

Motion of Censure

A discussion item- Alex Chippy Compton

Notes

- A motion of censure is described as ‘a motion by opposition parties criticizing the government’¹
- A Motion of Censure does not lead to removal of an Officer from their role. A Motion of No Confidence does lead to the removal of an Officer from their role.
- A Motion of Censure is not currently defined in our Constitution & Bye-Laws.
- No Motion of Censure may lie against a person already censured (Bye-Laws, G27)²
- Motions of Censure can be appealed to the Board of Trustees

Motion of No Confidence and Motion of Censure are in Section G of the Bye-Laws if you would like to read more information on them.

Recommendations

A follow up decision paper would propose to:

1. Add in a definition of Motion of Censure to the Constitution & Bye-Laws
 - a. A Motion of Censure is a motion by Council criticising the actions of an individual in their elected role
2. Add to Clause G27 ‘within the academic year’ so the clause reads ‘No motion of censure may lie against a person already censured within the academic year’
3. Add in a clause to the Bye-Laws that would suggest a second Motion of Censure against an individual be considered by the Council Chair and Union President for a Motion of No Confidence (as an individual cannot currently be censured more than once)

Discussion

I would like to hear Council’s opinions on the below as I write a follow up paper.

- Whether Council agrees with the above recommendations
 - An alternative to Recommendation 3 would be the removal of the clause stating ‘No motion of censure may lie against a person already censured’ and instead stating ‘Once censured twice, any further censures on an individual should instead be a Motion of No Confidence’
- Whether another individual (for example a Trustee) should be involved in the presentation of a Motion of No Confidence (particularly in the case of Council Chair or Union President) and who this could be
 - Appeals go to the Board of Trustees so anyone involved in the original consideration of a presentation of a Motion of No Confidence would be excluded from hearing an appeal

¹ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/motion-of-censure>

² <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/sites/default/files/Imperial%20College%20Union%20Bye-Laws.pdf>