

COUNCIL MEETING NO. 6

5TH FEBRUARY 2008, 6.00 P.M.

Chairperson: Y Ali

Present: F Ahmad, A Ahmed, S Alam, B Al-Kiyumi, S Ali, S Asghar, M Assim, A Castro, B Craig, A Cull, A Cunningham, S Davies, A Hodges, T Jacko, A James, C Jenkinson, M Joslin, S Khan, J Killip, D Koole, F Kutubudin, M Livingston, S Lyons, G Mahalla, S Mahmood, S McGuirk, J Meddemmen, I Musa, A Naqvi, R Pinfold, N Rahman, E Randall, K Raus, A Rowley, R Scher, T Skinner, G Smith, L Zafrani.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted for absence from N Balabanoff, A Ellis, B Harris, H Jama, G Johnson, Y Joya, A A Khan, C Livingstone, A Reynolds-Cocroft.

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION -
ELECTION REGULATIONS**

Proposer: C Jenkinson

Seconder: R Pinfold

THIS COUNCIL NOTES

1. Clause F.4.6 (Election Regulations) of the Constitution:-

"The polling stations in all elections shall be in the foyers of the Steve Biko and Barnes Wallis Buildings and shall be open from 10 am to 6 pm on each day of polling. Polling times must be extended to 8 pm on one day, except the day of the count".

2. That turnout at last year's Executive Candidate's Hustings consisted of fewer than ten members who were not candidates.

3. That the membership of our Union exceeds 40,000.

4. That turnout at the last annual election was less than 10% of our Union's membership.

5. Clause F.7.6 (Election Regulations) of the Constitution:-

"All Executive Candidates shall be required to attend a hustings, which the Returning Officer shall organise and publicise. Hustings shall not be held in the bar."

6. Clause F.7.2.8 (Election Regulations) of the Union Constitution:-

“Any e-mail messages supporting an individual candidate or group of candidates must be approved by the Returning Officer before transmission. Other forms of electronic publicity such was [sic] websites, e-groups and blogs shall not be used for the purpose of publicising or campaigning for or against any candidate or group of candidates.”

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7. The relatively high turnout at the November 12th 2007 General Meeting, which was heavily promoted both in the ‘analogue’ and ‘digital’ world.

THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES

1. Developing the engagement of students with our Union is important.
2. That attempts should be made to increase member turnout in the upcoming elections.
3. A substantial number of students would take advantage of their democratic right to vote in Union elections with a polling station in the Owens Park complex.
4. That Executive candidates’ Hustings have the potential to become a valuable tool in increasing voter awareness and promoting greater engagement.
5. That many Union members would benefit from the opportunity to view the Hustings online.
6. That any attempt to enable or increase ‘digital’ promotion of Union elections should not be interpreted as a move to curtail the benefits of ‘analogue’ electioneering.
7. That fair publicity, campaigning and discussion of elections is a basic democratic right of our Union membership and attempts to infringe upon this right will be interpreted as an attack on freedom of speech.
8. That due to the dynamic nature of electronic publicity and the opportunity for open discussion, prior approval for such publicity would be unworkable. Therefore electronic publicity should be subject to retrospective review by the Returning Officer.
9. That it is utterly bizarre for the Union to ban forms of communication that are widely used by our membership.
10. That failure to amend the clause will result in widespread flouting and encourage sentiment that the Union is out of touch with its membership.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. To support efforts our Elections Advisory Committee in overseeing fair and democratic elections.
2. To support our membership’s right to the free and fair discussion that is important in any healthy democracy.
3. To amend clause F.4.6 to read as follows:-

“The polling station in all elections shall be in the foyers of the Steve Biko and Barnes Wallis buildings and in the Owens Park complex. Polling stations in the Steve Bike and Barnes Wallis buildings shall be open from 10 am to 6 pm on each day of polling. Polling times in the Steve Biko building must be extended to 8 pm on one day, except the day of the count.”

4. To support our Returning Officer’s efforts to publicise this year’s Hustings and help to ensure that members know about their opportunity to meet the Executive candidates in person and ask questions.

5. To make a video recording of the Hustings available online.

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6. To amend Clause F.7.6 to read as follows:-

“All Executive candidates shall be required to attend a Hustings, which the Returning Officer shall organise and publicise. Hustings shall not be held in the bar. The Hustings shall be video recorded and made available as soon as possible via the official Union website, until the close of polling”.

7. To amend Clause F.7.2.8 to read as follows:-

“All forms of electronic publicity including, but not exclusively, websites, e-groups, emails and blogs shall be permitted without prior approval. Electronic publicity may be subject to retrospective review by the Returning Officer. Any expenses incurred in the production of electronic publicity must be declared by the candidate.”

C Jenkinson “To take the motion in parts”

Carried

C Jenkinson “To amend Clause F.7.6 as follows:
“All Executive candidates shall be required to attend a Hustings, which the Returning Officer shall organise and publicise. Hustings shall not be held in the bar. The Hustings shall be video recorded and made available as soon as possible via the official Union website, until the close of polling”

A Cunningham “To go straight to the vote”

Defeated

A Castro “The whole motion be revised and resubmitted to a later meeting”

Defeated

C Jenkinson “There be a Division List”

Carried

Vote on Motion:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTIONS
A Cull	F Ahmad	S Mahmood
		B Craig

A James	A Ahmed	S McGuirk	T Jacko
C Henkinson	H Ahmed	I Musa	J Meddemmen
M Joslin	S Alam	A Naqvi	
J Killip	B Al-Kiyumi	N Rahman	
D Koole	S Ali	E Randall	
M Livingston	S Asghar	K Raus	
S Lyons	M Assim	T Skinner	
G Mahalla	A Castro	L Zafrani	
R Pinfold	A Cunningham	S Davies	
A Rowley	A Hodges		
R Scher	S Khan		
G Smith	F Kutubudin	13 : 23 :3	
		Defeated	

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C Jenkinson *"To amend clause F.4.6 to read as follows:-
 "The polling stations in all elections shall be in the foyers of the Steve Biko and Barnes Wallis buildings and in the Owens Park complex. Polling stations in the Steve Biko and Barnes Wallis buildings shall be open from 10 am to 6 pm on each day of polling. Polling times in the Steve Biko building must be extended to 8 pm on one day, except the day of the count"*

"There be a Division List"

Carried

Vote on Motion:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTIONS
A Cull	F Ahmad	A Naqvi
A Hodges	A Ahmed	N Rahman
A James	H Ahmed	E Randall
C Jenkinson	S Alam	K Raus
M Joslin	B Al-Kiyumi	T Skinner
J Killip	S Ali	L Safrani
D Koole	S Asghar	
M Livingston	M Assim	
S Lyons	A Castro	
G Mahalla	A Cunningham	
S McGuirk	S Davies	
R Pinfold	S Khan	
A Rowley	F Kutubudin	
R Scher	S Mahmood	
G Smith	I Musa	15 : 21 : 3
		Defeated

B Craig
A Cull
S Davies
A James
C Jenkinson
M Joslin
J Killip
D Koole
M Livingston
G Mahalla
S McGuirk
J Meddemmen
R Pinfold
E Randall
A Rowley
R Scher
G Smith

A Ahmed
H Ahmed
S Alam
S Ali
S Asghar
M Assim
A Castro
A Cunningham
A Hodges
S Khan
F Kutubudin
S Mahmood
I Musa
A Naqvi
N Rahman
K Raus
T Skinner
L Zafrani

18 : 19 : 1
Defeated

MEETING CLOSED : 8.05 P.M.