

Special Resolution

This special resolution proposes that KCLSU no longer annually elect their 4 student trustees, but instead appoint them from amongst the student body. This has been proposed for the following reasons:

Improve the Diversity of the Board: We currently have a lack of diversity in our trustee board. By moving to an application and appointments-based process we will be able to look at the current balance of the Board and specifically seek student trustee candidates from different parts of the student body to improve our diversity. This might be to invite applications from postgraduate students or students based at a particular campus, involve international or mature students or seek a better balance in gender or improved diversity through engaging with the disabled student community.


Improve Accessibility: not all students are willing to put themselves through an elections process and not all students vote in elections. An application and selection process removes barriers so more students will feel able to put themselves forward for a role. An application and interview process also supports students in preparing to apply and have interviews for a job – though it will be a much simpler process.

Ensure student trustees meet their commitment: Each year we find that many student trustees don't become active and engaged members of the trustee board. It is an important, and legally responsible role so it is vital that all trustees engage, attend meetings and take the role seriously. There is a correlation between going through an interview process and the level of commitment someone shows to a role and this is true for student trustees as well. There is also greater opportunity through the interview and appointment process to discuss with applicants what is expected and ensure they will make the necessary commitment.

Recognise the student trustee role is a non-representative role: currently student trustees are elected and stand on a manifesto of the things they want to achieve in their year. This directly counters to the role they then undertake. The key fact is that the Trustee role is not a representative role. Even the Officers, whom you as students have elected are not representatives when they attend the Board meeting. They bring that perspective and understanding and through their role can sound out students on issues the Board is considering but at the meeting they have to make decisions for the best interests of the charity – for students – as a whole and not based on a specific manifesto point. Student Trustees are to bring their different experiences and backgrounds as a student but they do not seek the views and opinions of the student body, and are not meant to do so. So to elect them rather than follow an application and appointment process is unhelpful.

Broaden the skills set and voices at the Trustee Board table: By inviting applications the board can encourage the widest range of skills and experiences that it needs to function properly. With our student and lay trustees we would particularly look to have experiences covering finance, business and management, different course of campus location experiences, international and UK based trustees, skills such as strategy, legal or governance, different levels of study and types of learner. Each year we would look at the incoming officer group, the existing lay trustees and then seek to balance the skills, perspectives and experience with the open recruitment process for student trustees as well as any lay trustee vacancies that may be coming up that year.

A vote was taken by non-conflicted members of the Board of Trustees at a Board meeting duly convened and held at: Impact Hub, 34b York Way, King's Cross, London, N1 9AB on the following date: 25th February 2020.



The following resolution listed under special resolution 1 was passed as special resolutions by the Board of Trustees for King's College London Students' Union, for consideration and approval by King's College London Students' Union's Annual General Meeting.

(1) Special Resolution 1

To replace the below points

1. 28.2 not more than four Student Trustees, elected in accordance with Article 30; and
2. 30.1 Subject to Article 30.2 below, Student Trustees shall be elected by secret ballot by the Members at an election to be held in accordance with the Bye-Laws.
3. 30.2 Each Student Trustee must be a Student at the time of their election and for the duration of their term as a Student Trustee.

With

1. 28.2 not more than four Student Trustees, appointed in accordance with Article 30; and
2. 30.1 Subject to Article 30.2 below, Student Trustees shall be appointed via a selected method approved by the board of trustees and feature in KCLSU bye-laws.
3. 30.2 Each Student Trustee must be a Student at the time of their appointment and for the duration of their term as a Student Trustee.