

S20-6 Motion to Change the Role of Access Representative to Widening Representation Officer

Owner: Toni Valencia

In Effect From: Immediately

Review Date: February 25, 2020

Proposer

Toni Valencia – SSC Debates Officer

Seconders

Markus Lee - SSC Societies Officer

Gavin Sandford - SSC Member without Portfolio

Shaina Sullivan - DoSDA

It is noted that:

1. The Union Debating Society currently co-opts an Access Representative from the existing Board of Ten.
2. Debate competitions incorporate the role of an Equity Officer responsible for ensuring participant welfare and discipline at competitions. Other debating societies also include this role on the committee.
3. An increasing number of competitions also incorporate the role of an Access Officer responsible for ensuring disability access at the competition.

It is believed that:

1. There has previously been confusion between the role of the Access Officer on the Board of Ten and an Equity or Access Officer at debate competitions convened by the Union Debating Society.
2. The role of Access Officer in the Board of Ten is aimed at improving outreach of the UDS to groups who would not otherwise get involved in debating.
3. This role is distinct from, and may require different skills from, an Equity or Access Officer at a debate competition.
4. The title and description of the role should reflect this distinction.

It is resolved to:

1. Update Chapter 14 Section 3.2.13 which currently reads:

3.2.13 The Access Representative will have responsibility for widening access strategy and ad-hoc projects and shall be co-opted from the elected board.

so that it reads:

3.2.13 The Widening Representation Officer shall be responsible for working to improve access to debating to students from all backgrounds. They shall be co-opted from the existing board. The role is distinct from one of an Equity or Access Officer at a debate competition.