

Your guide to Student Council

What is Student Council?

The Student Council is the primary mechanism to discuss ideas and create Students' Association policy. It is open for all students to attend and vote, and students are actively encouraged to do so. Meetings contain the following key features:

- 1) You can hear and discuss Sabbatical officers' accountability reports.
- 2) You are given the opportunity to make speeches for or against either a motion or expenditure request. All members are then invited to debate and vote on it.

Discussion of Motions

Student Council is chaired by a trained and impartial Student Council Facilitator to ensure debate is fair and orderly, and in accordance with the Students' Associations' Safe Space Policy. The Facilitator decides the running order of the meeting, which is usually as follows:

- a) Facilitator invites speeches for a motion or expenditure request (usually the proposer of the motion speaks first, or a representative on their behalf)
- b) Speeches for and against amendments (not applicable for expenditure requests)
- c) Vote on amendments (not applicable for expenditure requests)
- d) Speeches against a motion or expenditure request
- e) Summation
- f) Questions and comments
- g) Vote on motion or expenditure request

Voting

Once an issue has been adequately discussed, there will be a vote by paper ballot. Elected Student Council Members are given weighted votes of 1.5, compared to 1 for a vote from an unelected member. Expenditure requests can only be voted on by elected representatives, and thus cannot go to online ballot. The table below explains the different voting outcomes:

If a Motion receives...	<33%	33-67%	67% or more
Ordinary Motion	Motion does not become Association policy	Motion is referred to online ballot	Motion becomes Association policy
Extraordinary Motion	Motion does not become Association policy	Motion does not become Association policy	Motion becomes Association policy

The online ballot

Student Council online ballots take the form of a secret ballot in which all members are asked to vote either for, against or abstain to an Ordinary Motion which has failed to receive enough votes at Student Council. Online ballots will need to obtain a Quorum for motions to pass. An Ordinary Motion (s) will pass at online ballot and become Students' Association policy if a majority of the total votes are in favour and the Quorum is met.