

**Policy Number: 2431 Policy Date: 28<sup>th</sup> OCT 2020**

### **Adoption of Option A as our new Democratic Structure**

**Summary:** To adopt Option A as our new Democratic Structure following the results of the Preferendum

in March 2020. Supporting Document can be found here (<https://www.uea.su/pageassets/democracy/unioncouncil/councildocumentsandnotices/DemocracyReview-Supporting-Doc.pdf>)

### **Council Notes**

1. Across the country the ways in which students engage with their SU's and lead change has evolved significantly.
2. The democratic structures currently present at UEA(SU) are outdated and significantly behind other unions in the country.
3. There is a stagnation in our democratic meetings and a decline in attendance and engagement at these meetings.
4. In 2019, at the bequest of the then Campaigns & Democracy Officer, an external consultant
5. conducted a review of our current systems through conversations with our students and staff.
6. The democracy review presented three models, which were then put to a preferendum and were voted on by our students

### **Council Believes**

1. Option A won significantly in the results of the Preferendum.
2. We cannot claim to be a fully Democratic Union until we transform our current system into one in which any student can easily engage with and impact change.
1. Students should have the final say on how they want to engage with their SU's democracy.
2. The proposed model will provide more flexibility and put more power into the hands of students whilst using a structure that will enable more of a consensus to be reached. Resources will be more available to students and students will be able to have more involvement in decision making.

### **Council Resolves**

1. The Student's Union should formally adopt Option A as the basis for our Democratic Structure, to come into effect in the academic year 2021-2022
2. The Student's Union should carry out a student led in depth role review of all full and part time officers in line with the new model with the aim to elect the new roles in the academic year 2022- 2023
3. To review and update the byelaws to ensure they effectively align with the new democratic
4. structure and return to Union Council this academic year for approval
5. The Student's Union will commit to a review schedule to ensure our democratic structures remain relevant and effective