

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama	21/02/2022
<b>Subject:</b> Students' Union Constitution	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	n/a
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
<b>Report of:</b> SU President, Harry Plant	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report authors:</b> SU President, Harry Plant and Katharine Lewis, Secretary & Dean of Students	

## Summary and Main Report

The Guildhall School Students' Union is an unincorporated association with one sabbatical officer, the SU President, supported by five part-time Vice-Presidents. It receives a grant annually from the School to support its work, and the Board of Governors has oversight of its constitutional arrangements.

Discussions are underway within the Union to amend the constitution to change the Vice-Presidential roles.

The Vice-President for Welfare role has proved in recent years to be problematic due to several reasons, with issues about boundaries, safeguarding and mental health, but the foremost being that the student body sees this role as a student counselling service rather than a welfare advocacy role, often coming to the VP with issues which are more properly the responsibility of the School's Student Affairs team. The role holder is neither trained in this type of casework nor is it appropriate for a fellow full-time student to deal with these matters on a regular basis.

Therefore, the Union wishes to remove the Vice-President (Welfare) and encompass welfare advocacy across all roles which will be part of the training offered to role holders at the start of their appointment. The Union would then replace the role with a VP Marketing and Communications to reflect the increase in demand for more social content and online presence, whether this be advertising student projects & opportunities, promoting both SU and internal school events or running the SU social channels.

The other VP roles are Academic Affairs, Events, Finance, and Diversity which would remain although there is also discussion about dropping the VP title and replacing it with a more simple "Union Officer" title or similar.

Formal changes to the SU Constitution need to be signed off by the Union Parliament, the School's Senior Management Team and then the Board of Governors. However, as the election process for the 2022/23 academic year will start before the next Board

of Governors meeting, the SU would like the Board to authorise delegated authority to approve the amendments to these roles once they have gone through Union Parliament and Senior Management Team so that new officers are elected under the revised constitution.

Any additional amendments to the constitution would be presented to the Board in May.

**Recommendation:**

- The Board gives delegated authority to the Chair and Deputy Chair, in consultation with the Principal, to approve amendments to the Students' Union Constitution for adoption for student elections for 2022/23

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