

Title of Motion

Don't want to attend Council? Don't sit on Council!

Proposer Jack Annand (Entrepreneurship)

Seconded Eliza Gurner (Tap)

Summary

Union Council has long struggled with attendance, with many meetings only just reaching quorum. This is despite the quorum figure being less than 1/5 of Council membership. In no other elected position would individuals get away with consistently not performing the most basic roles of their office. Bye-Law 14.6 already exists – laying out the process for dismissal of a Council member for absence – yet is very rarely enforced. At a time when the SU is coming under greater scrutiny from its membership, Council must take steps to increase attendance by ensuring Bye-Law 14.6 is enforced, ending the culture of the majority of Council members believing there is no need to attend.

Council Notes

1. There are over 200 Union Council member positions.
2. Despite this, Council consistently struggles to meet the quorum of 40 present voting members.
3. Additionally, proportions of Council members in attendance are not representative of the proportional allocation of membership to various categories of Councillors.
4. Bye-Law 14.6.1 states "Any member of the Union Council, including a Student Officer, who is absent without valid apology for two meetings of the Union Council per semester shall cease to hold all Union offices unless the Union Council, at its sole discretion, shall decide otherwise."
5. The enforcement of this bye-law has been consistently overlooked.

Council Believes

1. Council has a duty to ensure bye-laws are being adhered to.
2. Consistently low attendance is damaging to the sustainability and integrity of Council.
3. Any member who wishes to be elected to a position on Council should be prepared to carry out the responsibilities of that position.
4. Elected members who are consistently absent are depriving their constituents of representation and preventing another individual from holding that position.
5. Failure to enforce the dismissal of consistently absent Council members prolongs and contributes to the issues outlined above.
6. In light of recent events, Council must do its part to increase representation within the Union.

Council Resolves

1. To mandate the constant enforcement by the Chair of Union Council of Bye-Law 14.6 relating to dismissal of Council members as a result of absence.
2. To mandate changes in minutes of Council meetings to include a list of apologies and absentees alongside the list of attendees.
3. To mandate that a written warning is communicated to Council members who are absent without an apology valid under Bye-Law 14.6.2 for one meeting.
4. To mandate that sufficient guidance is offered to newly-elected councillors regarding the importance of attendance.