



University of Lincoln Student Council Motion
Divisional Representation

Motion to change the way representation is run within the School of Health and Social Care & Lincoln Business School

Council Notes:

- In partnership with the University, we create the Reps Charter, which outlines the structure of our representation system.
- The University are also encouraging wider student partnership in the running of certain institutional processes- such as academic subject committees. In this case there will be student co-chairs on these committees- which will be best served by a student working in tandem with divisional leaders.
- There are dynamics within certain schools which means a uniform structure does not necessarily suit.
 - E.g. Lincoln Business School size leads to difficulties for senior reps, members of staff and even course reps. Currently Business accounts for 4500 students and is the largest school in the University- many programmes having more than 500 students.
 - § Incidentally, the second largest school is Health and Social Care with roughly 900 students.
- The academic structure of the Schools in question have been adjusted to meet their rising size and to better meet the needs of the University and students, with Business now split into three "Divisions" - the same as Health and Social Care: with individual "Deputy Heads", separate subject committees; and one overall "director". Student Engagement Champions in both schools have also been expanded to reflect this.
- The Business School Deputies are now all in place

Council Believes:

- It is vital we provide students with effective representation
- Our representation system is created in partnership with the University and so we must reflect their structures in order to better enable and coordinate this partnership.
 - We need to help facilitate greater cooperation between institution and student by being relevant, up-to-date and flexible in the way we represent students
- We need to provide the correct support to course and senior representatives.
 - For example Lincoln Business School Senior Rep- Gee Mattison has roughly 75 representatives, and Shona from Health and Social Care has roughly 60. 30% of course representatives fall into these two schools.
 - § The importance of the above is that if we provide the same uniform support- within these schools as we do across the rest of the university, we may not be able to

represent these students effectively. No two schools are alike, and it is required that we make the necessary provisions to support them in whatever way they need.

- It is the right time to start developing representation within these schools- as the academic structure is now stabilised.

Council Resolves:

- Within the Lincoln Business School and School of Health and Social Care, a new type of representative will be added- The Divisional Reps
 - These representatives will guide and support the work of course reps within their respective divisions, while the School Rep leads overall.
 - Divisional Reps will work with their respective Heads of Division on key issues affecting their students, being able to use more applicable and relevant knowledge.
 - In the future, as the schools seek to develop the Subject Committees, the Divisional Reps will play a pivotal role in their running.
- Specialised support and training will be given to the Divisional Reps by the SU with the inclusion of the relevant School Representative and/or College Officer.
- Divisional Reps will be selected from amongst the Course Reps of a division at a relevant time and meeting- such as Course Rep training- and the opportunity will be communicated beforehand, with School Reps given the opportunity to approach interested individuals, and VPAA leading on meeting the needs of Divisional Reps. Academic Divisional leaders will also be involved in the process.
 - Note: an elected system would not be appropriate for a variety of reasons:
 - § Divisional Reps will be Course Reps with additional responsibilities, and so by becoming a course rep through election they earn that mandate.
 - § In an elected system, those unsuccessful candidates may become unengaged and therefore hindering rather than helping representation within the University.
 - § This is a well-supported and maintained, but informal process and system which has been used in other positions within the union- with an importance on flexibility and quality representation.

Proposed by:

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Seconded by:

Gee Mattison (Lincoln Business School Rep)

Brian Alcorn (SU President)

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