

Policy Proposal:

Date:
28/04/2026

Proposer/s:
Eleanor Humphrey

Current Policy/Situation

What happens at the moment?

We currently have two Student Community Assemblies throughout the academic year: the Sports Communities Assemblies and the Communities Assemblies. These assemblies are used to support committee members through the academic year and a communication link between communities and the wider Union. In doing so, they help ensure that student communities remain active, representative, and aligned with the Union's priorities for engagement and inclusion.

New Proposal

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

This proposal updates and replaces the Standing Orders with the removal of Communities Assemblies to only be Sports Communities Assemblies as shown below (additions in red):

8.15. The Student **Sport Communities Assemblies**

8.15.1. Student **Sport** Communities will hold a minimum of 2 Assemblies (General Meetings) per semester attended by all **Sport** Communities Committees. The Student Communities AGM would constitute one of these meetings.

8.15.2. These will be convened and chaired by the Vice-President (Communities).

8.15.3. Student **Sport** Communities Assemblies will be used to:

8.15.3.1. Provide updates to Communities from the Union, Vice-President (Communities) and **Sport** Communities Councils; and

8.15.3.2. Provide the opportunity for **Sport** Communities to feed back to their elected Representatives.

8.15.4. If a **Sport** Community fails to attend three consecutive Student Communities Assemblies, the Communities Councils, upon recommendation from the Vice-President (Communities), shall consider taking any appropriate action against the Community. Actions may include:

8.15.4.1. Suspending the **Sport** Community's financial support for a defined period;

8.15.4.2. Disaffiliating the **Sport** Community from the Union, preventing any activity from taking place.

8.15.5. Any **Sport** Community member may request agenda items by submitting their request to the Vice-President (Communities) at least seven working days prior to the meeting.

8.15.6. The Vice-President (Communities) or their nominee shall publicise the meeting and confirmed agenda at least five working days in advance to the **Sport** Community Committees and on the Union website.

8.15.7. All Student **Sport** Communities Assemblies shall have recorded minutes.

8.15.8. The minutes will be made available on the Union website.

8.15.9. Quorum for Student **Sport** Communities Assemblies shall be 50% of all affiliated Communities.

8.15.10. Only full members of the **Sport** Communities Committees will have voting rights for the Student Communities Assemblies.

8.15.11. All decisions voted in by the Student **Sport** Communities Assemblies shall be binding for all Communities.

Rationale for the change

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

The proposed changes to the Assembly structure are being introduced in partnership with the wider developments outlined through the Student Voice Review. These changes are intended to ensure that representative structures remain aligned with the Union's evolving approach to student engagement, decision-making, and community participation.

In particular, alongside the removal of the Communities Council and the continuation of the Sports Communities Council, the revised Assembly arrangements reflect a shift towards a more streamlined and effective system of representation. The updated Assembly structure is designed to better support communication between student groups and the Union, strengthen opportunities for student voice to inform decision-making, and ensure that representative spaces remain active, accessible, and meaningful for those involved.

Collectively, these changes embody the transition to the new representative framework, ensuring that Assembly structures continue to operate as a central mechanism for engagement within the Union's wider student voice system.

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.*

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)*

Appendices *if necessary.*