

Rule 11 – Student Groups

A variety of Student Groups may be part of, or affiliate with the Union, this rule outlines the provisions for these groups

1. Provisions for Student Groups

- 1.1 Any group, club, association or society of Union members may be a Union recognised student group, subject to this Rule.
- 1.2 A recognised student group may exist as part of the Union or as a separately constituted group affiliated to the Union.
- 1.3 Student groups must meet the Criteria of Recognition specified in this Rule.
- 1.4 Student groups may receive monies from the Union in accordance with the procedure outlined in this Rule.
- 1.5 All members of the Union are entitled to attend any meeting or event of a student group, regardless of whether they are a member of that group or not, if the meeting takes place on Union premises or involves Union resources. Such persons attending shall be subject to any reasonable condition similarly placed upon members of the student group.

2. Criteria of Recognition

- 2.1 All student groups must meet the following Criteria:
 - (a) The student group does not duplicate the objects and aims of another student group or existing Union activity.
 - (b) The student group is not of a narrow nature likely to lead to a proliferation of groups.
 - (c) The student group has genuinely serious aims and objectives.
 - (d) Membership of the student group is open to all Union members.
 - (e) The student group has a written constitution or By-Law, a copy of which is held by the Union.
 - (f) The student group is viable.
 - (g) The student group must comply with all relevant provisions of the Articles, Rules, By-Laws, and Policies of the Union.
 - (j) The student group is represented by a Zone Committee in its dealings with the Union.

- (k) Substantive changes to the student group are approved by the Democracy Zone. These include: name; zone; amendment to its constitution or By-Law; affiliation to external organisations, and other changes defined in the Democracy Zone By-Laws.

3. Recognition procedure

- 3.1 It is the duty of the Democracy Zone to consider all requests for affiliating a student group. The Committee may resolve to adopt the group as a Union group, affiliate the group, defer the application, or reject the application.
- 3.2 The Democracy Zone must act reasonably and properly in its consideration of requests for affiliating a student group.

4. Derecognition Procedure

- 4.1 The Student Groups Officer, or the elected officers of a student group, may recommend to the Democracy Zone that a student group is defunct. In these circumstances, the Democracy Zone may derecognise the group.
- 4.2 The Democracy Zone may derecognise a student group if it deems that the group does not meet the Criteria of Recognition.
- 4.3 The Democracy Zone reserves the right to summarily derecognise any student group if the Committee deems it fair and proper.

5. Finance

- 5.1 A student group may only receive monies from the Union in accordance with the Articles, Rules, By-Laws, and Policies of the Union.
- 5.2 The Union cannot guarantee to meet the financial needs of every student group however will ensure an equitable system of funding allocation.
- 5.3 The Democracy Zone may, from time to time, make, amend and repeal by-laws relating to the finances of affiliated groups.
- 5.4 The by-laws may include provision in relation to:
 - (a) the submission of budgets and financial reports to the Union, and
 - (b) the use of services provided by the Union to hold funds on behalf of affiliated groups, and the terms and conditions on which those funds may be held.

5.5 In particular, the by-laws may provide that:

- (a) where the Union holds funds on behalf of an affiliated group, and that group is derecognised in accordance with the provisions of section 4 on the grounds that the group has become defunct, then any funds so held by the Union on behalf of the group will be transferred to the Union,
- (b) where a group on whose behalf the Union holds funds is derecognised in accordance with the provisions of section 4 on grounds other than the group having become defunct, the Union will hold those funds for a period of three months, after which they will be transferred to the Union,
- (c) where funds are transferred to the Union under the provisions of such by-laws, the Union may dispose of those funds at their absolute discretion (so long as it remains within the Union's charitable objects, as stated in the Articles of Association).