

2025 All I want for Christmas is a slightly more accessible and effective council for all students passed 8 December 2016

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Summary: There are a number of changes that should be made during council to allow all students Councillors to be able to participate, regardless of their knowledge of the union. This can be achieved with updated agendas, increased staff support, better feedback, acronym busters and increased signposting of council and its documents for all students.

Union Notes:

1. That Union Council is UEASU's democratic structure for policy making and discussion.
2. One of the Student Union's core aims is accessibility in all its practices.

Union Believes:

1. That in its current state, Union Council is not accessible at all for students who are not engaged in the 'Union bubble'.
2. Numerous amendments, along with the changed order of motions on the day make navigating the very long agenda difficult for many students.
3. There is constant confusion over many aspects of the proceedings, and in an effort to get through motions, this confusion is left ignored.
4. Most student are unaware of the numerous acronyms or complicated terms that are used by more experienced Councillors.
5. That all students are allowed to attend council as non-voting members.
6. Council agendas, minutes, SOC minutes and especially voting records are very difficult to find, with most student unaware of them, therefore unable to hold their Councillors to account.
7. There is no follow up from the 'open discussion' section of the agenda, with no information of what has been done with the feedback from these discussions.

Union Resolves:

1. To send the updated agenda on the day with amendments and the order included To increase the level of staff support during council sessions, so that complicated or heated debates do not get out of hand, and the structure for debate is maintained.
2. To have an appendix added to the agenda with an acronym buster with explanations of any acronyms or complicated terms in the agenda to help prevent confusing or inaccessible motions.
3. For information about council to be more advertised and made accessible to all students.
4. For each council to include a short update during the SOC report (Student Officer Committee) detailing what has been done with the previous council's open discussion feedback.