

Draft Laws Working Group

Monday 23rd February

Small Rehearsal Room

16:05 – 17:05

Minutes

Present: Elise Bateman (EB), RoMo (RM), Jonathan Moore (JM), Trinity Gortschacher (TG), Anna Di Bona (ADB), Cecilia Kirchner (CK), Jacob Carey (JC), Jack McNealy (JMc), Cam Brown (CB), Ava Byrne (AB), Holly McDonald (HMc).

Minutes by: HMc

The meeting consisted of robust discussion on the following sections of the Laws.

Union Executive (4)

- JC raised some questions about how the Union Executive is raised at in a later Law (6.2) again, and asked for clarity on where it should sit.
- EB agreed there was duplication. JC suggested adding chairs into Law 5. RoMo agreed.
- EB agreed to remove the relevant section about UE in 6.2. JC also suggested adding more detail about Chair role descriptions.
- ADB suggested that section 6 asked for clarity on language of chairing Forum Executives.

Societies (10)

- JC felt this Law seems a little confused, including around grants. Proposed Societies Network should review and update accordingly. EB & RoMo agreed.

Association Representative Officers (5)

- JMc raised that role descriptions of officers may need review. EB agreed and advocated for brevity, and had previously advocated for links to additional documents.

ASF (6.1)

- There was a discussion about the Principal Ambassador role, with the group noting they aren't part of the Union structures.
- CB suggested reaching out to them to find out if they'd like to be involved. JMc agreed to reach out.

Member Discipline (11)

- Questions were raised about (11, 3, 2,2, statutory offences)
 - 'smoking or vaping in Association premises.' CB noted that vaping in 601 had been 'unbanned' by the Operations Team due to customer removals from the building. TG agreed. EB to follow up with CC.
 - JMc also noted we have a smoking area so that needs to be clarified, and there is a point elsewhere about language for who may be eligible to drink.
- ADB suggested that in 3.2.5 we remove 'a member' change to 'someone'
- Unauthorised access may need a section on jumping over walls given recent behaviours (11, 3, 2(4)) – authorised access
- JMc asked how customers engaging in sex acts in the Union ought to be sanctioned. EB to review policies at other unions.
- EB said Law 11 needs to be checked over by other staff teams anyway.

Recall

- JM sought clarification on whether elected officer recall is for Exec Officers only, or is this applies to other elected positions.
- EB thinks it applies to Exec Officers only.
- CB said 4.6 should be removed as it's a Board matter, and this Law was designed to clarify issues of VoNCs for Exec Officers, and some other sections which applied previously.
- JC highlighted that there are society processes that exist for removal.
- CB said that it was Law was originally built for Exec Officers, and said that the 200 number should be different depending on the officer role.
- ADB said there should be a mechanism for this for Forum Chairs.

Misc

- Generally advocated for using pdf with headings for easier formatting. JMc advocated for Georgia typeface for accessibility. RoMo suggests checking with DSN.
- JC – financial cascade policy isn't published to their knowledge. They suggested including it within the Laws as it's referenced within this.
 - CB: the old policy was removed as it was outdated. It will need to be updated with new titles.
 - It was noted that there is another reference to this within referenda which may be best removed
- JM noted they had removed financial cascade previously from elected officer recall law
- JC mentioned Co-ordinators aren't mentioned in the Laws, and suggested there could be reference to when the Co-ordinators could be called upon (e.g. society arbitration), and where volunteers are not undertaking those tasks.

Student feedback document

- There was a short discussion on some student feedback linked to EHRC guidance, and how these feeds into the relevant Law. JC referenced the external speaker's policy and tying this in generally.
 - HMc gave a short background on this.
 - JC and RoMo said this should form part of society affiliation/training
 - ADB sought some clarity on 'disrepute' as language suggested that disrepute may extend beyond the society/network the student is part of.
- JC suggested removing guest references into a separate policy for ease
- Principles of equality of opportunity (p8) not outlined so either remove or expand elsewhere
- With respect to removal of appointed officers there was some suggestion of giving this to a relevant Co-ordinator/HoSE.

AOB

- CB referred to the Recall Law, which states that officers couldn't be eligible to re-run for 2 years when not found guilty of a serious conduct offence.
 - Group felt there was a difference between conduct issue vs political type of removal.
 - TG suggested there could be different avenues for action/escalation where there is a conduct issue in the recall, relative to a political issue (i.e. not fulfilling role requirements). Where political, they should be able to re-run within 2 years (where conduct based, probably not). RoMo asked if TG could draft a version of this.
- JMc said that we should be able to remove Forum Chairs from the Union Executive in their capacity as Forum Chair, whilst keeping their elected officer role.

Actions:

Action	Responsible parties	Status
Reach out to Principal Ambassador RE involvement with Union	JMc	
Check font with DSN	HMc	
Review Socs Law (10)	Socs Network	
Check with CS on guest policy	EB	
Write role descriptions for Forum Chairs	JMc & JC	
Draft recall language distinguishing between political vs conduct removal	TG	