

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama	13 February 2016
Subject: Amendments to the Students' Union Constitution	
Report of: Students' Union President	Public
Report author: Thomas Steer, Students' Union President	For Decision
Summary	
<p>The SU Constitution was last seen by the Board of Governors on 4 February 2013. According to the terms of that Constitution, the document must be reviewed every five years.</p>	
<h3>Main changes</h3> <p>The principal change in this version of the Constitution is a restructuring of the Executive Committee. From the start of this academic year, each of the positions on the Committee has been paid, which has led to increased interest from students to apply for jobs in the SU. However, feedback from the current officers (Welfare, Events and Admin) has been that their job descriptions do not accurately reflect the workload expected of a paid position. Similarly, parts of the President's job description include remits that line up better with the Executive Committee positions. The position of Vice-President has also been deemed to conflict with the job descriptions of the President and the other Executive Officers. A new structure is therefore proposed, with four Vice-President positions (based on the current Executive Officer positions) created with equal authority. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-President (Academic Affairs) • Vice-President (Finance) • Vice-President (Welfare) • Vice-President (Events) <p>The job descriptions have been re-written to reflect these changes, noting specifically who is responsible for certain tasks, as well as which Presidential duties should be covered by each Vice in the case of absence. The VP (Finance) role has more of a financial focus than its predecessor the Admin Officer, which</p>	

should help to resolve the financial issues that the Union has faced in recent years.

Other changes include the introduction of *Re-Open Nominations* and *Vote of No Confidence*, both of which ensure as democratic a process as possible, whereby no candidate or officer may obtain or keep their position if opposed by the Student body.

A clause has been introduced ensuring that either the President or a Vice-President is present at each Board of Governors meeting.

Finally, the whole document has been reviewed to ensure that it is as clear as possible, with clarifying clauses introduced and revisions to the wording included where necessary.

The changes (in **bold** and ~~strikethrough~~) have been approved by the SU Parliament and the Senior Management Team.

Going forward the SU would like a non-School member of the Board of Governors to be a nominated point of contact and source of guidance to assist the Executive Committee in running the SU professionally. This will be considered by the Governance & Effectiveness Committee.

Recommendation: the Board is asked to approve the amendments to the Students' Union constitution for implementation for 2017/18 and the elections of officers for 2017/18 taking place in the Summer term 2017.

To note: the approval of the constitution by the Board of Governors will affect the membership of the School's Academic Board for 2017/18 onwards. The current provision in the membership for the attendance of the Executive Office (Welfare) will be replaced by the new Vice-President (Academic Affairs).