

Executive Committee

Agenda Item

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

Note regarding vacancy of Faculty of Media and Communication Officer

Background

We are saddened to learn that our Faculty of Media and Communication Officer, Kataleeya Duffy, has resigned in the role effective from the end of December. Kataleeya has been an incredible asset to the Faculty of Media and Communication, having attended several educational boards and going beyond the scope of their role to expertly chair the first SUBU Summit of the year.

The role of Faculty of Media and Communication officer will therefore be vacant as of the start of January and requires action taken to appoint the next individual into the role before May when a new officer will be duly elected. To avoid commencing the term without the Executive Committee being informed on the process regarding this vacancy, SUBU's Democracy and Campaign team have proposed this emergency agenda item to note before the end of Semester 1. Below there is supporting information on the process involved and the steps that will be taken.

Supporting Information

SUBU's Byelaws outline the procedure if a vacancy in a Faculty Officer role arises because of recall, resignation or otherwise. In Byelaw 2: Union Officers, 10.7 states the following:

10.7 Should a vacancy arise in a Faculty Officer role, either because of recall, resignation or otherwise, then the role shall be offered to the Faculty Representative (if any) who received the next highest number of votes in the most recent relevant Faculty Election as defined in Bye-law 3, clause 1 if they meet the conditions in clause 3.3 of Bye-law 3. If that Faculty Representative does not meet those conditions, the role of Faculty Officer shall be offered to any third Faculty Representative if they meet the conditions in clause 3.3 of Bye-law 3. If there is no Faculty Representative who meets the conditions in clause 3.3 of Bye-law 3:

(a) If the individual vacating the Faculty Officer role has also vacated their Faculty Representative role, the Executive Committee shall ask the University to decide whether to hold a further Faculty Election under clause 13 of Bye-law 3 to fill the Faculty Representative role. If there is such an election and if

the successful candidate in that election meets the conditions in clause 3.3 of Bye-law 3 they shall be appointed to the vacant Faculty Officer role; or

(b) If sub-paragraph (a) does not apply (whether because there is no vacancy in the Faculty Representative role, no election is held to fill such a vacancy or any newly-elected Faculty Representative does not meet the conditions in clause 3.3 of Bye-law 3), the Executive Committee shall decide whether to manage the Faculty Officer vacancy through co-option from the Student Representatives in that Faculty, ensuring that the group that the post represents has been consulted in this decision, or to arrange an election for the Faculty Officer role only. Such election shall follow the process set out in Bye-Law 3 for all Union Officers other than the Faculty elections.

As presented in this point in the byelaw, in the case of a vacancy arising in the role of a faculty officer, the role shall be offered to the faculty representative who received the next highest number of votes. We have identified that the two faculty representatives were elected in separate elections and have compared the data. Ridhika Shah received 11 respective votes in their election, whilst Thomas Lower received 9 respective votes in their election. Given both faculty representatives fulfil the criteria specified in the above Byelaw, SUBU will move to appoint the next Faculty of Media and Communication Officer.

To Note

At this stage, the offer of the Faculty Officer role will be presented to Ridhika Shah having received the next highest number of votes and will report back on their decision. In the event the offer of officer role is declined, the offer will then be presented to the next suitable candidate, Thomas Lower.