



University of St Andrews Students' Association Student Representative Council

Motion to change from 'Sabbatical Officers' to 'Executive Team.'

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This SRC notes:

1. The term 'sabbatical' generally refers to a "period of leave from...[a] profession or occupation," according to the Oxford English Dictionary.¹
2. Prior to 2024 at St Andrews, all Sabbatical Officer roles were full-time paid roles, in which students either took a break in their studies to complete their term(s) of office, or took on the post after graduating.
3. Increasingly, more Sabbatical Officers have taken office after graduation, and afterwards moved on to opportunities away from St Andrews, rather than returning to full-time study.
4. At the beginning of this academic year, we moved to include the PGT and PGR Presidents as part-time Sabbs under the Change Programme, whereby these roles were now paid and would be treated with the same authority as full-time Sabbs, with the exception of trustee status.
5. The use of the term 'Sabbatical Officers' has created some confusion in the University around the status of the PGT and PGR Presidents.
6. A title change would have no bearing on visa status for full-time or part-time paid officers, on pay, or that these officers may only have two terms in office (as under Section 22(2) of the Education Act, 1994²).

¹ Oxford English Dictionary (revised 2023), 'Sabbatical.' Available at: https://www.oed.com/dictionary/sabbatical_adj?tab=meaning_and_use#24579439 (Accessed 21/01/2025).

² *Education Act 1994, c.30*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1994/30/section/22> (Accessed 14/01/2025)

7. Other student unions use the term 'Executive,' including the University of Manchester Students' Union³, Dundee University Students' Association⁴, Leeds University Union⁵, and University of Strathclyde Students' Association⁶.

This SRC believes:

1. 'Executive Team' better encompasses the status of most of the students who become what is currently termed as Sabbatical Officers.
2. 'Executive' is a more recognised word within the sector, and changing our language accordingly would align us better with sector peers.

This SRC resolves:

1. To change references to 'Sabbatical Officers' or 'Sabbs' in Association documents and communications to 'Executive Team' or 'Exec.'

³ University of Manchester Students' Union, *Your 2024/25 Exec Team*.

<https://manchesterstudentsunion.com/execteam> (Accessed 14/01/2025)

⁴ DUSA, *DUSA Executive*. <https://www.dusa.co.uk/student-executive> (Accessed 14/01/2025)

⁵ Leeds University Union, *Your Student Exec*. <https://www.luu.org.uk/student-voice/your-student-exec/> (Accessed 14/01/2025)

⁶ Strath Union, *Your Officers*. <https://www.strathunion.com/voice/studentexec/> (Accessed 14/01/2025)