

Motion title	Introducing Sub-Councils and Increasing Student Engagement with Student Council
Proposer	<i>Bianca Holland (Education and Community Officer)</i>
Seconder	<i>Iffat Jahan (Welfare and Diversity Officer)</i>
Motion Summary	<i>This motion proposes significant updates to the Students' Union democratic structure by introducing Student Council Sub-Councils in Education and Community, Welfare and Diversity, and Activities and Opportunities. It aims to address low participation, quoracy challenges, and ineffective representation seen in previous Zone meetings and Student Councils. By broadening membership, democratising representation, and streamlining decision-making, we aim to significantly enhance student engagement and participation.</i>
Union Notes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The previous democratic structure used Zones (Education and Community, Welfare and Diversity, Activities and Opportunities), each led by a full-time officer and attended by specific Network Leads. 2. Zone meetings regularly failed to occur, and 27% of elected Network Lead roles were left vacant. 3. 3 out of 4 Student Councils failed to meet the required quoracy (9 of 16 voting members present). 4. Policies were largely submitted by officers, with no policy submissions coming directly from students outside these roles. 5. Kit Boulting Hodge, former Education and Community Officer, previously submitted a policy highlighting the need to reform democratic structures, although specifics were not detailed.

Union Believes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Democratic engagement improves significantly when students have more direct opportunities to participate and contribute to decision-making bodies. 2. By increasing membership and accessibility through Sub-Councils, a greater number of students can meaningfully engage in Union democracy, particularly those already involved as Course Reps, Welfare Reps, and Club or Society committee members. 3. The Students' Union should remain student-led and accessible, creating democratic structures where all students can actively participate. 4. Although the proposed structure primarily increases participation among students already elected or engaged, additional tools such as "Voice It" and "Change It" remain vital for capturing broader student perspectives and contributions.
Union Resolves	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the Byelaws on the official University of Gloucestershire Students' Union website to reflect the changes outlined appendix one clearly and transparently. 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. 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. 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.