

UNION CONSTITUTION

Schedule III of the Constitution: Student Newspaper Sub Council

1. The Student Newspaper shall be a Sub Council of the Union Society at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and shall be regulated in its work by the Constitution of the Union Society.
2. The Sub-Council shall cause to be published and distributed a newspaper which shall:
 - (a) entertain and inform, containing items of news and information of interest and benefit to students;
 - (b) publicise Union meetings, elections, referenda and events;
 - (c) adopt an editorial stance in accordance with any Bye-Laws of the Union Society currently in force; and
 - (d) be named 'The Courier'
3. The membership of the Sub-Council in any academic year shall be:
 - (a) the editor of the student newspaper; and
 - (b) all student contributors to the form or content of the Student Newspaper in that year except advertisers.
4. The form and content of the Student Newspaper shall be determined by the Editor of the Newspaper in the first instance but shall always be subject to the Bye Laws currently in force.
5. The Student Newspaper shall be editorially independent, except where this contravenes the Bye-Laws of the Union Society currently in force, or where this contravenes the Union Society's Equal Opportunity Policy
6. The Student Newspaper shall be published weekly during term time including at least once in the Summer term, where funds allow, and at the Editor's discretion.
7. The paper should endeavour to be at least 16 pages long.
8. The form and content of all advertising published in the Student Newspaper shall conform with any Union Bye-Laws or policy currently in force and with the British Code of Advertising Practice from time to time issued by the Advertising Standards Authority.

9. The Sub Council shall submit its budget for the forthcoming academic year to Finance Committee for approval in the Easter term of the current academic year.
10. The Editor of the Student Newspaper shall disburse the funds allocated to the Sub Council in pursuit of its aims.
11. The Sub Council shall appoint one representative from amongst its membership to Union Council and shall have power to dismiss that representative. The Editor of the Student Newspaper shall not be the representative to Union Council.
12. All members of the Sub Council shall be bound by a code of professional ethics approved by Union Council. The Editor shall cause a copy of the code to be distributed to every member of the Sub-Council.
13. All previous Constitutions of the Student Newspaper Sub-Council are hereby expressly revoked.

Amended at Union Council on the 12th June 2007

The Courier Code of Practice

1. The Sabbatical Editor shall be ultimately responsible for the 'Courier' in keeping to the conditions of the 'Courier Code of Practice and Professional Ethics' (hereafter called 'The Code').
2. The Editor shall cause a copy of The Code to be distributed to every member of the Courier Sub Council.
3. The Courier shall in every edition give notice of the right to submit a written complaint if any article published therein has given cause to offend.

Conditions of the Courier Code of Practice and Professional Ethics

Grounds for Complaint

1. Union Bye Laws
 - 1.1 That the Courier shall not publish articles, opinions, or otherwise which are deemed to be of an unnecessarily RACIST, SEXIST or HOMOPHOBIC nature. This includes all correspondence, but not coverage of debate. The Editor can seek a ruling from the Sabbatical

Secretary as to what may or may not be deemed to be contraventions of the Union Bye Laws.

1.2 That complainants do not require to have 'locus standi' and can submit a written complaint to the Sabbatical Secretary, who shall present the complaint to the next Union Council following.

2. Subject Material: Student Members

2.1 That student members shall not be defamed or be the subject of bad taste.

2.2 That the Courier shall not make allegations about named student members (or student members who identity has been inferred) without substance of evidence.

2.3 That quotes shall not be fabricated.

2.4 That complainants would require 'locus standi' and can submit a written complaint to the , who shall present the complaint at the next Union Council following.

3. Subject Material: The Union Society

3.1 That Courier should promote the image and services of the Union Society, as far as is possible.

3.2 That Union Society staff, other than Sabbaticals, are not to be named without express consent from the management or the Sabbatical Secretary, and are not to be subject to unfounded allegations.

3.3 That unfounded allegations or inference of conduct of business is not acceptable.

3.4 That quotes of Union Society staff and Sabbaticals shall not be fabricated.

3.5 That complainants do not require 'locus standi' but must be members of Union Council.

Ethical Standards

That the Courier and all members of the Courier Sub Council shall:

1. Strive to:

- Ensure information disseminated is fair and accurate,

- avoid the expression of comment and conjecture as established fact, and
 - avoid falsification by distortion, selection, or misrepresentation.
2. Rectify promptly any harmful inaccuracies, ensure that correction and apologies receive due prominence and afford the right of reply to persons criticized.
 3. Protect confidential sources of information.
 4. Not intrude into private grief and distress.
 5. Not accept inducements to influence the performance of professional duties.
 6. Not mention a person's age, race, colour, creed, illegitimacy, disability, marital status, gender, or sexual orientation, except if this information is strictly relevant.

Passed June 1994, amended October 1994