

Representation Voting Accountability

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UNION NOTES:

1. The Students' Union is responsible for the election of representatives ('reps') for courses, portfolio and Faculty positions.
2. The Students' Union has representation as one of its core values.
3. Elected reps have voting rights at Union Council (UC), and are in privileged positions to change the direction of the Students' Union and represent the views of the student's that they are speaking on behalf for.
4. Portfolio and Faculty Reps have to provide reports to Union Council to demonstrate accountability.
5. Whilst we have successfully reached quorate in previous Union Council's, there has been a considerably disproportionate amount of individual voters compared to the total number of reps.
6. In the past, there has been a case where an otherwise successful policy did NOT pass due to not reaching quorate (39 votes). Students were not able to provide an abstention vote, which could have otherwise passed the policy.

UNION BELIEVES:

1. Reps that do not vote at all prevent student voices from being heard at a Union Level.
2. Reps should be able to be held accountable by the student membership that they represent, which is accessible and visible.
3. Abstentions are still legitimate votes, and should be provided to reps during the voting process.

UNION RESOLVES:

1. To provide a means for students to be aware of what their reps have voted for/abstain/against, and where possible encourage students to question their reps on voting choices.
2. To provide reps during voting periods an option to cast an abstain vote which is still tallied, but does not affect the swinging of the vote.
3. To mandate that reps that do not cast a vote at all (rep does not vote for/against or abstains) are treated as not performing their duties, and are held to account through the 'Inactive/Ineffective Reps' section of the Students' Union Articles and Bye Laws