

# AGD: External Returning Officer

**Proposer:** Kyle Lewis Jordan, Disabled Students' Officer (Job Share)

## **Union Council Notes:**

1. A current student is elected annually as Union Chair;
2. The Union Chair acts as Returning Officer for Student Union elections and referenda;
3. The Returning Officer's Report (Spring 2018) outlined the difficulty in undertaking the role and dealing with a high volume of complaints;
4. The position of Returning Officer is held by either the National Union of Students or a staff member at another Students' Union for the majority of Unions across the country.

## **Union Council Believes:**

1. Regardless of how diligent a Returning Officer is, so long as they are an elected student, their impartiality may be questioned;
2. The Returning Officer should be an external appointment who is ratified by and accountable to Union Council.

## **Union Council Resolves:**

1. To amend the Bye-Laws, removing reference to the Union Chair as Returning Officer;
2. To amend the Bye-Laws to reflect the appointment of an External Returning Officer:

### *Bye-Law 11: Elections*

1. The running of fair elections shall be the ~~joint~~ responsibility of the ~~Democracy, Operations & Community Officer and the~~ Returning Officer, ~~as outlined in Bye-Laws 9.14.p and 12.10~~, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Elections Committee. They shall ensure the elections are run in accordance with the Memorandum & Articles and Bye-Laws.
  - a. The Returning Officer shall be an external professional who is neither a student, alumni nor employee of UCL;
  - b. They shall produce a statement that encapsulates their skills, experience, and intentions in relation to the position and be ratified by a majority vote of Union Council;
  - c. A member of Students' Union UCL staff may help administer complaints and assist the Returning Officer in their duties as required;
  - d. In the event of the absence of the Returning Officer ~~or in a declared conflict of interest~~, a Deputy Returning Officer will be appointed ~~from and~~ by the Elections Committee;
  - e. After each round of elections the Returning Officer shall submit a report to UCL Council and the Elections Committee.