

WSU Code of Conduct (relating to members and Officer Trustees of the Union)

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1. Overview

Worcester Students' Union (WSU) strives to foster a community built on trust, harmony, and respect. WSU has a duty to ensure that it provides a safe environment for its members on our premises and at events and activities facilitated by us, whether on or off campus. This document sets out the standards which we expect individual members and our student groups to meet, as well as outlining our complaints and disciplinary procedures.

Students registered with the University of Worcester should note that they are also subject to the [University's Student Disciplinary Procedures](#) and the Union reserves the right to refer students to this process where it feels necessary and appropriate.

Please remember that as well as being a university student, you are a citizen of the community of Worcester and subject of the laws of the land.

If you have any difficulty in understanding or interpreting this Code of Conduct, please contact the Students' Union via email studentsunion@worc.ac.uk.

2. Key Terms

General Meeting	A meeting open to all members of the Union.
Members (of the Union)	All Worcester students automatically become full members of the Union (for free) when they join the University, unless they choose to opt-out of membership during the registration process. Alumni and University staff can apply and pay for associate membership of the Union. Student Council can also grant up to five people per year Honorary Life Membership of the Union.
Trustee	A person on the Union's Board of Trustees who is responsible for ensuring good governance of the Union.

Officer Trustee	One of the elected Full Time Officers of the Union (the President, Vice President Education, and Vice President Student Activities). They are also Trustees of the Union (see Trustee definition).
Lay Trustee	A person who is independent from the Union who is appointed to the Union's Board of Trustees (following an interview) as they have expertise in a particular field e.g. finance or HR (also see Trustee definition).
Lead Trustee	Lay member of the Trustee Board who provides guidance and support on the formal disciplinary and complaints procedures of the Union.
Vote of No Confidence	A vote on whether a person in a position of responsibility (e.g. Officer Trustee, Committee Member, Course Rep) is no longer deemed fit to hold that position, perhaps because they are deemed to be failing to carry out the role effectively or are making decisions that others feel are detrimental to the Union and its members.
Balance of probabilities	Saying something is proven on a balance of probabilities means that it is more likely to have occurred than not to have occurred. It is a benchmark that is used in civil law and means that something does not have to be 'proven beyond reasonable doubt' as it does in criminal law. Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals panels will examine all evidence put in front of them and make decisions on this basis.
Vexatious Complaint	A vexatious complaint is one that is pursued solely to harass, annoy or cause harm to somebody; something that is unreasonable, without foundation, frivolous, repetitive, burdensome, or unwarranted.

3. Statement

- 3.1 In line with Clause 18 of the Union's Constitution, this Code of Conduct applies to the following categories of membership of the Union who will in this document be referred to as 'Members':
- i. Full Members of the Union including Officer Trustees;
 - ii. Associate Members of the Union;
 - iii. Honorary Life Members
 - iv. Students who have opted out of Union membership when registering with the University (see Membership under Key Terms above) but who are taking part in Union activities as permitted in Point 9 of Bye Law 1 (Membership).
- 3.2 This Code applies equally to individuals and groups of students. This includes volunteers, Representatives (including Course and Department Reps), members of Societies, Sports Clubs, Student Led Services, and Student Networks of the Union.
- 3.3 The Union will treat all disciplinary action with confidentiality and has an expectation that all parties involved will ensure that confidentiality will be kept throughout any investigatory or disciplinary process, including the content of meetings.
- 3.4 No disciplinary action will be taken against a Member until an investigation has been carried out. WSU reserves the right, however, to suspend a Member from taking part in activities whilst an initial investigation into allegations are undertaken, if it is felt appropriate. This may be, for example, to safeguard the individual themselves, other members, or the reputation of the Union or student group. This can also enable a period of calm and reflection.
- 3.5 The Code of Conduct aims to:
- 3.5.1 Ensure the Union follows agreed procedures that are transparent, timely, fair, and sensible, when dealing with conduct or disciplinary matters involving Members.
 - 3.5.2 Manage risk and support the engagement and welfare of students.

- 3.5.3 Ensure that any outcomes of a disciplinary process include positive support for students based on fair and unbiased decision-making.
- 3.5.4 Encourage students to accept responsibility for actions that have had a negative effect on others.
- 3.6 WSU and its Board of Trustees has an ongoing responsibility around the safety and wellbeing of WSU Members. The Trustee Board shall annually appoint a Lead Trustee (who shall be a Lay Trustee) to provide guidance and support to the Union on the formal complaints and disciplinary procedures set out below. The Union will provide the Trustee Board with an annual report on complaints.
- 3.7 This Code does not apply to Union employees, who have their own disciplinary procedures, apart from Officer Trustees and student staff who are covered by both procedures.
- 3.8 Officer Trustees will be covered subject to the same principles as other members. Due to their unique status, specific guidance can be found in Section 12 of this document.

4. General Members' Code of Conduct

- 4.1 Alongside the rules outlined below, Members are expected to conduct themselves according to the rules laid out in the following documents:
 - i. the Union's Constitution and Bye Laws;
 - ii. The Union's Bar Regulations;
 - iii. the [University's Student Disciplinary Procedures](#);
 - iv. [The University's Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment Policy](#)
 - v. NB from October 2025, it will also be a condition of registration by the Office for Students for Universities to meet certain criteria relating to how they prevent sexual harassment and misconduct. More information can be found here- [New OfS condition to address harassment and sexual misconduct - Office for Students](#)

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- 4.2 Full copies of the above documents will be available via the Union's website.
- 4.3 Breaches of any of the rules in this Code or the documents above will be misconduct and could lead to Members being subject to the Union's Disciplinary Procedures as outlined in Section 8 below.
- 4.4 Disciplinary action may be taken in respect of any breach of discipline:
 - a. On the Union's premises.
 - b. While the Member is using the Union facilities or at a Union event.
 - c. While a Member is representing or acting on behalf of the Union at any event of whatever kind and wherever held.
 - d. In relation to actions or incidents between two or more representatives of the Union in any or none of the settings above, or in relation to actions or incidents between the Union's representatives and other members, staff or stakeholders.
 - e. Any of the above where an interaction or incident is on social media.
 - f. Where a complaint is made about an activity organised by a Society, Sports Club, Student Led Service or Student Network, including socials, campaigning activity, and activity that can be classed as organised by the Union or any union group or in that group's name, a group of members may be subject to disciplinary action and penalties.

5. Misconduct

- 5.1 The following, but not exhaustive, list of actions shall constitute misconduct:
 - a. Violent, indecent, disorderly, threatening, abusive or offensive behaviour to any student, employee of Worcester University Students' Union or the University or any visitor to the Union or any member of the public.
 - b. Abusive, threatening, or offensive language (verbal or written, including via social media) to any student, employee of the Students'

Union or the University or any visitor to the University or any member of public. This includes any behaviour which may be interpreted as bullying and the submission of vexatious complaints.

- c. Action likely to cause injury or impair safety on Union or University premises or at events or activities organised by, or on behalf of the Union.
- d. Any discrimination, bullying or harassment of any group or individual on the grounds of gender, race, disability, age, marital status, pregnancy, religion or belief or sexual orientation.
- e. Any behaviour, verbal or physical, which may be interpreted as sexual harassment.
- f. Taking or supplying illegal drugs.
- g. Consuming alcohol not purchased from the Union whilst on Union managed property or at a Union organised event.
- h. Damage to, misuse, or defacement of, Union or University property or in the local community caused intentionally or recklessly.
- i. Failure to comply with the Union's financial procedures and regulations and with any decision on the use of Union funds made by a properly constituted body of the Union.
- j. Failure to comply with the Union's Elections Rules as available on the Union website during election periods.
- k. Failure to comply with the Union's meetings rules as outlined in Bye Law 4.
- l. Behaviour which could bring the Union or student group into disrepute.
- m. Failure to report, within 7 days, any criminal conviction or any driving licence penalties, for any member that is responsible for driving any vehicle for and on the Union's behalf.
- n. Failure to abide by Union and University policies and procedures.

6. Specific Code of Conduct relating to Societies, Sports Clubs, Student Led Services and Student Networks

- 6.1 In addition to the standards of behaviour expected of all members, members of Societies, Sports Clubs, Student-Led Services and Student Networks must:
- a. During social events, be aware of behaviour and the impact on others, particularly members of the local community.
 - b. Not use any form of peer pressure.
 - c. Not carry out, take part in or promote 'initiation' ceremonies of any kind. Comprehensive training and guidance will be provided to Committee members on what constitutes 'initiation' activities and so there will be no excuse for groups to engage with such activities.
 - d. Not be unduly intoxicated during any event or activity where such behaviour could be deemed unacceptable or detrimental to the Union or University.
 - e. Abide by the financial and insurance regulations laid out in Bye Law 5 (Student Networks) and Bye Law 6 (Societies, Sports Clubs and Student Led Services).
 - f. Abide by the property regulations laid out in Bye Law 5 (Student Networks) and Bye Law 6 (Societies, Sports Clubs and Student Led Services) and submit property inventories when required.
 - g. Abide by the health and safety regulations laid out in Bye Law 5 (Student Networks) and Bye Law 6 (Societies, Sports Clubs and Student Led Services).
 - h. Report any concerns for the health and safety or welfare of its members to the appropriate member of Union staff as soon as possible.
 - i. Abide by any restrictions on the consumption of alcohol during travel to activities using external travel companies.
 - j. Abide by the Union's data protection guidelines and report any breaches immediately.

- k. When competing in internal and external competitions in which you represent the Union and the University, do so in a sporting manner, regardless of the nature of the competition. This includes those spectating.
 - l. Where relevant, operate within the rules of the sport/activity including national guidelines which govern that sport/activity.
- 6.2 Further guidance on welcome and social events is available in the Committees Hub on the Union's website.

7. Complaints by Members (about other Members or Officer Trustees)

- 7.1 A complaint may be brought against the Union by a Member (for a definition of Members please see Bye law 1 - Membership) The person bringing the complaint will be called 'the complainant'.
- 7.2 Please, note a complaint about a member of Union staff (except about the Chief Executive) or about Union services should be raised via the Union Complaints process, which can be found on the SU website [here](#).
- 7.3 If the complaint is about the Chief Executive, it should be sent to the Union's President as Chair of the Trustee Board, who will liaise with the Lead Trustee.
- 7.4 Any complaint about a member of Union staff shall be dealt with according to the Union's Staff Handbook.
- 7.5 Depending on the nature and/or severity of the complaint against a Member, the Union may advise and refer the complainant to utilise the University's complaints processes rather than the Union's.

Informal Complaints

- 7.6 Complaints should be resolved informally and at the origin of the complaint wherever possible. A constructive approach by all parties will often result in an acceptable remedy or solution. For example, a personal response to the complaint by the appropriate Union manager may be sufficient.

Formal Complaints

- 7.7 If, having followed the informal route the complainant feels their concerns have not been properly addressed or where the complaint is particularly serious or confidential, then the formal procedure should be followed.
- 7.8 The Union will not accept anonymous complaints as anonymity precludes any independent investigation of the substance of any claims.

Stage One

- 7.9 Complainants should utilise the Union's formal complaints procedure, which shall be made accessible to all members via the Union's website. The complaint should be sent, through this process, to the Union's Chief Executive (CE) who will acknowledge receipt within 5 working days.
- 7.10 The CE may delegate the initial investigation to another appropriate senior member of staff (or operational manager if it is a complaint about a Union operational practice or procedure). The Lead Trustee of the Trustee Board may be asked to help investigate the complaint.
- 7.11 A complaint about an Officer Trustee should be referred in the first instance to the President. A complaint about the President should be referred in the first instance to the Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees, whose details will be available on the Union's website. They may ask the Lead Trustee of the Board to help investigate the complaint.
- 7.12 The investigation will normally be completed, and the complainant will normally receive a written substantive response within 20 working days. This can sometimes take longer e.g. during vacation periods. The complainant may be asked to discuss the matter in person but will always receive a written response.
- 7.13 If after this stage the complaint still remains unresolved to their satisfaction, the complainant may decide to move on to Stage Two of the procedure.
- 7.14 The complainant must notify the CE (or, if the complaint was about the CE, the President) in writing of their intent to do so within 5 days of the date of written notification of the outcome of Stage One.

Stage Two – Review by the Union

- 7.15 The President (or, if the complaint was about the President, the Lead Trustee) will review the case and may request additional documentation to determine whether it is appropriate for the complaint to be considered by an appeals panel. If so, an appeals panel will be convened.
- 7.16 Each member of the appeals panel shall be independent and, where possible, shall not have had any substantive involvement in the matter under appeal or with the investigation carried out under Stage One and shall have no prior knowledge of the complaint.
- 7.17 The appeals panel shall consist of:
- a. The President (or if the complaint is about the President, a Trustee) who shall act as Chair.
 - b. A Student Trustee or Student Councillor (who must not have any connections to the case of the individual/s concerned).
 - c. A Lay Trustee.
- 7.18 If it is not possible to convene an impartial panel with the members above, the Chair may seek support from an appropriate, senior member of University staff who has had no previous involvement in the case, to sit on the panel.
- 7.19 The panel will be supported by a senior member of Union staff, to advise and act as secretary.
- 7.20 The panel will investigate the complaint in its entirety. The complainant has the right to present their case in person or in writing to the panel.
- 7.21 At the end of its investigation, the panel will:
- i. uphold the complaint in whole or in part,
 - ii. make recommendation for any remedies to be applied or
 - iii. dismiss the complaint.
- 7.22 The appeals body will normally take no more than 28 working days from the start of its investigation to reach its decision.
- 7.23 The final decision shall be notified in writing to the complainant by the Chair of the panel.

8. Disciplinary Procedure for all Members (not Officer Trustees)

- 8.1 This part of the procedure relates to Members, Associate Members, Honorary Life Members, Volunteers, Representatives (including Course and Department Reps), Societies, Sports Clubs, Student Led Services and Student Networks of the Union.
- 8.2 The disciplinary procedure will be followed either:
- i. as a result of a formal complaint to the Union that has been upheld.
 - ii. as a result of misconduct, with the agreement of the Chief Executive of the Union and the Lead Trustee.
- 8.3 Wherever possible, complaints should be resolved informally. A constructive approach by all parties will often result in an acceptable remedy or solution. For example, a personal response to the complainant or an agreement to do something differently. The disciplinary process should be used when the informal route is not appropriate.
- 8.4 The Union can suspend a Member from using the Union's premises, services or facilities while investigations are being carried out, if it is felt appropriate. This may be, for example, to safeguard the individual themselves, other members, or the reputation of the Union or student group. This can also enable a period of calm and reflection.
- 8.5 For the same reasons as above, the Union can suspend the activities of a Society, Sports Club, Student Led Service or Student Network while investigations are being carried out, if it is felt appropriate.
- 8.6 Reports of alleged misconduct by a member can be brought to the attention of any staff member of the Union or to an Officer Trustee.
- 8.7 Following such a report, an initial investigation will be conducted by an appropriate Union staff member. In most circumstances, the Member suspected of a breach of this code will be asked to attend an investigatory meeting. This will be their opportunity to give their version of events. They will be sent written notification of the time, date, and place of the meeting, who will be conducting it, and an outline of the alleged breach.

- 8.8 A Member subject to this process will have the right to be accompanied by a friend (who may be a member of the University or Union and not acting in a professional capacity). If the individual is under 18 years of age they must be accompanied by their Parent or Guardian. The Union reserves the right to set boundaries or conditions on the friend a Member may bring with them. For example, it may be appropriate to stipulate that the friend cannot be suspected of committing the same breach or of having substantive involvement in the same incident.
- 8.9 Following the initial investigatory meeting, the staff member conducting the meeting will write to the Member to detail the conclusion from the meeting and if they feel further investigation or action is required. If the Member does not engage in the initial investigation, the staff member may recommend the Member is referred to the next stage of the investigation.
- 8.10 If the staff member does not feel any further investigations are required, the Union may still require actions to be taken by the Member or for conditions to be met in order for the Member to continue or resume engagement in activities.
- 8.11 If, following investigation, it appears further investigations are required, the Union has the option to:
- i. Convene a Disciplinary Panel.
 - ii. Refer the matter to the [University's Student Disciplinary Procedures](#). It should be noted that following the conclusion of the University's processes, the University may make recommendations to the Union to apply sanctions to or remove privileges from an individual.

N.B. In the instance where the alleged breach may constitute criminal behaviour and might require the involvement of Police, the matter will be referred to the University. Police procedures will supersede any University process.

- 8.12 If the matter is referred to further investigation, the member will be made aware of the Union's Help and Advice Service and the University Support and Wellbeing Services available to them and how to access these.

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- 8.13 At this stage (if they have not been before), the Union can also suspend a Member from using the Union's premises, services, facilities or the activities of a Society, Sports Club, Student Led Service or Student Network while investigations are being carried out (for reasons laid out in point 40 above).

9. The Disciplinary Panel

- 9.1 The Disciplinary Panel shall have three members, one of whom shall be an Officer Trustee (who shall normally act as Chair) but who cannot be the President, a Union Manager or Director, and one Member selected from Student Council.
- 9.2 No member of the Panel can be a witness, potential witness, be directly connected with the member being investigated or have any substantive involvement in the matter being considered.
- 9.3 The Union shall appoint a member of Union staff to act as secretary to the Panel, who shall be responsible for convening the Panel.
- 9.4 The Panel shall normally be convened within one month of the alleged offence being reported. The member shall be sent written notification of the time, date and place of the hearing, together with notification of the alleged breach, at least 7 working days before the hearing.
- 9.5 The Panel reserves the right to make its decision in the absence of the member, providing it has made one reasonable attempt to rearrange the hearing. Members will be given the opportunity to attend virtually.
- 9.6 Any member who may be the subject of a disciplinary investigation will have the right to be accompanied by a friend (who may be a member of the University or Union and not acting in a professional capacity). If the individual is under 18 years of age they must be accompanied by their Parent or Guardian.
- 9.7 The Panel may call witnesses to give evidence and may ask questions of the witnesses.
- 9.8 Any written material intended to be used as evidence and the names of any witnesses to be called for meeting of the panel, to be used by either

the member under investigation or the Union, should be submitted to the secretary at least 3 working days before the meeting.

9.9 Previous disciplinary outcomes may also be taken into consideration, if they relate to offences of the same or similar nature.

9.10 The Disciplinary Panel may take the following courses of action. In the case of more serious or financial sanctions being applied, the panel should consult with the Lead Trustee of the Union:

Outcome	Timescale	Support Offered
No action to be taken.	n/a	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service
Student required to issue an apology.	Within 1 week	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Formal Verbal Warning.	Valid for 3 months	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Formal Written Warning.	Valid for 6 months	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Pay compensation for damage and/or cost.	Case by case decision	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Exclusion from any Union venues, services (including membership of Societies,	Set time period or indefinitely depending on	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service,

Sports Clubs, Student Led Services and Student Networks), facilities or affiliated nights.	severity of offence.	
Temporary suspension of Union Membership.	Set time period depending on severity of offence	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Permanent expulsion from the Union as laid out in Clause 13.4 of the Union Constitution.	Indefinitely	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Permanently excluded or temporarily suspended of role e.g. Course or Department Representative, Committee position for a Society, Sports Clubs, Student Led Service or Student Network.	Set time period or indefinitely depending on severity of offence	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Excluded from holding representative or committee roles in the future.	Set time period or indefinitely depending on severity of offence	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Recommendation for referral to the University's Disciplinary Procedures.	Immediate referral	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service

9.11 In addition, the panel may take the following courses of action towards Societies, Sports Clubs, Student Led Services and Student Networks. In the case of more serious or financial sanctions being applied, the panel should consult with the Lead Trustee of the Union:

Outcome	Timescale	Support Offered
Require the Committee as a whole to issue an apology.	Within 1 week	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Give the Committee and/or entire student group a Formal Warning.	Valid for 6 months	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Require the Committee to pay compensation for damage and/or cost from the groups funds.	Case by case decision	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Suspend the Society, Sports Club.	Set time period depending on severity of offence	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
In the case of Full Members, submit a resolution to Student Council for Permanent expulsion from the Union as laid out in Clause 13.4 of the Union Constitution.	Indefinitely	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
In the case of Associate and Honorary Members	Indefinitely	Relevant Union staff

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submit a recommendation to the Trustee Board to have their membership revoked.		
Permanently excluded or temporarily suspended of role e.g. Course or Department Representative, Committee position for a Society, Sports Clubs, Student Led Service or Student Network.	Set time period or indefinitely depending on severity of offence	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Recommendation for referral to the University's Disciplinary Procedures.	Immediate referral	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service

- 9.12 The panel will make their judgement on the balance of probabilities.
- 9.13 The panel shall notify the member of their decision and the course of action within 5 working days, in writing.
- 9.14 The panel will inform the member if they deem it necessary to inform any member of Union or University staff about the outcome/s of the disciplinary matter and the reasons for them being told.

10. Appeals

- 10.1 Appeals against the decision of the panel may be made to the Chair of the Board of Trustees (who is the President of the Union) or the Lead Trustee and must be made in writing within 5 working days of the member receiving notification of the decision.
- 10.2 The only grounds for appeal are that;
- a. the panel has not followed the correct procedure and / or

- b. new evidence has come to light that, for good reason, could not be presented to the panel at the time.
- 10.3 A sub-group of the Board of Trustees, including at least 2 Trustees shall consider the appeal on the Board's behalf. This sub-group shall appoint a Chair and shall not include any Officer Trustees who were members of the original Disciplinary Panel or who have had any substantive involvement in the matter being considered or who are directly connected with the member/s concerned. If that is not possible, the Union may seek support from an appropriate, senior member of university staff who has had no previous involvement in the case, to sit on the panel.
- 10.4 The individual or group will be given at least 7 days written notice of the time and place of the meeting of the sub-group.
- 10.5 The sub-group will be given the written material presented to the previous disciplinary meeting, the notes of the proceedings and the decision of that meeting.
- 10.6 No witnesses present at a prior disciplinary meeting will be recalled, nor will the evidence presented to the disciplinary meeting be reheard, unless the Chair of the sub-group is satisfied that it is necessary in the interests of justice their deliberations.
- 10.7 The individual or group who have appealed, are entitled to attend the meeting in order to state their case. If it is an individual, they have the right to be accompanied by a friend (who may be a member of the University or Union and not acting in a professional capacity). If the individual is under 18 years of age they must be accompanied by their Parent or Guardian. The Union reserves the right to set boundaries or conditions on the friend an individual may bring with them. For example, it may be appropriate to stipulate that the friend cannot be suspected of committing the same breach or of having substantive involvement in the same incident.
- 10.8 Any written material intended to be used as new evidence and the names of any friends accompanying the student should be submitted to the secretary at least 3 working days before the meeting.

10.9 Outcomes of the review can be one of the following:

Outcome	Support Offered
Confirm the original decision.	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff (where appropriate)
Annul (cancel) the original decision.	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff
Amend the original decision which may include a reduction or escalation of the original penalty.	Union's Help and Advice Service or an alternative, similar service if appropriate, University Support and Wellbeing Service, Relevant Union staff

10.10 The sub-group will make their judgement on the balance of probabilities and their decision will be final.

10.11 They shall notify the member of their decision and the course of action within 5 working days, in writing.

10.12 They will inform the member if they deem it necessary to inform any member of Union or University staff about the outcome/s of the disciplinary matter and the reasons for them being told.

11. Votes of No Confidence (relating to non-paid Student Representatives)

11.1 This section of the procedures applies to:

- a. Members of Student Council and its sub-committees (excluding Officer Trustees)
- b. Course Reps

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- c. and, in line with Bye Law 6 Points 43-45, committee members of Societies and Sports Clubs.

N.B. this does not relate to Officer Trustees, Department Reps or Student Network Committees

12. The process for removing appointed committee members for Student Led Services can be found in Bye Law 6 Points 55-58.
13. The process for removing appointed committee members for Student Networks can be found in Bye Law 5 Points XX-XX.
14. The process for removing appointed Department Reps can be found in the Academic Representation Code of Practice Points XX-XX.

Votes of No Confidence for members of Student Council or its Sub-Committees.

15. Members of Student Council or one of its sub-committees, may decide to move to a vote of no confidence where they decide a member (excluding Officer Trustees) has committed a breach of their duties or has continued to not perform their role as a councillor and failed to attend (or, where relevant, send a nominee) three consecutive meetings.
16. A Union Staff member will contact any member who has not attended for two consecutive meetings without a sufficient excuse to warn them that a vote of no confidence could result if they don't attend (or where relevant send a nominee to) a third meeting.
17. A vote of no confidence may only pass if there is a two-thirds majority vote in favour.
18. If a vote of no confidence is passed by Student Council, the member of the Council will be removed from their post on the day the vote is passed.
19. If a vote of no confidence is passed by a sub-committee of Student Council this will be considered advisory and will be referred to Student Council to confirm the vote of no confidence. If Student Council confirms the vote of no confidence, the member will be removed from the sub-committee they are a member of.

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20. Any removed member of Student Council or one of its sub-committees will be entitled to appeal in writing to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's decision is final.
21. For roles such as Network chairs removal from Student Council may not mean automatic removal from their position on the Network Committee. However, the Union reserves the right to refer these students to the Union's disciplinary procedure.

Votes of No Confidence for committee members of Societies and Sports Clubs

22. Society and Sports Club members may remove any member of their committee by submitting a secure petition to the Executive Committee signed by a minimum of 3 members or 10% of the membership, whichever is greater.
23. A Vote of no confidence shall be deemed as a last resort and any member wishing to implement a vote of no confidence should exhaust all other avenues prior to starting proceedings.
24. The Executive Committee may reject any petition for a Vote of no confidence if they feel that all other avenues, such as informal mediation, have not been used first.
25. If the Executive Committee uphold the petition, the vote may be held at a members' meeting of the Society, Sports Club or Network or via an online vote, no later than 15 working days from the date the petition is considered by the Executive Committee. An Officer Trustee or member of Union staff will attend any meeting to oversee the vote and ensure it is fair.
26. A vote of no confidence will pass if there is a simple majority vote in favour of members present. A minimum of 20% of the membership must attend for the vote to be valid.
27. If a vote of no confidence is passed by the members, the Committee member will be removed from their post on the day the vote is passed.
28. Any removed member of a committee will be entitled to appeal in writing to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's decision is final.

Votes of No Confidence for Course Representatives

29. Students on any course, at any level of study may remove a Course Rep by submitting a secure petition to the Executive Committee signed by at least 3 members or 10% of members from the group of the students they represent (e.g. the students on the same level and course as the rep), whichever is greater.
30. A Vote of no confidence shall be deemed as a last resort and any student wishing to implement a vote of no confidence should exhaust all other avenues prior to starting proceedings.
31. The Executive Committee may reject any petition for a vote of no confidence if they feel that all other avenues, such as informal mediation, have not been used first.
32. If the Executive Committee uphold the petition, the vote may be held at a course meeting or via an online vote, no later than 15 working days from the date the petition is considered by the Executive Committee. An Officer Trustee or member of Union staff will attend any meeting to oversee the vote and ensure it is fair.
33. A vote of no confidence will pass if there is a simple majority vote in favour of students present. A minimum of 20% of the cohort the rep represents must attend for the vote to be valid.
34. If a vote of no confidence is passed by the members, the Committee member will be removed from their post on the day the vote is passed.
35. Any removed Course Rep will be entitled to appeal in writing to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's decision is final.

12. Disciplinary Procedures specifically related to Full-time Officer Trustees

- 12.1 With regards to Officer Trustees, whilst their 'political' performance as an elected student representative remains accountable to Student Council and the wider student membership through a General Meeting, in recognition of their unique position within the organisation as employees as well as Trustees, they are also subject to the Students' Union's Disciplinary Procedures Relating

WSU Code of Conduct: Approved by Trustee Board in May 2020. Last updated in September 2024.

to Officers, as detailed in the Employee Handbook. This concerns any performance-related issues or complaints regarding their conduct in their capacity as an employee of the Union. The outcome of invoking this process may result in disciplinary action and, in cases of serious or gross misconduct, a termination of their employment with the Union.

- 12.2 A Full Time Officer Trustee who has their employment terminated with the Union will, thereby, be rendered unable to fulfil the post and responsibilities of Officer Trustee and will, therefore, be removed from office

Votes of No Confidence

- 12.3 A vote of no confidence in an Officer Trustee may be called for by a simple majority of members voting in a referendum, provided at least 5% of members have voted in the referendum, as defined in Clause 50.1 of the Union Constitution.
- 12.4 In line with Clause 50.2 of the Union Constitution, a vote of no confidence in an Officer Trustee may also be brought by a petition of the membership. The petition must be signed by at least 5% of the membership. The petition will be taken to a General Meeting of the membership and to take effect would need to pass by 66% of those members present.
- 12.5 The removal of an Officer Trustee shall only take effect once the Union has carried out any steps it is required to take under the Officer Trustee's contract of employment and/or the applicable disciplinary procedure and otherwise in accordance with good employment practice. While such steps are being taken, the Officer Trustee may be suspended from their duties. Where an Officer Trustee is removed as a Trustee, their employment with the Union and their status as a Member of the Union shall also terminate (save that they may become a Member again, if they become a Student).