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## Reclaiming School governance

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**Date and type of General Meeting:** Annual General Meeting, 18th June 2025

**Status:** Passed

**Motion text:**

This branch notes:

1. In July 2022, LSE's Council adopted Articles of Association that removed provisions on membership composition, nominations, and term limits, relegating them to Standing Orders.
2. Council expanded lay (but not staff / student) representation and expanded term limits.
3. There is a lower threshold to changing Standing Orders and thus removing seats.
4. A clause in the Articles removing Privy Council oversight of the Academic Annex was misrepresented to both the union and Academic Board in 2019.
5. [\*The Tenure Memo\*](#) report (November 2024) revealed these events in detail.
6. In November 2024, branch negotiators requested that: 2019 proportions of staff and student seats on Council should be restored; provisions on composition of Council and Academic Board control of nominations should be restored to the Articles; Council seats should be designated for non-NAC and non-Professorial academic staff; and the PSS seat on Council should be democratically elected.
7. On 2 December 2024, Academic Board convened an extraordinary meeting where School Management said these developments would be "remedied".
8. On 6 February 2024, Academic Board passed a resolution calling for Council to restore the proportion of staff and student seats to the 2019 level.
9. Council will restore existing Standing Orders to the Articles but rejected other requests.
10. The School is also exploring potentially significant changes to Academic Board.

This branch believes:

- a. Similar developments can be observed across the sector, linked to greater marketisation, worsened working conditions, and limitations on academic freedom.
- b. The School misled the union and effectively weakened employment protections.
- c. It is positive that provisions on Council's composition will be restored to the Articles of Association, but this also makes it harder to correct the imbalance.
- d. Sizable, democratic representation of staff and students in the School's governing body is important and directly relates to terms and conditions of employment.
- e. Council lay members should in principle have knowledge of higher education, research, academic freedom, student wellbeing, and other sector-specific matters.

- f. School governance should be more ethical, transparent, democratic, and accountable.

This branch resolves to:

- i. Mandate the Committee to continue pressing through all channels for more democratic electoral procedures for staff seats on Council, including democratising the PSS seat.
- ii. Call for greater diversity of academic staff categories and levels of seniority on Council.
- iii. Call for 40% of seats on Council to be staff and students, with the aspiration for more.
- iv. Oppose significant changes to the terms of reference or Standing Orders of Academic Board without the approval of a significant majority of academic staff.
- v. Support efforts to develop better, more ethical standards on HEI governance such as the draft [CBDU Code of Ethical University Governance](#).
- vi. Reaffirm the [1997 UNESCO definition](#) of academic freedom, including on the importance of democratic staff participation and representation in governing bodies.

**Proposing group:** Submitted by Committee

**Amended:** No

**Total votes:**

- For: 53
- Against: 0
- Abstain: 0