



## Update to Conference of Common Rooms regarding Oxford SU Trustees

### **External Trustees**

- In March 2024, Oxford SU co-opted 3 external trustees to the Trustee Board in an emergency measure to support the SU through its Transformation programme.
- The three external trustees were:
  - Jacqui Clements
  - Ben Ward
  - Fay Shorter
- This co-option was reported to Student Council in Hilary Term 2024
- In March 2025, prior to the creation of the current bye-laws, the Trustee Board approved extending the co-opted trustee terms to the full 4 years (of which they will have already served 1 each). This decision was taken in the best interests of the charity, noting that 3 of the 4 external trustees leaving at the same time would be detrimental to the organisation.
- Jacqui Clements has expressed a desire to step down from the Board and [recruitment of a suitable replacement has begun](#).
- This trustee board has overseen changes to the articles of association and bye-laws of the organisation. The new articles of association and [bye-laws](#) outline that:
  - *Once selected, External Trustee appointments are recommended to the Conference of Common Rooms for approval by a simple majority vote before final confirmation by the Trustee Board. If there is disagreement between the Chairs of Oxford SU Trustee Board and Conference of Common Rooms the postholders shall meet to determine an appropriate way forward.*
- In addition, Conference of Common Rooms now has the opportunity to take part in the recruitment of external trustees through our new Nominations Committee.

### **Student Trustees**

- In January 2025, the President unexpectedly resigned from their post. As there were, at that time, only 3 sabbatical officer trustees and 2 student trustees, this resignation placed the organisation at risk of having insufficient student trustees to maintain a student majority on the Trustee Board.

- The Board had previously determined that in the event of a resignation of a student or sabbatical trustee, the Board would seek to co-opt a student trustee for the remainder of that term.
  - In this case, the Board determined that it would be appropriate to co-opt two student trustees for the remainder of the term and therefore created a short-list of eligible student members. Those selected for the short list were a mix of postgraduate and undergraduate students, and the list was limited to those who held positions within common rooms or within the SU's other structures.
  - The remaining student & sabbatical trustees reviewed the shortlist and two students were approached to join the Board until 30 June 2025. The two co-opted student trustees were:
    - Luca Di Bona
    - Fahad Al-Huda
  - [The elections for 4 student trustee positions](#) to take office from 1 July 2025 are taking place now – nominations close at 9am on 16 May 2025. Voting opens on 19 May 2025.
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- **Actions:** All five of these trustees were appointed prior to the introduction of the new articles and bye-laws however, for completeness, this paper will be subject to a vote of approval.
  - **Actions:** we are seeking a volunteer from Conference of Common Rooms to join the Nominations Committee for this upcoming round of recruitment of external trustees

Oxford SU would like to thank the sabbatical, student & external trustees for volunteering their time and for their incredible support over the last year.