

Motion Title: Reduce External Speaker wait time

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This Union notes:

1. Currently, the Students' Union has over 100 affiliated societies. However, few of these societies hold events with external speakers due to the extortionate length of time this takes to organise.
2. Student leaders avoid inviting external speakers due to the 4 week deadline cited in paragraph 3.3 of the Students' Union's External Speaker Policy. This is an unrealistic time frame to expect of students who have many other commitments. Additionally, it is difficult for speakers to confirm their availability so far in advance.
3. Many events are delayed or cancelled due to the external speaker policy. External speakers can impart a wealth of knowledge and expertise upon students. As a centre of learning and development, the Students' Union should be supporting students in bringing experts on to campus.

This Union believes:

1. The current wait time of 4 weeks for an external speaker to be approved is an unreasonably long time.
2. Shortening external speaker wait times will encourage student engagement with the Union, significantly reduce the stress on student society leaders and enhance the quality of society events.
3. Processing external speaker requests should be the priority for the Students' Union and should be done in the shortest time possible.

This Union resolves:

1. To reduce the external speaker wait time, on the side of the Students' Union to no longer than 4 working days.
2. To lobby the relevant University departments (e.g. Prevent) to reduce the overall wait times for external speaker requests to no longer than 14 working days.
3. To be held accountable by student members and trustees at Executive Committees, Student Council meetings and Annual General Meetings for not adhering to this policy until its expiry.