

<b>Motion title</b>	Introducing Sub-Councils and Increasing Student Engagement with Student Council
<b>Proposer</b>	<i>Bianca Holland (Education and Community Officer)</i>
<b>Seconder</b>	<i>Iffat Jahan (Welfare and Diversity Officer)</i>
<b>Motion Summary</b>	<p><i>This motion proposes updates to the Students' Union way in which your voice is represented - this is called our democratic structure!</i></p> <p><i>This change involves introducing sub-councils into the student council. There will be sub-councils in Education and Community, Welfare and Diversity, and Activities and Opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>It aims to address low participation, minimum participation needed to make decisions (known as Quoracy) and ineffective representation seen in previous 'Zone' meetings and Student Councils.</i></p> <p><i>By broadening membership, making representation more accessible, fair, and participatory for everyone, and streamlining decision-making, we aim to significantly enhance student engagement and participation.</i></p>
<b>Union Notes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Students' Union previously used a 'Zone' structure made of three zones each Zone was led by a full-time officer and included relevant Network Leads.</li> <li>2. This structure often struggled in practice. Zone meetings regularly didn't take place, and 27% of Network Lead positions were left unfilled.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The Student Council also faced challenges. 3 out of 4 meetings failed to meet quorum (this means less than 9 people were present for those 3 meetings).</li> <li>4. Most policies came from officers, with no proposals submitted directly by student councillors.</li> <li>5. At the SU's Annual General Meeting, a policy was passed asking for the democratic structures to be "re-imagined".</li> </ol>
<b>Union Believes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Democratic engagement works best when students have clear, direct ways to take part in decision-making.</li> <li>2. The Students' Union must stay student-led and accessible, with democratic structures where all students can participate.</li> <li>3. The increased memberships and accessibility of Sub-Councils give more students the chance to use their voice and engage in Union democracy, especially those already active as reps across different parts of the SU.</li> <li>4. While the new structure mainly supports those already elected or involved, other SU feedback tools remain essential to capture wider student views and contributions.</li> </ol>
<b>Union Resolves</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update the Byelaws on the official University of Gloucestershire Students' Union website to reflect the changes outlined in appendix one clearly and transparently.</li> <li>2. Establish and run the new version of Student Council as described in the updated Byelaws, commencing from the academic year 2025/26 and continuing thereafter.</li> <li>3. Establish and run the three Sub-Councils (Education and Community, Welfare and Diversity, Activities and Opportunities) as outlined in the updated Byelaws, commencing from the academic year 2025/26 and continuing thereafter.</li> <li>4. Commit to ongoing evaluation of this democratic structure to ensure it remains effective, accessible, and responsive to student needs, making adjustments based on clear evidence and student feedback.</li> </ol>