

Executive Committee

Agenda Item

13th December 2023 – F304/Teams – 4pm-5pm

Decision regarding vacancy of Women's Officer

Background

We are saddened to learn that our Women's Officer, Valeria Cojocaru, has resigned in their position. All of us at SUBU wish to express our gratitude for Valeria's simply amazing work they've done for the Women's network since assuming their position in Spring 2023. Since taking on the role they have been a champion for all women across campus and have ran several events to empower women of all backgrounds and has recently begun a project with BU's school liaison team to also empower young girls in the local area.

The role of Women's officer will therefore be vacant as of the start of Semester 2 and requires a decision from the Executive Committee on how to manage this role until the Student Leader Elections around May when a new officer will be duly elected. To avoid commencing the term without a concrete plan on how to manage this vacancy, SUBU's Democracy and Campaign team have proposed this emergency agenda item to form a decision before the end of Semester 1. Below there is supporting information on the process involved and the decision to be made.

Supporting Information

SUBU's Byelaws outline the procedure if a vacancy in a Part-Time Officer role other than faculty officer role because of recall, resignation or otherwise. In Byelaw 2: Union Officers, 10.6 states the following:

10.6. Should a vacancy arise in a Part-Time Officer role other than a Faculty Officer role, either because of recall, resignation or otherwise, then the Executive Committee shall decide whether to manage the vacancy through co-option, ensuring that the group that the post represents has been consulted in this decision, or recommend that the Board of Trustees call a by-election. [See Appendix A]

From this point in the Byelaw document, the Executive Committee has the power to decide on whether to manage the vacancy through co-option, which would mean putting out a call for people interested in filling the role to present themselves and then the Women's Network and Executive Committee would effectively interview individuals before forming the recommendation as to who should fill the role. Alternatively, if the Executive Committee decide not to proceed down the route of Co-Option, then the Committee can instead opt to call a By-Election to fill the vacancy.

Decision

At this stage, we require the Committee to formally decide on whether they wish to co-opt the position of Women's Officer for Semester 2 or if they wish to call a by-election to fill the vacancy.

