

J20-19 A proposal to restructure the Charity nomination and voting process.

In affect from: Immediately

Review date: April 2021

Owner: Amy Feakes

It is noted that:

1. The Charities Campaign supports a local, national and international charity each academic year. These charities are nominated by students and voted by students.
2. The current process results in a voting form as found in Appendix A, with 27 charities to choose between in the national category.
3. The proposed new system will be made up of three steps: nominating, shortlisting and electing.
4. In the proposed new system, any matriculated student is able to nominate a charity, with their nomination they will be required to submit an amicus brief, arguing why supporting the nominated charity is in the best interest of the student body.
5. In the proposed system there will be a shortlisting panel made up of 7 functionary members, with the role of reducing the nominated charities down to a maximum of 5 per category to be taken to the election.

It is believed that:

1. The current process is lengthy with far too many charities for students to choose from, putting students off voting all together. For those who do vote it is so saturated leaving the results with no clear winner by majority.
2. By adding an intermediate step between nomination and electing, the shortlisting process, we will be able to help to support charities of interest to the student body and the Campaign.
3. If charities per category are capped to a maximum of 5, the time taken for students to read through the nominations and vote will be reduced, in theory, increasing the amount of willing voters.
4. The Campaign will benefit if the charities supported are interested in working and communicating with us through events that raise awareness and link to the charities. This will be achieved in the new process by the shortlisting panel considering the application form filled in by the nominated charities.
5. The proposed system will still give an outcome of “student nominated” charities.
6. By tightening the criteria of the charities in which the Campaign is able to support we will be able to safeguard the Campaign and the Student’s Association from any backlash.
7. The Charities Campaign executive committee has worked collectively to create the new system.

It is resolved to:

1. To update Chapter 13 Section 5 of the Laws to create a new process for the yearly nominations of the charities which the Campaign supports.
2. To remove the current section 5 of the University Charities Campaign Constitution in Appendix B and replace it with Appendix C.

Proposer

Amy Feakes – SSC Charities Officer

Secunder

Toni Valencia – SSC Member without Portfolio

Emma Walsh – Director of Wellbeing

Gavin Sanford – Director of Student Development and Activities

Appendix A: Screenshot of ballot last year

National Charity

The following candidates are standing for the position of National Charity. Please choose candidates in order of preference. You can make as many or as few choices as you would like.

Candidate	Vote																											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Shelter Scotland																												
Shelter Scotland is the national housing and homelessness charity. We work to alleviate the distress caused by homelessness and bad housing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We do this by giving advice, information and advocacy to people in housing need, and by campaigning for lasting policy change to end the housing crisis for good.																												
We strive every day to give people the help they need and we campaign relentlessly to achieve our vision of a safe, secure and affordable home for everyone.																												

Appendix B: Excerpt from the Chapter 13 of the current laws

5. Charities Supported by the Campaign

- 5.1 The election of these charities shall not take place at the AGM, but instead at a specially arranged time. There shall be one UK charity, one Fife charity, and one international charity elected according to Nominations Policy. From time to time the Campaign may, with the agreement of the Executive, raise funds for groups other than these nominated charities.
- 5.2 The executive committee reserves the right to disallow nominations for charities that they do not deem appropriate to raise funds for. E.g. Charities which distribute grants to other causes for whom we could be raising funds for directly, charities that do not provide sufficient public information and charities that do not adhere to the policies held by the Students' Association.
- 5.3 Any charity holding the title of 'Official Supported Charity' of the Charities Campaign will be ineligible to seek nomination for two years following successful election as a supported charity.

Appendix C: Proposed Updated to Section 5 of Chapter 13 of the laws

1. Charities supported by the Campaign

- 1.1. The election of these charities shall not take place at the AGM, but instead at a specially arranged time. There shall be one Fife charity, one UK charity, and one international charity elected according to selection process laid out below.
- 1.2. Nomination process

1.2.1. Any matriculate student is allowed to nominate charities which they deem to be beneficial for the student body to support, over a week long period in Semester 2. As part of nominating the charity an amicus brief must be submitted.

1.2.1.1. The amicus brief should argue why supporting the nominated charity is in the best interest of the student body.

1.3. Application process

1.3.1. As Charities are nominated the Campaign will check that they meet the following criteria.

1.3.1.1. Any nominated charity holding the title of ‘Official Supported Charity’ of the Charities Campaign in the previous two year will be ineligible.

1.3.1.2. Charities must have a UK registered charity number

1.3.1.3. A UK office address

1.3.1.4. Have no explicit religious or political affiliations.

1.3.1.5. They must not be third party charities.

1.3.2. If they have met the criteria, an application form will be sent to the charities to collect further information.

1.3.2.1. The charities must reply in a timely manner, within a two week period to allow shortlisting to go ahead without delay.

1.4. Shortlisting

1.4.1. Charities will then be shortlisted to a maximum of five charities in each category (local, national and international) by the Shortlisting Panel, to create an accessible voting process.

1.4.1.1. Shortlisting will be conducted by a panel of both mediatory and functionary members.

1.4.1.1.1. The members who serve in a mediatory capacity will be the Campaign convenor and secretary.

1.4.1.1.2. The members who serve a functionary role will include: the DoSDA, the DoWell, three co-opting members of the Campaign Executive committee and two ordinary co-opted members (one honours and one sub-honours).

1.4.2. The functionary members have to choose charities without bias in the best interests of the student body and the campaign.

1.4.3. Members of the shortlisting panel cannot nominate charities.

1.4.4. The shortlisting panel should make their decision based on the following criteria

1.4.4.1. Charities should be in the interest of the student body

1.4.4.2. Select the final shortlisted charities that cover a variety of causes

1.4.4.3. Past actions and beliefs of the charities should be considered to safeguard from backlash to the Campaign and the Student’s Association.

1.5. Elections

1.5.1. Voting of the shortlisted charities will be open to the student body during the Student

Association Elections.

1.6. Other Charities

1.6.1. Executive committee reserves the right to disallow nominations for charities that they do not deem appropriate to raise funds for. E.g. Charities which distribute grants to other causes for whom we could be raising funds for directly, charities that do not provide sufficient public information and charities that do not adhere to the policies held by the Students' Association.