

STANDING ORDERS GOVERNING THE  
DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS OF HUU

POLICY

1. **Written Complaints against a Member(s)**  
Upon receipt of a written complaint from any person against a member(s), the President will decide whether the complaint could lead to disciplinary measures being taken. If this is the case he/she shall convene a Disciplinary Panel who will deal with the matter as detailed below. If the complaint will not lead to disciplinary measures then the complaint should be referred to the Complaints Panel (SO 8007).
2. **Complaints against Members of the Union Executive Committee (UEC)**  
Any complaint against a member of UEC shall be in writing and forwarded to the President. Complaints must be made under the relevant Code of Conduct and shall be referred to the Union Council for consideration.

Where a student or an employee has a concern about the manner in which the above processes have been discharged, they can speak to one of the four independent Trustees, who will look into the matter and respond in writing.

DISCIPLINARY PANEL

3. The President, in accordance with the HUU Constitution, has a responsibility upon receipt of a written complaint from any person against a member or members to form a Disciplinary Panel consisting of:
  - (a) **Voting members:**
    - (i) President
    - (ii) Two other randomly drawn members of the Union Executive Committee hereinafter referred to as the UEC
  - (b) **Non voting members:**
    - (i) The Director of Commercial Services & Marketing (DCSM), or in his/her absence a member of staff nominated by the UEC, who is to advise the Committee on procedural and constitutional aspects.

The Disciplinary Panel will decide whether the issue should be dealt with by it directly or alternatively referred to:

- (a) the police, if the matter may constitute a criminal offence
  - (b) the Registrar & Secretary of the University, if the matter cannot reasonably be dealt with internally
4. **Interpretation**  
In interpreting these Standing Orders the following matters are to be taken into account:

- (a) The provisions of the Standing Order Governing Standing Committees do not apply to the Complaints Panel.
- (b) A 'clear day' does not include a Saturday, Sunday, Bank Holiday or University Holiday.
- (c) The person against whom the complaint is made is hereinafter referred to as the accused.
- (d) Within the text 'complainant' and 'accused' are used in the singular form; where applicable these are to be read as being in the plural.

5. In dealing with the complaint, the Disciplinary Panel may:

- (a) Issue a letter of warning which will normally include the punishment if a similar incident occurs again.
- (b) Suspend the rights and privileges of a member including the right to hold any position of financial responsibility, excluding the right to vote, for a period not exceeding six months of semester time. This entails a prohibition on entering the Union building and on using all HUU commercial and non-commercial services and partaking in Union activities (including Society /Sports Clubs events). The only exception to this shall be the Advice Centre and Nightline, which can provide services to suspended members at the complete discretion of the Advice Centre Co-ordinator and Nightline Director respectively.
- (c) Instruct that the member pays for the cost of any damage which he or she has occasioned to HUU property.
- (d) Instruct that where a member gains or attempts to gain entry to an HUU function without making the due payment, that he or she is fined an equivalent amount.
- (e) Instruct that a member pays a fine not exceeding £50.00.

Any appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Panel will be heard by the Disciplinary Appeals Panel as outlined below.

In instances in which the Premises Licence Holder (or in his/her absence, the Designated Premises Supervisor) feels appropriate, longer exclusions from licensed premises may be sanctioned. The decision of him/her in these matters is final.

## DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

6. On receiving a complaint, the President will write to the accused asking for his/her version in writing of the events leading to the complaint. Written statements of the complaint will be included but names of the complainant(s) may be withheld at the discretion of the President. Staff names will be withheld. A maximum of 5 clear days will be allowed for this response from the date of the letter asking for a response. The Panel will consider the written evidence at the next meeting following the expiry of the response time. Having considered the evidence, the Panel shall decide whether the complaint is justified or not. If it is, they shall impose a penalty as laid out above (see para 5 above). Exceptionally, if the President and the DCSM both agree, evidence may be given in person. In the event of disagreement the Chief Executive shall arbitrate.

The President shall confirm in writing to the accused the penalty within 2 clear days of the meeting's decision. The letter will state that there is a right of appeal (other than against an exclusion from licensed premises by the licensees). Any appeal must be in writing to the President stating the grounds for appeal and this must be received within 7 clear days of the date of the disciplinary letter.

## DISCIPLINARY APPEALS PANEL

### 7. Interpretation

Should a member (the appellant) of Hull University Union who has received disciplinary action (excluding matters relating to discipline for misbehaviour in licensed premises) from the Disciplinary Panel, wish to appeal against the decision, the procedure detailed below must be followed.

### 8. Duties

The Disciplinary Appeals Panel, herein after called the Panel, shall be responsible for hearing written and formal appeals against the decision of the Disciplinary Panel, referred to them by the President in writing.

### 9. Membership

The membership of the committee shall be as detailed below:

#### (a) **Voting Members:**

One student Trustee, and two members of the UEC not selected on the original panel.

#### (b) **Non voting members:**

The DCSM, or in his or her absence a member of staff nominated by the UEC, who is to advise the Panel on procedural and constitutional aspects.

### 10. Procedure

A letter outlining the request for an appeal should be sent to the President, who will then convene a meeting of the Panel. The Panel will meet week 4, 8 and 12 of each semester.

The Appeals Panel shall hear the written grounds for appeal and assess the evidence that has been provided. The Appeals Panel shall ensure that both parties are given the right to provide written submissions regarding the incident before the meeting commences.

When the Appeals Panel has reached a decision the meeting will be deemed to have finished. The Chair of the meeting shall confirm the decision in writing, no later than three clear days after the meeting. The permitted penalties imposed must be within those outlined in paragraph 5 above.

### 11. Appeal

If the appellant is dissatisfied with the decision of the Disciplinary Appeals Panel, he/she may refer the matter to the University in accordance with the Code of Practice. The University will only consider the matter if it is a complaint about the procedure above not being followed correctly.

## HEARING A COMPLAINT AGAINST A MEMBER OF THE UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (UEC)

### 28. Policy

The member(s) making the complaint against a member of UEC must substantiate this to the Union Council in writing by way of a motion. The motion should state the grounds of the complaint and the penalty they wish to see imposed as defined in the disciplinary section of the relevant Code of Conduct. The Code details what action can be taken by the Union Executive Committee if the complaint is serious and merits suspension prior to the motion being heard by Union Council.

### 29. Procedure

Following receipt of the motion, the President shall place the matter on the next available Union Council meeting agenda or convene an extraordinary meeting. The President is to:

- (a) Advise the complainant of the date, time and venue of the meeting in writing
- (b) Ensure the motion is placed on the Council agenda

30. The motion shall be heard under the rules governing Union Council and shall pass if two thirds majority vote for the motion. (If the President is the subject of the complaint, the organisation of the procedure will be the responsibility of the Deputy President.)

### 31. Appeal

This is detailed in the UEC Code of Conduct.

AM November 2011

Passed at UEC: 2/12/11

Passed at Union Council: 12/12/11

Passed by the Board of Trustees