

Policy Proposal:

Date:
10/09/2025

Proposer/s:
Union Voice Team

Current Policy/Situation

What happens at the moment?

Standing Orders 1, 2, and 7 currently cover the Union's Code of Practice, Memberships, and Disciplinary and Appeals Procedure respectively. These can be viewed on the Union website via this link - <https://www.derbyunion.co.uk/pageassets/change/governance/Standing-Orders-February-2025-v2.pdf>

New Proposal

What is your new proposal? This must include the exact wording that you would like in the Standing Orders?

This proposal is to update some terminology in all three sections to be in line with changing societies and clubs to Communities, and the new democratic meeting structures, including how honorary life membership will be awarded.

All changes can be seen below, with everything being removed shown crossed through in blue, and everything being added shown in red.:

Standing Order 1

1.8. Allocation of Resources to ~~the Sports and Union Societies~~ **Communities**

The Union shall publish annually the procedure for allocating resources to ~~the Sports Clubs and Union Societies~~ **Communities**. This shall be freely available to any registered member upon written application to the President.

Standing Order 2

2.1 Full Membership

2.1.4. The consequences for a registered student of the University of Derby opting out of their membership to the Union are as follows:

- 2.1.4.1. Non-members are not permitted to vote in the Union elections or Referenda;
- 2.1.4.2. Non-members are not allowed to stand as a candidate in any elections in the Union;
- 2.1.4.3. Non-members may join any ~~Sports Club or Union Society~~ **Community** and will be covered by the Union insurance, but are not entitled to hold a committee position on any ~~club or society~~ **Community**;

2.2 Associate Membership

2.2.2. Associate members may become a member of any ~~Sports Club, Union Society or Student-Led Service~~ **Community**, and participate in the Union's organised events, ~~and use the Union's bars and clubs at the discretion of the organising committees or license holders~~;

2.2.3. Associate members may not:

- 2.2.3.1. Participate in the governance of the Union and do not hold an eligible vote in any election process; or
- 2.2.3.2. Hold a committee position on any ~~club or society~~ **Community**.

2.3. Honorary Life Membership

2.3.1. Honorary Life Membership may only be conferred ~~by~~ **at** the ~~Union Meeting~~ **Union Meeting** ~~Scrutiny Panel~~.

2.3.5. The maximum number of Honorary Life Memberships available each year shall be limited to four plus the number of Executive Officer and Student Trustees at the end of term of office. This means that the **Union Meeting Scrutiny Panel** must consider the merits of each application based on the nominees' contribution to the Union.

Standing Order 7

7.4. The Disciplinary Procedure

7.4.4. The disciplinary meetings will be made up of:

7.4.4.1. Three student members **engaged with Union** selected at random from below, who have had no prior involvement in the matter:

7.4.4.1.1. **Societies Communities** Committee Members

7.4.4.1.2. **Societies Communities** Councillors

~~7.4.4.1.3. Sport Committee Members~~

~~7.4.4.1.4. Sport Councillors~~

7.4.4.1.5. Student **Leaders Officers**

~~7.4.4.1.6. Student Led Service Committee Members~~

Outcome	Time Scale	Support Offered	Staff informed
Permanently excluded or temporarily suspended of role e.g. Student Leader Officer , Representative, Community Society , Club and or Communities Committee positions	Set time period or indefinitely	Union of Students Advice Service Student Wellbeing Centre	Relevant Union staff and University staff

7.6. Appeals

7.6.4. The panel will consist of:

7.6.4.1. Three student members selected at random from below who have had no prior involvement in the matter:

7.6.4.1.1. **Societies Communities** Committee Members

7.6.4.1.2. **Societies Communities** Councillors

~~7.6.4.1.3. Sports Committee Members~~

7.6.4.1.4. Student **Leaders Officers**

~~7.6.4.1.5. Sport Councillors~~

~~7.6.4.1.6. Student Led Service Committee Members~~

Rationale for the change

What are the pros and cons of the change? How will any cons be managed/mitigated?

This proposal is to update some terminology in all three sections to be in line with changing societies and clubs to Communities, and the new democratic meeting structures.

What consideration or consultation have you taken prior to submitting this proposal? *All proposals go the exec team to be confirmed, so having insufficient consultation/consideration could mean the proposal is rejected.*

Discussions were had with the Societies Council about the proposed changes, and with Adam and Jonathan in the Chaplaincy about the negative impacts the current structure was having on Faith and Belief societies.

Have you considered any impact of the new proposal on any of the protected characteristics as listed in the Equality Act 2010? *What are the impacts and how will any negative impacts be managed/mitigated? For more information on the protected characteristics please see [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)*

There has been recognition that there should be more support for protected characteristics groups after some societies for these groups ceased.

Appendices *if necessary.*