

Bye-Law 7 – Amending Articles and Bye-Laws



Reviewing and amending the Articles of Association

- 7.1 The Oxford SU Articles of Association are a legal document which outline the purpose, powers and objects of the organisation. These are owned by the Trustee Board and Company Law Members with oversight from University Council.
- 7.2 In accordance with the Education Act 1994, the Articles of Association must be reviewed every five years in consultation with both Student Members and the University.
- 7.3 Amendments to the Articles outside of this cycle will normally only be considered when legally necessary.
- 7.4 Student Members who wish to propose amendments to the Articles of Association outside of this cycle may submit a motion to Conference of Common Rooms using the processes outlined in Bye-Law 5.
- 7.5 Any amendment to the Articles shall require the following:
 - 7.5.1. In the spirit of collaboration, the Trustees shall, where practicable, notify the Conference of Common Rooms and the University Company Law nominee of the intention to amend the Articles of Association within the prior academic term. The postholders of the Conference of Common Rooms shall work with the Trustee Board to agree the specifics of the methods of proposing and passing amendments within the framework set out below.
 - 7.5.2. The Trustees will then publish the proposed amendments to the Articles to all Student Members on the Oxford SU website.
 - 7.5.3. Student Members will be given 10 clear working days to submit any amendments to the proposal to Conference of Common Rooms, to be endorsed or rejected, in the method determined in Bye-Law 7.5.1. Any voting on such amendments shall be by two-thirds majority vote.
 - 7.5.4. All endorsed proposals will be submitted to the Trustee Board on behalf of the Conference of Common Rooms. The Trustee Board shall review the endorsed amendments and determine which may or may not be included in the final version of the proposal.
 - 7.5.5. In the spirit of the principles set out in Bye-Law 2 regarding the role of the Trustee Board, where there is disagreement between the Trustee Board and Conference of Common Rooms regarding the proposed amendments to the Bye-Laws, a collaborative and transparent discussion shall take place to arrive at an agreed solution.
 - 7.5.6. The Trustee Board will then publish a final version of the proposed amendments on the Oxford SU website and notify all Student Members via email.
 - 7.5.7. The Trustee Board shall, in accordance with Bye-Law 5, hold a referendum of all Student Members to approve the amended articles in their complete format.
 - 7.5.8. Following the approval by Student Members, a special resolution of the Company Law Members shall be passed by the Trustee Board.
 - 7.5.9. Finally, the Articles will require the final approval of the University Council. In order to facilitate this approval, regular communication throughout the process with the University Company Law representative shall be necessary.

Amending the Bye-Laws

- 7.6 Amendments to the Bye-Laws proposed by the Trustee Board shall require the following:
 - 7.6.1. In the spirit of collaboration, the Trustee Board shall, where practicable, notify the Conference of Common Rooms of the intention to amend the Bye-Laws within the prior academic term.
 - 7.6.2. The Trustees will then publish the proposed amendments to the Bye-Laws to all Student Members on the Oxford SU website on Monday of Week 0 of the term in which the amendments are due to be made.
 - 7.6.3. Trustees, or their nominee, shall be invited to attend the relevant meeting of the Conference of Common Rooms to collaboratively and transparently discuss the proposed amendments. The proposals may be iteratively changed throughout this conversation.
 - 7.6.4. Conference shall then vote to either endorse or reject the proposed amendments. Any vote regarding changes to the Bye-Laws must require a two-thirds majority.
- 7.7 Amendments to the Bye-Laws proposed by the Student Members shall require the following:
 - 7.7.1. Motions to amend the Bye-Laws may be submitted to the Conference of Common Rooms using the method outlined in Bye-Law 5.
 - 7.7.2. Trustees, or their nominee, shall be invited to attend the relevant meeting of the Conference of Common Rooms to collaboratively and transparently discuss the proposed amendments. The proposals may be iteratively changed throughout this conversation.
 - 7.7.3. Conference shall then vote to either endorse or reject the proposed amendments. Any vote regarding changes to the Bye-Laws must require a two-thirds majority.
- 7.8 Once amended, the Trustee Board will then publish a final version of the proposed Bye-Laws on the Oxford SU website and notify all Student Members via email.
- 7.9 The Bye-Laws cannot ever be inconsistent with the Articles and Schedules (and insofar as they purport to do so, are void), nor may they contravene any legal, financial or other duties of the Trustee Board.
- 7.10 The Trustee Board shall have the final decision regarding changes to the Bye-Laws.