

Motion title: Oh, the still beautiful guillotine (Amendment to Policy 1769A: 'Oh, the beautiful guillotine')

Proposer: Jack Annand (Cocktail Society)

Seconder: Emily Wignall (Cheerleading Dance)

Summary: Existing Union policy sets a mandatory time Council meetings must end (a 'guillotine'). This time is currently set at 10:30pm. However, as Council decided to move the start of meetings earlier this year, this policy should be updated to also move the end of meetings accordingly. This will reinforce the motives of the original policy: accessibility, efficiency, and councillor motivation. The proposed changes will also make the guillotine dynamic to any future changes in Council meetings' start time.

Council Notes

1. A 'guillotine' refers to a set time Council meetings must end, regardless of progress through the agenda.
2. A guillotine of 10:30pm already exists following Policy 1769A.
3. Council voted to renew Policy 1769A at the previous meeting as part of policy lapse.
4. This year, Council decided to move the start time of meetings from 7pm to 6pm.
5. Under the current policy, meetings are permitted to last up to four-and-a-half hours.
6. Resolves 2 of Policy 1769A allows Council to manually override the guillotine with a 2/3 majority vote.

Council Believes

1. Policy 1769A raised many valid concerns about accessibility, the efficiency of Council, and the motivation of Councillors to attend meetings.
2. At the time, Policy 1769A allowed for meetings to last up to three-and-a-half hours, a seemingly good compromise between allowing sufficient matters to be discussed whilst not allowing meetings to go on for too long.
3. With the start time of meetings changed, it is only right to adjust the guillotine time accordingly.
4. One reason Council decided to bring forward the start time of meetings was to ensure an earlier time to go home; this policy amendment secures that.
5. Changing the language to "three-and-a-half hours" instead of a set time allows to guillotine to auto-adjust if Council chooses to change the start time in the future.

Council Resolves

1. Amend Resolves 1 of Policy 1769A to: "A mandatory guillotine of no later than three-and-a-half hours subsequent to the start of a Council meeting must be implemented and observed".
2. Amend Resolves 2 of Policy 1769A to: "If Council wishes to extend the mandatory guillotine beyond three-and-a-half hours subsequent to the start of the Council meeting they must vote with a 2/3 majority to do so".