



Consultation Document

Tell us what you think!

Please return this document to the Student Centre in Goodricke College. There is a box at reception for you to post your returns. Alternatively you can fill in this survey online at www.yusu.org/governance/survey

Introduction

The Charities Act which comes into effect in 2009 requires all students' unions to register with the Charities Commissioners, a regulatory body for Charities. This means that we need to change some of our structures to ensure we are compliant with their requests.

Our governance review has coincided with our organisational review. These two processes complement and enhance each other. Whilst the governance review looks at our union structures, the organisational review looks at the roles of officers and staff within YUSU.

Hopefully, this process will result in a union which is simpler to understand and easier to get involved with. Ultimately, a more effective union which serves our membership better.

Over the next two months York students will produce a new constitution which changes our structures and our officer roles. For more information about governance and our recent organisational audit please go to www.yusu.org/governance

Governance may seem a daunting concept and organisational review may sound very dry but these processes are at the heart of creating a union which better functions for students here at The University of York. We need you to give us your thoughts and suggestions to take into account and incorporate in the development of a new constitution.

If you have any questions please drop an email to YUSU President, Anne-Marie Canning president@yusu.org

Our mission, objectives and aims

The aims, objects and mission of YUSU will be reviewed and clarified as part of the review. They are detailed in Appendix 1.

1. Do you agree with YUSU's current mission, objectives and aims?
2. Do you think anything is missing or unnecessary?

Creating a Trustee Board

To become compliant with the Charities Bill which comes into act in 2009 we must create a separate trustee board to oversee the union.

3. What should be the composition of the trustee board in YUSU be? Why?
4. What type of experts would you like us to recruit to the trustee board?

Setting Policy

Union policy is currently set by Union General Meetings.

5. How should YUSU form policy?
6. Should we continue to use Union General Meetings to set policy or move to an Annual General Meeting structure?

Elections

YUSU currently organises two rounds of elections in the academic year. Committee elections during autumn term and Executive elections during Spring Term.

7. How should elections be conducted in YUSU?
8. Should there be additional regulations relating to campaigning and candidates in YUSU elections? If so what and why?

Officer Roles

YUSU currently has six full time, paid sabbatical roles including a President, Services and Finance Officer, Academic and Welfare Officer, Student Development and Charities Officer, Societies and Communications Officer and Athletic Union President.

- 9. What roles should the 6 full time officers of YUSU have?
- 10. Do you believe Academic and Welfare should be divided into two sabbatical roles or remain as the workload of one sabbatical officer?

Functions and Services

- 11. How do you think the Academic and Welfare service currently performs? Is there anything it is currently not providing which it should?
- 12. What do you think to the way volunteering and charity work currently functions within YUSU?

Engaging with other bodies

YUSU currently has a range of internal affiliates such as the Athletic Union, RAG, Student Action and Nightline. We also have a range of external affiliates including the Junior Common Room Committees. We are currently affiliated to the National Union of Students.

13. How should YUSU engage JCRCs and wider stakeholders such as the OSA and GSA etc?

Structures

YUSU currently has a number of different committees to discuss and decide matters. We would like to receive any feedback you may have on them.

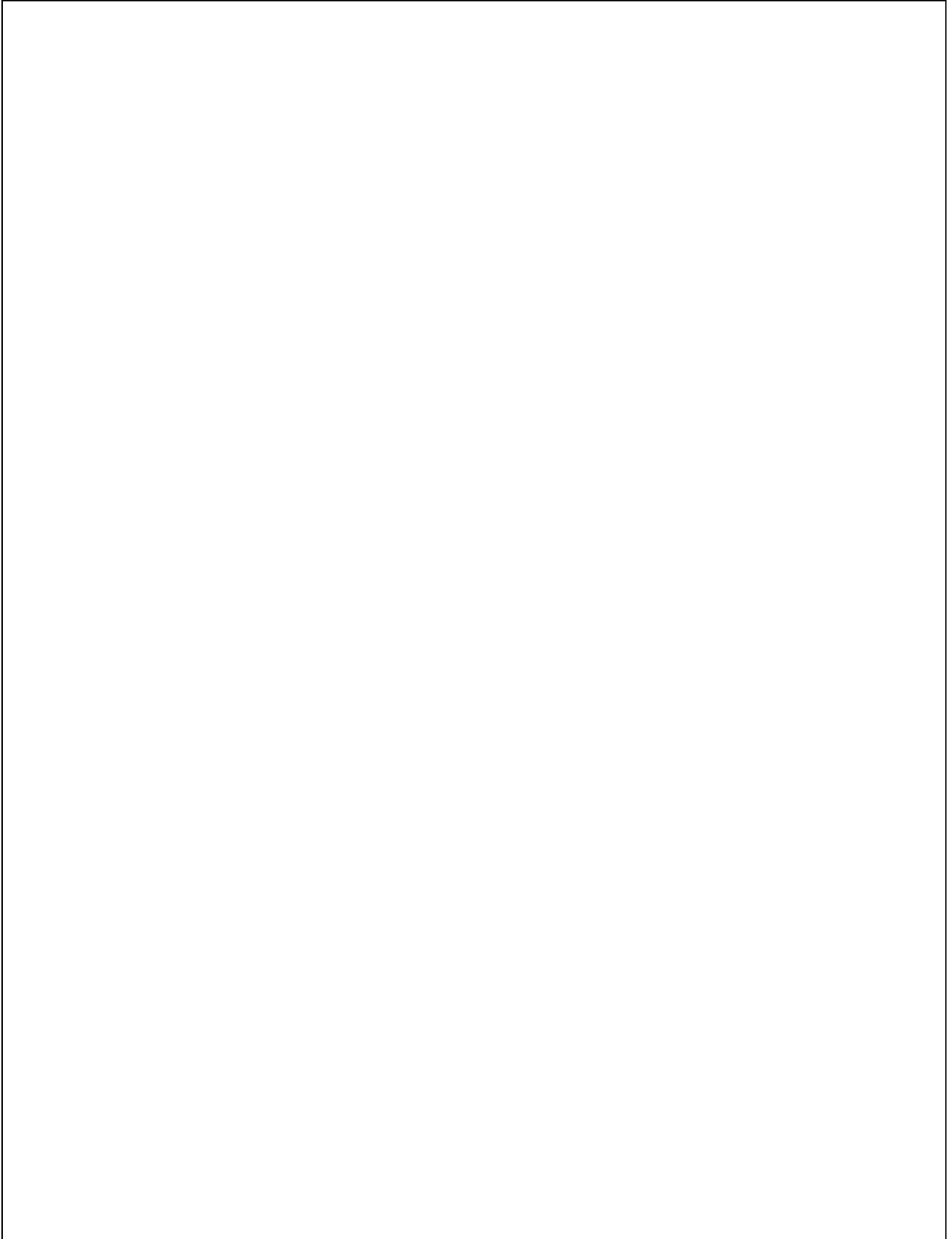
14. What do you know/think to the way Senate currently operates?

15. What do you know/think to the way Exec currently operates?

16. Could some functions of finance committee be delegated to other groups?

Any other comments?

Please feel free to use this space to write down any other comments you may have and suggestions to improve.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their comments and suggestions.

Appendix 1

Name and Status

The name of the students' union shall be the University of York Students' Union (referred to as the Union for the rest of this document). The Union is an unincorporated association with exempt charitable status.

Mission Statement

- The University of York Students' Union exists to promote and defend the interest of its membership and future membership, within the University and as part of the wider community.
- The Union will constantly improve the services it offers to its membership and reflect the changing demands of its membership. It will do this within the democratic structures of the Union outlined in this Constitution.
- The University of York Students' Union will aid in the development of its membership and aims to improve the quality of their University experience.

The Aims of the Union

- To promote and defend the general interests of its membership and to represent them in all matters.
- To further such policies of the Union as are decided by its membership according to the procedures laid out in this Constitution.

The Objectives of the Union

- To advance the educational and general welfare of its membership.
- To promote the interests of its membership in those economic, social and welfare issues which have an effect on education or upon the position of its membership in society.
- To promote, encourage and co-ordinate student development and skills enhancement for a broad skill based education.
- To act as a channel of communication between its membership, the University and other bodies.