

Motion to Grant Financial Autonomy to LUSU Liberation and Campaigns Forums

The Liberation and Campaigns Forums, along with their Officers (henceforth LCOs), play an important role in advocacy for minority groups at Lancaster University. Despite this, accessing the budget delegated to Forums is a lengthy and bureaucratic process, proving a hindrance to the coordination of events and resources.

The motion is for the LCOs' budget to be evenly distributed between the Forums, and the following procedures will be implemented to streamline access to funds:

- Funds allocated to Liberations and Campaigns Forums will be divided equally between Forums at the beginning of the academic year.
- Each Liberation and Campaigns Forum will have direct, timely, and unobstructed access to their budget.
- The VP Welfare (or respective FTO managing the Forum budgets) and the Students' Union resolves not to interfere with financial decisions made by the Forums regarding use of their allocated budgets, beyond in their capacity to advise.
 - In accordance with Article 28.3 of the Articles of Association, the Trustee Board maintains the ability to override a decision of policy made by exec, ref or GM under certain conditions.
- LCOs will receive finance training.
- At least two Forum exec members must receive finance training; finance training will be offered to all Forum exec members.
- In the instance that a Forum does not have an LCO, a third Forum exec member must receive training. The Forum exec will be given access to the Forum's budget.
- LUSU will facilitate financial handover between Forums, with particular consideration given to instances where there is no incoming and/or outgoing LCO.
- Every effort will be made by LUSU to ensure that Forums, their exec, and LCOs have reasonable and timely access to their budget.
- LUSU will make reasonable accommodations for Forums wherein there is no LCO and/or a small exec committee, including reaching out to the Forum's community for their input.

The proposed changes will:

- End the persistent issue of Forums losing access to their budget when they do not have an LCO.
- Allow Forums to make informed decisions about how their budget is used, without the risk of their decisions being vetoed by a third party.
- Avoid situations wherein individuals must pay for resources out of pocket, then endure lengthy waits for compensation.
- Allow Forums to put on events more easily, without unnecessary bureaucracy.
- Allow Forums to fulfil their role as political and advocacy spaces.
- Afford greater financial autonomy to Liberation and Campaigns Forums.

All changes will be reflected in the Student Union's byelaws.

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