

Policy Proposal: Reaffirming the duration of Trial Membership as 28 Days

What would you like the Union to do?

(If it is not already the case) The duration of Trial memberships should be limited to 28 days, thus trial members are not allowed to stand or vote in elections.

When AZ2102 proposed Trial memberships, it was meant to be "time limited to 28 days and only available to 'buy' once per academic year, per customer, to avoid enabling trial members to engage in democratic processes of a club". This proposal is to reaffirm that

Why would you like to do this?

Trial memberships were originally meant to be temporary (1) but at some point seem to have been mixed up with remote memberships.

From recent exchanges with the union, my understanding is that taster members are allowed to stand and vote in elections and count towards the minimum turnout required for AGM/EGM. Many current trial members got their membership in early Term 1 but have not participated since, yet are still allowed to vote and stand for election without having any stake in the club. Additionally, current club statistical information includes taster members, which makes it challenging to identify the true demographics of the club.

(1) Trial memberships were proposed and submitted in AZ2102. It was sent for ratification to UE2103; however, since no one presented the proposal, it was deferred. To my knowledge it was not discussed at any further UE meetings, and in AZ2105 the matter was discussed and agreed upon. While remote membership was meant to be a full membership for those who were participating remotely, I believe the trial membership should be considered as temporary.

How will this affect students?

It will ensure that only members who are committed and participating in the club/society are allowed in the club's democratic processes.