

Policy Proposal: Re-affiliation of RUMS Clubs

What would you like the Union to do?

Thank you for taking the time to consider our proposal. We attended the last activities zone with an idea for discussion and we feel we are now ready to take our idea to a policy proposal.

We believe that UCL Students Union Clubs and Societies Regulation 4.5.2, stipulating “Activities Network Executive will not affiliate or re-affiliate new RUMS Clubs or Societies to the Union” should be reworded to allow for re-affiliation of RUMS Clubs and Societies. The updated regulation would therefore be worded as follows:

“Activities Network Executive will allow re-affiliation of previously established RUMS Clubs or Societies to the Union. These include RUMS Badminton, RUMS Tennis, RUMS Boat Club, RUMS Cricket, RUMS Men’s Football, RUMS Women’s Football, RUMS Men’s Hockey, RUMS Women’s Hockey, RUMS Netball, RUMS Rugby, The MDs Comedy Revue, RUMS Music.”

On top of this, we would like to offer to our 5 current networks the ability to run as separate clubs – complete with their own constitutions, committee, finances etc.

Why would you like to do this?

We believe this rule to be unfair. This year, we saw the disaffiliation of RUMS Badminton, and until a change in decision by the current Activities Officer, were looking at a permanent and irrefutable loss of a club. This is in stark dichotomy to that of UCL Clubs and Societies. As the Students Union has reassured us at the previous zone, it is not in its agenda to suppress the RUMS Clubs or RUMS identity. Therefore we see this as a proactive point to reassure RUMS clubs that their existence and validity is not under-fire. We believe that this would be an instrumental step in allowing our current RUMS clubs and societies to exist within the SU clubs and societies ecosystem, potentially enhancing inter-club relations and collaboration in the absence of any defensive attitudes that may have been pervasive in past generations.

Furthermore, under our current set-up, our 5 ‘networks’ have to run all administration through the RUMS president and treasurer. This adds a tremendously large portfolio to the roles of RUMS president and treasurer and also leads to a lot of inefficiencies in the way each of the networks operate and explore opportunities. Being mindful of the fact that the RUMS President does not act as a sabbatical/union officer (as is the case across other medical schools in London), we believe that allowing these networks to operate as other RUMS/UCL clubs and societies do would be beneficial to all parties involved.

These networks are

- Medics for Medics
- LBGTQ+ Medics Network
- UCLMS Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity Student Network
- RUMS Review
- Widening Participation Network

We also have a PhD network but feel this wouldn’t have the sufficient 30 members to maintain a club status.

We would like our networks to be able to run elections next year to have a president, treasurer and welfare officer so they can run their own affairs and have the same access to resources as do other presidents and treasurers. If we are to develop these networks, host more events and build a more inclusive environment, allowing more autonomy within these student spaces is worthwhile.

How will this affect students?

RUMS clubs will not face permanent disaffiliation if they come under trouble. They can enter the same reaffiliation processes as other UCL clubs, thereby granting them equal footing. This reassurance would remove any semblance of defensive hostility, ill-will and unproductive competitiveness between RUMS and UCL clubs. We hope to then foster better relations with the wider SU clubs and societies through collaboration and support.

Furthermore our Medic Networks can grow and develop as standalone clubs and societies, allowing these student groups the autonomy to run more events, improve outreach and develop their direction and vision.

Has your policy proposal considered the following:

Is it affordable? Is it sustainable? Is your idea new and unique?