Sabbatical Trustee-elect shall be:
 - 8.2.1 a motion of no confidence in the Sabbatical Trustee or Sabbatical Trustee-elect passed by a majority of the Student Members voting in a Referendum, provided that at least 1,500 Student Members cast a vote in the Referendum. Such a motion shall only be triggered by a Secure Petition of no confidence signed by at least 500 Student Members; Or
 - 8.2.2 a motion of no confidence in the Sabbatical Trustee or Sabbatical Trustee-elect passed by a 75% majority in a vote of the Student Council.
- 8.3 Immediately following their election, a Sabbatical Trustee-elect shall be entitled to observe all committees relevant to their office.
- 8.4 Any Sabbatical Trustee elected in place of another, in the event of resignation or dismissal, shall begin their term of office immediately upon election. This term of office shall expire when the term of office of their predecessor would have expired had they not vacated office.

9. Academic Representation

- 9.1 The Union shall ensure academic representation for Student Members at Cardiff University.
- 9.2 There shall be academic forums for each College at Cardiff University and one for Postgraduate research students. The forums shall discuss academic issues affecting students with Cardiff University representatives.

9.3 The academic forums shall be:

- a) College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Forum;
- b) College of Biomedical and Life Sciences Forum;
- c) College of Physical Sciences and Engineering Forum; and
- d) Postgraduate Research Representatives Forum.

9.4 Membership of the forums shall be:

- a) A Vice President with responsibility for Education;
- b) Co-chair as detailed in 10.5;
- c) The Chair of Each Student Staff Panel within the particular College or Postgraduate Research Representatives in the case of the Postgraduate Research Representatives Forum;
- d) Pro Vice Chancellor for Student Experience and Academic Standards; and
- e) The College Dean for Education and Students.

9.5 Meetings

9.5.1 Each forum shall meet no less than twice during the Academic Session.

9.5.2 A Vice President with responsibility for Education shall Chair each forum except:

- a) the Postgraduate Research Representatives Forum which shall be Co-Chaired with the Vice President Postgraduate Students; and
- b) The Biomedical and Life Sciences Forum which shall be Co-Chaired with the Vice President Heath Park Campus.

9.5.3 At the Chair's discretion additional representatives from Cardiff University shall be invited to the meeting.

10. Sport

- 10.1 There shall be an Athletic Union that shall deal with all matters relating to sport within the Union.
- 10.2 Rights and responsibilities of all Sports Clubs shall be laid out within the Activities Laws.

11. Sports Clubs

11.1 Athletic Union Clubs Executive

11.1.1 Membership of the Athletic Union Clubs' Executive shall be:

- a) Vice President Sports and Athletic Union President; and
- b) members annually selected from the Athletic Union membership by a panel chaired by the Vice President Sports
- c) Members of the executive to be elected by cross campus ballot and be required to hold membership to at least one sports team.

11.1.2 Meetings

- a) Meetings shall be held as required.
- b) A meeting can be held at the request of the Vice President Sports and Athletic Union President or any three members of the Athletic Union Clubs Executive.
- c) The quorum shall be 50% of the members of the Executive.
- d) Any Executive Member absent without good cause from two meetings of the Athletic Union Clubs Executive in any one Academic Session shall be deemed to have resigned.
- e) Meetings shall be chaired by the Vice President Sports and Athletic Union President or their nominee.
- f) Other persons may be invited to attend meetings of the Athletic Union Clubs Executive as required.

11.1.3 Responsibilities

- a) To make recommendations to the Vice President Sports and Athletic Union President for the running of sports clubs within the Union.
- b) To represent sports clubs within the Union and make recommendations to Student Council on behalf of the Athletic Union Sports Club members.
- c) To receive proposed amendments to the Activities Laws.
- d) To approve sports club constitutions.
- e) To consider requests for the affiliation of sports clubs.

11.2 Athletic Union Clubs Forum

11.2.1 Membership of the Athletic Union Clubs Forum shall be:

- a) Athletic Union Clubs Executive
- b) At least one committee member of each affiliated sports club. In the case of a Student Member attending the Athletic Union Clubs Forum on behalf of more than one club, they shall have only one vote. In the case of multiple committee members being in attendance, each Club shall hold one vote.

11.2.2 Meetings

- a) Athletic Union Clubs Forum meetings shall take place no less than twice during each Academic Session.
- b) Athletic Union Clubs Forum meetings may be called at the request of the Vice President Sports and Athletic Union President, a majority of the Athletic Union Clubs Executive members or by representatives of ten affiliated sports clubs.
- c) Athletic Union Clubs Forum meetings shall be chaired by the Vice President Sports and Athletic Union President or their nominee.
- d) Quorum for meetings shall be 50% of the membership.

11.2.3 Responsibilities

- a) To elect the Student Members of the Athletic Union Clubs Executive.
- b) To discuss and make recommendations to the Vice President Sports and Athletic Union President and the Athletic Union Clubs Executive.
- c) To highlight areas of concern affecting sports clubs.
- d) To receive notification of affiliated and disaffiliated Clubs
- e) To receive an annual financial report of income and expenditure within the Athletic Union.

11.3 **Sports Clubs Constitutions**

11.3.1 All affiliated Sports Clubs are required to have a constitution approved by the Athletic Union Clubs Executive. Amendments to a sports club's constitution must be approved by both a general meeting of that particular sports club's Student Members and the Athletic Union Clubs Executive.

11.3.2 The Athletic Union Executive reserves the right to present amendments to sports club constitutions for acceptance at a sports club general meetings.

14. Societies

14.1 There shall be a Guild of Societies that shall deal with all matters relating to societies within the Union.

14.2 Rights and responsibilities of all societies shall be laid out within the Activities Laws.

14.3 Guild of Societies Executive

14.3.1 Membership of the Guild of Societies Executive shall be:

- a) Vice President Societies and Volunteering; and
- b) members annually selected from the Guild of Societies membership by a panel chaired by the Vice President Societies and Volunteering
- c) Members of the executive to be elected by cross campus ballot and be required to hold membership to at least one society.

14.3.2 Meetings

- a) Meetings shall be held as required and held at the request of the Vice President Societies and Volunteering or any three members of the Guild of Societies Executive.
- b) The quorum shall be 50% of the members of the Executive.
- c) Any Member absent without good cause from three meetings of the Societies Executive in any one Academic Session shall be deemed to have resigned.
- d) Meetings shall be chaired by the Vice President Societies and Volunteering or their nominee.
- e) Other persons may be invited to attend a Guild of Societies Executive as appropriate.

14.3.3 Responsibilities

- a) To make recommendations to the Vice President Societies and Volunteering for the running of societies within the Union.
- b) To represent societies within the Union and to make recommendations to Student Council on behalf of the Guild of Societies members.
- c) To receive proposed amendments to the Activities Laws.
- d) To approve society constitutions.
- e) To consider requests for the affiliation of societies.

14.4 Guild of Societies Forums

14.4.1 Forums consist of representatives of all affiliated Societies. At the discretion of the Vice President Societies and Volunteering, forums may be split by society type or category.

14.4.2 Membership of the Guild of Societies Forums shall be:

- a) Guild of Societies Executive; and
- b) at least one committee member of each affiliated society. In the case of a member attending Guild of Societies Forum on behalf of more than one society, they shall have only one vote. In the case of multiple committee members being in attendance, each Society shall hold one vote.

14.4.3 Meeting

- a) Guild of Societies Forums shall be minuted and shall take place on no fewer than two occasions during each Academic Session.
- b) A Guild of Societies Forum may be called at the request of the Vice President Societies and Volunteering, a majority of the Guild of Societies Executive or by representatives of ten societies.
- c) Guild of Societies Forums shall be chaired by the Vice President Societies and Volunteering or their nominee.
- d) Quorum for forums shall be 50% of the members.

14.4.4 Responsibilities

- a) To elect the Student Members of the Guild of Societies Executive.
- b) To discuss and make recommendations to the Guild of Societies Executive and Vice President Societies and Volunteering.
- c) To highlight areas of concern affecting societies.
- d) To receive notification of affiliated and disaffiliated Societies.
- e) To receive an annual financial report of income and expenditure within the Guild of Societies.

14.5 Societies' Constitutions

14.6 All affiliated societies are required to have a constitution approved by the Guild of Societies Executive. Amendments to a society's constitution must be approved by both a general meeting of that particular society's Student Members and the Guild of Societies Executive.

14.7 The Guild of Societies Executive reserves the right to present amendments to society constitutions for acceptance at a society's general meeting.

15. Student Media

15.1 There shall be a Cardiff Student Media that shall deal with all matters relating to student media activity within the Union.

15.2 Cardiff Student Media shall consist of a newspaper, magazine, radio station and television production station. These media channels shall be:

- a) Newspaper entitled “gair rhydd”;
- b) magazine entitled “Quench”;
- c) radio Station entitled “Xpress Radio”; and
- d) television Production Station entitled “Cardiff Union TV”

15.3 A Student Media Advisory Group will oversee the activity of Student Media by providing advice, support and direction to the lead volunteers within each of the media platforms in relation to best practice, assessing risk and legal compliance. The Advisory Group will not exercise any editorial control over Student Media.

15.3.1 Membership

- a) The Advisory Group shall consist of internal members; Union President, Chief Executive (or their nominee) and two External individuals with expertise in media law.
- b) External Advisory Group members shall be selected to provide specific legal and academic input. External Advisory Group members shall be selected by the internal Advisory Group members.
- c) Membership to the Advisory Group shall be reviewed on an annual basis.
- d) The group shall be chaired by the Chief Executive or their nominee.

15.3.2 Meetings

- a) The Advisory Group shall meet at least annually but may be called to meet at any time at the request of any member of the group or by a lead volunteer in order to provide support relating to a specific issue.
- b) The Advisory Group may provide direction in the absence of a physical meeting where three members are in agreement.

15.3.3 Responsibilities. The Advisory Group will:

- a) Provide advice and support to the lead volunteers with regard to journalism law and best practice.
- b) Provide direction to lead volunteers on matters relating to high risk content.
- c) In order to balance freedom of expression and legal risk, the group will determine whether high risk content is appropriate for publication or broadcast and may issue guidance or direction on undertakings required prior to publication or

broadcast. Where the risk associated with publication or broadcast cannot be mitigated through additional actions, the Advisory Group would have authority to withhold publication or broadcast.

- d) Consider complaints that relate to the content of publications and broadcast and have the right to set actions that remedy upheld complaints.

15.4 Student Media shall not contravene the Equal Opportunities statement in the Union's Equal Opportunities Policy.

15.5 During Union Elections:

15.5.1 Student Media will not express comment or criticism or offer opinion about any candidate from the close of nominations until such time as the result of the election has been published. Student Media will not disseminate false information by distortion, selection or misrepresentation of any candidate. Student Media will only print facts about candidates which are in the interest of the electorate.

15.5.2 Student Media is prohibited from publicising the name, aliases, picture or any material relating to any candidate in the time period identified in Bye- Law 15.5.1 above. Exceptions will be made for by-lines by regular contributors, and current Sabbatical Trustees standing for re-election who shall be allowed to be quoted in reference to their current Sabbatical Trustee role.

15.5.3 In the time period identified in Bye-Law 15.5.1 above the Returning Officer, or the Deputy Returning Officer in their absence, shall act as consultant on all matters regarding Union elections. The reference to any matters pertaining to the elections shall be confirmed with the Returning Officer or the Deputy Returning Officer in their absence, prior to publication.

15.6 In the event that any individual is of the opinion that they have been unfairly represented or maligned by Student Media, they shall have the following recourse:

15.6.1 A written complaint should be lodged with the Student Editor or Controller. They shall determine the validity of the complaint, responding to the complainant within two working days of the complaint being received.

15.6.2 Should the Editor or Controller determine the complaint valid, they shall promptly rectify any harmful inaccuracies and ensure that the correction or apology receive due prominence. When the issue is of sufficient importance the Editor or Controller shall afford the right of reply to the complainant.

15.6.3 Should the Editor or Controller determine the complaint to be invalid, the complainant shall have the right to appeal to the Student Media Advisory

Group. This shall be the final stage of appeal within the organisation. Any further appeal should be directed towards appropriate regulatory bodies.

15.6.4 The Advisory group will consider complaints received via regulators such as Ofcom or IPSO and will respond appropriately.

15.7 A student who has opted out of membership of the Union shall be able to submit content to media activities but will not be permitted to exercise any editorial control.

16. Policy Book

- 16.1 The Union shall keep a Policy Book, published on its website and shall ensure it is maintained as a true record of the Policy of the Union as resolved by Members Meetings, Student Council and Referenda.
- 16.2 Policy will lapse after three years unless re-passed as a motion by a Members Meeting or Student Council.
- 16.3 Student Council shall be informed of any Policy that has lapsed and been removed from the Policy Book and shall be minuted by Student Council.

17. Amendments to the Bye-Laws

- 17.1 Amendments to the Bye-Laws shall be made jointly by the Trustees and the Student Council in accordance with Article 50.
- 17.2 Amendments to the Bye-Laws may be proposed by Student Members to Student Council.

18. Bilingualism

18.1 Definition:

Bilingual shall be taken to mean both Welsh and English.

18.2 Application:

18.2.1 The Union shall strive to conduct written dealings with Members and external bodies within Wales bilingually.

18.2.2 All written text produced for Union meetings, such as minutes or agendas shall be available bilingual upon request.

18.2.3 All publicity displayed by the Union shall be bilingual as defined in 18.1.1 where reasonably practicable.

18.2.4 Full translation shall be provided in all Members' Meetings of the Union upon request.

18.2.5 Symbols, instead of words, should be used on Union signs where practicable.

18.2.6 Both Welsh and English versions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Bye-Laws and Policy Book will be available to members on request, with the English being the legally binding version.

18.3 Welsh Language Policy:

18.3.1 The Union shall have a Welsh Language Policy that shall be reviewed annually by the Welsh Language Steering Group, and approved by the Board of Trustees.

18.4 Operation and Enforcement:

18.4.1 The Union shall employ the services of translator.

18.4.2 The Union shall ensure that a translator and equipment for simultaneous translation are available in all Members' Meetings upon reasonable request.

18.4.3 Any breaches of the Welsh Language Policy shall be dealt with in line with the Complaints Procedure.

19. Staff Student Protocol

19.1 Context

19.1.1 Cardiff University Students' Union is a democratic organisation that works under the direction of its students and Elected Officers. The Union employs staff to: manage its activities and services, provide professional advice, to ensure continuity and to support Elected Officers. Staff are also often responsible for the implementation of political policy.

19.1.2 The Union strives to be recognised as a good employer and seeks to create a positive and productive working environment. The Union places a high level of importance on the relationship between its staff and Officers.

19.1.3 This protocol is intended to complement, not contradict, other Union policies, in particular the Complaints Procedure, the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Grievance Procedure. Staff members, students and Elected Officers are advised to familiarise themselves with the above policies when deciding how an issue might be resolved most effectively.

19.1.4 This document aims to provide some general guidance on broad principles, and to provide avenues for the resolution of problems as and when they arise. The complex nature of the Union can create 'grey areas' in terms of the relationship of employees with student staff, Elected Officers, Trustees and Managers that are, in most cases, managed informally. These relationships are also expected to change periodically as new Officers are elected, new policies are developed and new initiatives are begun. Staff and Elected Officers are expected to take personal responsibility for the maintenance and development of an effective working environment, and to approach new or challenging situations in a professional, proactive and reasonable manner.

19.2 Purpose

19.2.1 The purpose of this Protocol is to set out principles and guidelines which ensure that there is clarity as to the roles and responsibilities of:

- a) Union staff;
- b) Union management;
- c) Trustees;
- d) Elected Officers;
- e) Student staff.

19.2.2 The Union complies with all relevant employment legislation.

19.2.3 Staff are provided with an environment in which they are entitled to confidentiality and protection from unfair treatment.

19.2.4 The Union is protected from undue interference from staff in the conduct of governance and political policy development.

19.3 Definitions

19.3.1 In this Bye-Law:

- a) "Political policy" is policy that is developed and approved by the Elected Officers through the democratic structures. e.g. affiliation to NUS, education funding policy;
- b) "Policies" are documents, such as this one, largely developed by staff, which provide frameworks and procedures for the day-to-day operations of the organisation e.g. Risk Management Policy, Environmental Policy;
- c) "Staff" are individuals or groups of individuals who are employed by the Cardiff University Students' Union;
- d) "Student staff" are students at Cardiff University who are working during their period of study, but whose primary purpose at the University is as a student. Permanent staff who have chosen to undertake a course to complement their work will not normally be regarded as student staff; and
- e) the distinction between "staff" and "student staff" in this document exists to provide guidance on issues of conflicting priorities. In the event of confusion as to the status of an individual staff member, guidance from the Chief Executive will be sought.

19.4 Roles and Responsibilities

19.4.1 Elected Officers provide political leadership to the organisation, defining political policy through democratic means. They represent the members of the Union and work closely with staff to ensure that the operations of the Union, particularly those within an Officer's portfolio, cater for, and are responsive to, the needs of the membership.

19.4.2 The Union's Strategic Management Team shall take responsibility for ensuring that organisational direction is informed and influenced by the political agendas of Elected Officers.

19.4.3 In many instances, Elected Officers, both full time and part time, work closely with members of staff. Each are expected to invest time and effort to ensure that productive and effective working relationships are developed. Broadly, however, the work of staff is to be directed by the management structure, and the impact of Elected Officers on the day-to-day work of staff should be limited to the development of political policy, discussions within the Board of Trustees, and discussions with senior managers who are members of the Strategic Management Team.

19.4.4 The Board of Trustees is the only group or committee which includes student members who are empowered to discuss staff matters relating to recruitment, appointment, remuneration, performance and terms and conditions of staff.

19.4.5 Elected Officers of the Union should actively ensure that discussions concerning individual staff members, on conduct, performance, recruitment and of terms and conditions do not take place in either informal or formal Union meetings, or:

- a) In University or external media;
- b) On online forums, websites or social media;
- c) In formal or informal Union meetings; or
- d) In formal or informal meetings with students, staff or other Union stakeholders.

19.4.6 The Trustees delegate their responsibility for ensuring fair elections to a Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officers nominated by the Board of Trustees. All associated administrative functions, including appointing staff members are delegated, so as not to undermine the Sabbatical Trustees' and Student Trustees' right to take an active role in the political aspect of any election process.

19.4.7 Staff and Elected Officers are expected to nurture effective working relationships, but relationships of an intimate nature between staff and Elected Officers should be avoided. When a relationship of this nature arises, it should be disclosed to the Chief Executive to protect all involved from accusations or perceptions related to conflicts of interest. Where appropriate the individuals may be required to complete a 'Declaration of Interest'.

19.5 The role of staff

19.5.1 Staff are expected to provide professional advice to the Elected Officers in their areas of expertise, but may not seek to unduly influence political policy decisions or the political policy positions of Elected Officers.

19.5.2 Staff may not seek to unduly influence or probe Elected Officers, or any other Trustees, concerning individual staffing matters or any other reserved business of the Board of Trustees.

19.5.3 Staff may not participate in, or seek to influence, the democratic processes of the Union.

19.5.4 Staff should not comment on the conduct or performance of Elected Officers, or the Union's political policy or political direction, including:

- a) In University or external media;
- b) On online forums or websites, or social media;
- c) In formal and informal Union meetings;
- d) In formal or informal meetings with students, staff and other Union stakeholders

19.5.5 Staff should not enter into discussion with Union members as to the performance of Elected Officers.

19.5.6 Unless defined as “student staff”, the responsibilities and restrictions placed on staff members shall override the privileges of Union membership.

19.5.6.1 In practice staff members:

- a) Cannot participate in democratic meetings;
- b) Cannot not stand or vote in any Union elections.

19.5.7 Student staff shall enjoy the full rights and privileges of Union membership, save for any restriction placed on them whilst on duty. In particular:

- a) Student staff cannot campaign on an issue or in an election whilst on duty;
- b) Points 19.5.1 to 19.5.5 above apply to student staff whilst on duty or acting as a staff member.

19.6 Complaints against staff

19.6.1 Any member of the Union who has cause for complaint on a matter relating to any individual or group of staff is to raise the matter with a Trustee.

19.6.2 The complaint will be raised by the Trustee with the Chief Executive or Deputy Chief Executive. The complaint will be investigated and the Trustee will advise the student of the result of the investigation.

19.6.3 A Trustee with cause for complaint on a matter relating to any individual group or staff member may, in the first instance, raise the issue with the Chief Executive. If the complaint is about the Chief Executive, or if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily by the Chief Executive, then the matter should be raised at the Board of Trustees.

19.6.4 If further action needs to be taken, the appropriate Union policy will be followed, e.g. Disciplinary, Grievance or Capability.

19.6.5 Complaints against Elected Officers

19.6.6 Complaints about Elected Officers from students will be dealt with using the Complaints Procedure.

19.6.7 Complaints about Elected officers by staff members should be reported to the staff members' line manager in the first instance. Where the matter cannot be resolved informally or is of a more serious nature it should be reported to the Chief Executive and will normally be progressed under the Grievance Procedure

20. Elections & Voting

20.1 Election Regulations

- a) Every ordinary Student Member shall have equal voting rights in the election conducted under these regulations.
- b) The Sabbatical Trustees and Campaign Officers for each session shall be elected in the Spring Semester of the previous session.
- c) These election regulations shall be adhered to for all cross campus ballots including Sabbatical Trustees, Campaign Officers Student Council Members and Officers Executive Committees

20.2 The Returning Officer

- a) The Returning Officer for each election shall be appointed from an external organisation. The Deputy Returning Officer shall be an appropriate Union staff member. In the event of the Returning Officer not being available at any time, the Deputy Returning Officer shall act as Returning Officer.
- b) The Returning Officer has the authority to remove a candidate from the election.
- c) The Returning Officer has full authority over the running of the election process. They shall be able to make interpretations of all election regulations should the need arise.

20.3 Nominations Process

20.3.1 Notice of elections shall state:

- a) the specific office for which nominations are invited
- b) how to submit an application
- c) the time of the closure of nominations
- d) the date of the poll

20.3.2 There shall be at least five working days between the publication of the notice of the election and the closure of nominations.

20.3.3 A nomination shall be made in the manner specified in the notice of election.

20.3.4 Candidates may withdraw their nominations at any point during the election in writing to the Deputy Returning Officer.

20.3.5 A Student Member shall not be eligible to submit a nomination for more than one position, except for Student Senate and Officers Executive Committees positions which may be held concurrently.

20.3.6 Should a position not have sufficient candidates at close of nominations to fill all available posts, the nomination period for that position may be extended for a defined period. In this instance the minimum period (4 (c)) between close of nominations and start of polling shall be adjusted accordingly if required

20.3.7 Notice of Poll shall state:

- a) the Office for which the Poll is to be held
- b) the date of the Poll
- c) the names of the candidates
- d) The notice of Poll shall be published at the earliest opportunity after nominations have closed
- e) There shall be at least ten days between the close of nominations and the first day on which the Poll is held.

20.4 The Poll

20.4.1 Expectations of conduct and regulations regarding campaign activity of election candidates and their representatives is laid down within the Candidates Information Pack.

20.5 Counting Agents

20.5.1 If the election is conducted through a paper ballot then the Returning Officer may engage Counting Agents for the count, who shall be salaried Students' Union staff.

20.6 The Ballot

20.6.1 Elections shall be conducted using the Single Transferable Vote Electoral system as defined by the Electoral Reform Society.

20.6.2 There shall be at least two consecutive days of Polling.

20.6.3 Every voter shall be required to authenticate and measures shall be put in place by the Returning Officer to ensure members may only vote once.

20.7 The Count

20.7.1 The Count shall commence when reasonably possible after closure of the Poll.

20.7.2 The following shall be allowed to attend the Count:

- a) The Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officers,
- b) The Cardiff University Academic Registrar (or their nominee).
- c) Any others may do so only at the discretion of the Returning Officer.

20.7.3 It shall be at the discretion of the Returning Officer to declare the count full and to ensure that any disorderly persons present are removed.

20.7.4 The Returning Officer shall be required to:

- a) Declare the result to candidates
- b) Publish the results to all Members at the earliest opportunity.

20.7.5 In the event of a tie, there shall be a second ballot held between the tied candidates within five working days of the initial ballot. In this event it shall be at the Returning Officers discretion to make adjustments to the Election process and Regulations laid down in the Bye Laws and Candidate Information Pack, if deemed necessary.

20.7.6 The notice of the result of the Poll shall include:

- a) The total number of votes accrued by each candidate.
- b) A statement of the number of valid votes cast.
- c) The number of abstentions and/or spoiled papers.

20.8 Complaints and Appeals Procedures

20.8.1 Complaints

20.8.1.1 Elections Complaints shall be submitted and dealt with in line with the Candidate Information Pack.

20.8.1.2 Election Complaints shall be considered by the Returning Officer team who will seek to investigate an allegation. If in their mind there is reasonable evidence to indicate a breach of election rules and that an advantage has been gained, they will seek to take appropriate corrective action, or where this is not possible, may exclude a candidate.

20.8.1.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the Returning Officer has final discretion over complaints and there is no right of appeal to the Returning Officer's decision.

20.8.2 Appeals

20.8.2.1 Notice of an appeal to the result must be declared to the Returning Officer in writing within 24 hours of the declaration of the result of the election to candidates.

20.8.2.2 If an appeal is made, the Returning Officer shall publicise this fact, if possible together with the publication of the result of the election.

20.8.2.3 Appeals process:

- (ii) Appeals shall be heard by the Returning Officer who shall have the power to declare the election void and/or a candidate withdrawn.
- (iii) Appeals must be made on the grounds that either electoral regulations have been breached, or that the count process was not equitable.
- (iv) The Returning Officer may call relevant witnesses when considering an appeal.
- (v) The outcome of the appeal shall be published as soon as possible after the decision is reached and shall take immediate effect.
- (vi) Any complaints against the Returning Officer shall be dealt with solely by an appropriate external organisation who may dismiss the Returning Officer. The Deputy Returning Officer, or other appropriate individual, shall become the Returning Office in this instance.