

Proposed Amendments to the Standing Orders (Summary)

Executive Committee, Van Mildert College Junior Common Room

June 2020



Tirian Bird (FACSO); Lucy Egan (Events Officer, President-elect); Lottie Formon (Sports and Societies Officer); Alastair Hargreaves-McManus (FACSO-elect); Andrew Howell (Vice President (Development)); Anna Martins (Events Officer-elect); Callum Morley (Senior Frep); Sheehan Quirke (President); Kieran Vickers (Outreach and Fundraising Officer); Izzie Ricketts (Deputy Chair)

The proposed changes roughly fall into three categories:

- Moving provisions between to more appropriate parts of the Standing Orders to reflect its originally intended structure (important principles in Permanent, operational details in Operational etc.).
- Changes that reflect or are required by the JCR transitioning from being part of the University under the DSO Framework to being an independent charity.
 - The trustees of the charity will have ultimate legal control of the JCR and legal responsibility for its activities, instead of the University.
 - The JCR will elect two student trustees.
 - The trustees and Sabbatical Officers must be accountable to members but there must also be fair processes in place for their removal.
- Clarifications and updates.
- Improvements to JCR processes.
 - Including new election Scrutineer role

1 Elections

A specific rule about unfair election practices is created.

A timeframe is specified for submission of Presidential videos.

Kieran Vickers finishes his work to improve the JCR:

The new election role of Scrutineer is created to provide independent oversight of the Returning Officers and a named contact for complaints.

Provisions are added for invalid nominations and a timeframe for the publication of nominations.

2 Amendment Process

There has been some confusion over the exact roles of Executive Committee and Constitutional Committee when it comes to amending the Standing Orders. The convention that the Executive Committee must approve changes is formalised. Constitutional Committee is given a clearer, stronger power to reject bad amendments while democratic procedures are created to circumvent it when necessary.

3 Membership

Membership descriptions have been simplified.

4 Business

Reflecting that the Board of Trustees will add useful oversight to the JCR and the new world we're living in, the prohibition on decisions at a JCR Meeting that is not during term-time has been removed.

5 Interviews

The interviews section is cleaned up.

6 Officers

Terms of office are explicitly stated for each position in the Standing Orders.
The unwritten rules on position cards and handover documents are written.

7 Levy

The levy section is cleaned up and updated.

8 Awards

The mysterious rules of JCR awards have been exposed to the world by Sheehan, as well as the creation/return of new College Colours.

9 The Appendices

Appendices A, C and G are replaced by updated versions. Appendices D, J, K, M, N, O, P and Q are removed for being outdated, due for alternative replacement or seemingly non-existent.

Current versions of appendices (where they exist) can be found on the website.