

## **Student Parliament**

Student Parliament is a cross-campus, university-union forum where policy is generated, discussed and voted upon by elected representatives and where discussions around the student experience take place. Student Parliament is made up of a cross section of the union's membership and includes representatives from all across the student body. Policy can be generated and formulated by the various sub committees which are free and open to join, who then direct the policy upwards for debate. Student Parliament is also the place where officers, both full and part time, can be held to account.

### **1 Student Parliament Membership**

- 1.1 All members of UPSU are welcome to attend meetings of Student Parliament and hold the rights to put forward motions and hold officers to account but have no voting rights.
- 1.2 No member may hold more than one seat on Student Parliament at any one time.
- 1.3 The Chair of the Student Parliament may not vote unless the vote is tied, in which case they must have the casting vote.
- 1.4 Union Executive Committee (UEC) shall be the executive forum of Student Parliament whose membership includes:

President

Deputy President

VP Education and Welfare

VP Sports

VP Activities and Communications

1 representative from each of the University of Plymouth Faculties

1 additional representative from the [School of] University of Plymouth Colleges

- 1.5 UEC shall be responsible for ensuring adequate representation of academic issues with Student Parliament

1.6 UEC shall report to each meeting of Student Parliament on the issues it has dealt with and any outcomes it has secured.

1.7 UEC shall be chaired by the Vice President (Education & Welfare)

1.8 Student Parliament shall also consist of the following part time elected members:

- Parliament Chair
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Campaigns Chair
- Women's Campaigns Chair
- Racial and Ethnic Campaigns Chair
- Postgraduate Campaigns Chair
- International students Campaigns Chair
- Ethics and Environment Campaigns Chair
- Students with disabilities Campaigns Chair
- Mature students Campaigns Chair
- Education Campaigns Chair
- Welfare Campaigns Chair
- Part-Time Students Campaigns Chair
- Placement Students Campaigns Chair

1.9 Student Parliament shall also consist of the following other representatives:

- Volunteering in Plymouth (ViP) President
- RAG President
- A Societies Representative elected from the Sports and Societies sub-committee
- A Sports Representative elected from the Sports and societies sub-committee
- A Media Representative
- 8 Independent (Non-Portfolio) Representatives

2.0 All these positions may only be changed with the approval of Student Parliament

2.1 The Executive Officers will be responsible for supporting and overseeing the operation of each of these Chairs and their sub committees.

### **3**            **Accountability**

3.1            When representing UPSU all elected officers may be held to account for their actions and behaviour

3.2            A member of the Students' Union may hold elected officers accountable at the following meetings:

- Annual General Meeting or Emergency General Meeting
- Student Parliament

3.3            The membership may use the following methods to hold an elected officer accountable:

- A question and answer session for the elected officers. This must be included as an item on the agenda of any general meeting the union holds
- A motion of censure on an Elected Officer
- A motion to commend an Elected Officer
- A motion of no confidence in an Elected Officer

### **4**            **Apologies**

4.1            All members of the Student Parliament or any other Sub Committee must submit apologies before the meeting to the Chair.

4.2            Any member of Student Parliament or any other Sub-Committee shall cease to hold office if they have been absent from three (3) consecutive meetings, without apologies

4.3            In the case of the Annual General Meeting apologies from all elected officers should be submitted to the President, Deputy President or Chair.

### **5**            **Resignation**

5.1            Any resignation must be in writing to the Union Executive Committee. Resignations shall take effect immediately and be reported to Student Parliament and the Board of Trustees.

## **6 Meetings of Student Parliament**

- 6.1 Parliament shall meet regularly once a month on a date that shall be decided by the Parliament Chair.
- 6.2 At the first Student Parliament of the year term there shall be a formal opening speech from both the President and the Parliament Chair.

## **7 The Powers of Student Parliament**

- 7.1 Student Parliament shall comply with the agendas set out in this Constitution and act in accordance with the Safe Space policy of the Union.
- 7.2 Student Parliament will be responsible for formulating political policy for the union and shall have the power to vote on these issues.
- 7.3 The result of the vote on policy shall be binding for two years.
- 7.4 Any policy rejected will not be allowed to be discussed again for one year from the date of rejection; this includes simply rephrasing or dressing the motion in another guise.
- 7.5 If a rejected motion is suspected of being redressed or resubmitted the decision to remove or continue with the motion shall lay with the Parliament Chair.
- 7.6 Student Parliament will not have the power to set policy of any issue pertaining to the financial or strategic direction of the union or the management of the charity.
- 7.7 Student Parliament will not have the power to alter or change the Constitution. If a motion calls for a change in the Constitution, Parliament must refer the decision to Referendum.
- 7.8 Student Parliament will have the power to directly hold the Executive Officers to account.
- 7.9 Student Parliament shall have the power to set up sub-committees and monitoring groups.
- 7.10 Student Parliament will have the power to ratify the appointment of Independent and Student Trustees to the Board of Trustees.
- 7.11 Student Parliament will have the power to vote of no confidence any Trustee from the Board of Trustees.
- 7.12 Student Parliament will have the power to request information from the Board of Trustees.

## **8**            **Parliament Sub-Committees**

- 8.1            Parliament sub-committees will be responsible for enacting and directing the policy of the union.
- 8.2            They shall be chaired by the Parliament Campaigns Chairs who are responsible for communicating the actions undertaken by the sub-committee to Student Parliament.
- 8.3            New committees may be set up at the discretion of Student Parliament and shall be chaired by an officer decided at the time.
- 8.4            There shall be standing sub-committees for:
- Ethics and Environment
  - Scrutiny
  - Equality and Diversity
  - Sports and Societies

## **9**            **Quorum**

- 9.1            The quorum for Student Parliament shall be 50% of elected members. The meeting cannot make decisions on any matter until this has been established.
- 9.2            All full time Executive Officers must do their best to attend.

## **10**           **Agenda Items**

- 10.1           All items for discussion and decision shall be submitted to the Parliament Chair ten (10) working days before the meeting.
- 10.2           The Parliament Chair shall place the motions in order of importance. Importance shall be determined by how relevant to the student experience the motion is and the time scale involved for the motion to be completed.
- 10.3           All motions shall require the proposal of at least two (2) full union members. These shall be known as the proposer and the seconder.

## **11**           **Voting in Student Parliament**

- 11.1           Should the need for a vote arise the Chair of Parliament shall call for a simple show of hands

11.2 The order for voting shall be: Those in Favour  
Those against  
Any Abstentions

11.3 The results of all votes shall be publicised along with the minutes

11.4 Any member may contest the vote and can ask for another round of speeches and another vote as long as the proposal for such an action receives approval from over 50% of Parliament.

## **E12 The Role of the Parliament Chair**

12.1 The Parliament Chair runs the meeting of Parliament.

12.2 The Parliament Chair will remain impartial and shall run the meetings with an agenda of being unbiased and neutral.

12.3 The Parliament Chair shall have the casting vote in the event of a hung parliament or equal amounts of votes in favour and against a motion

12.4 The Chair shall also produce a report of Parliament activities and progress to AGM.

12.5 The Chair shall have the power to bring discussions and debates to an end should they run over a certain amount of time or it is felt that the debate is going nowhere.

12.6 The Chair shall have the power to close the meeting until further notice should the need arise.

## **13 How to call an Emergency Student Parliament**

13.1 An emergency Student Parliament may be called by:

A resolution from the Union Executive Committee

A petition of 100 full members of the Union, submitted to the President or Deputy President.

13.2 The Parliament Chair and the President or Deputy President shall make arrangements for the Emergency Student Parliament to be held on a date not exceeding ten working days.

13.3 Only the issue specified in the application shall be discussed at the Emergency Student Parliament.

13.4 Meetings will be conducted according to the Debating Rules.

**14**            **Removal from Office**

- 14.1            A proposal to remove any member from office shall be treated as a motion under the Meetings Rules.
- 14.2            The elected officer that the motion is proposed against has the right to take the first speech against the motion.
- 14.3            The meeting should then vote if the proposal to remove an officer from office should go to a referendum carried out in the same way that the officer was elected. The vote needs a two-thirds majority to pass.
- 14.4            If this motion is passed the Chair of the meeting should instruct the President or Deputy President to run the proceedings within an agreed time.
- 14.5            A removal from office will remove the officer from his/her full time paid role and the decision will be referred to the Board of Trustees to consider the future of that persons role as a Trustee of UPSU.

**15**            **Minutes**

- 15.1            All minutes of Student Parliament will be made public after the meeting and shall be displayed in the union and in available media.