

Student Activities exception of deadlines due to pandemic

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AGM notes:

Due to the global pandemic, AUSA's Student Activities are under more pressure than usual. Over the last year students have had to switch their studies, but most activity and engagement, online as well. This has been a challenge during challenging times.

In March and April last year, AUSA did its best to remain flexible for those student activities who reached out and were struggling to hold AGMs due to the move online and members being suddenly disbursed all over the world. However, this flexibility caused some difficulty as the byelaws for both Sport's Clubs and Societies have strict deadlines for AGM's and reaffiliation documents to be submitted. It also became difficult to track which societies and sports clubs were closing and those that just needed some time until September to hold an EGM.

Even with the best efforts by Student Activities' Committees, AUSA is receiving consistent feedback over the last months that many Student Activities are finding it difficult to meet minimum membership requirements and fill committee positions for next year.

For AUSA to ensure they maintain accurate records of active Student Activities and their committee members, there must remain some structure. The below solution allows AUSA to have contact points over the summer to make support and resources available such as stalls at Freshers' Fayre, workshops and training. However, it also gives students/committees the time and space they need to plan and develop their activities for the next term.

Current Deadlines as outlined in Byelaws 7 and 8:

- Societies AGM and reaffiliation documents due by end of Term – 20 May 2021
- Sports Clubs – 1 April with reaffiliation documents due by 15 April.

AGM believes:

1. More flexibility is required for Student Activities in 2021 to ensure that we support them through this difficult year.
2. The deadlines outlined in Byelaws 7 and 8 need to be more flexible in 2021 regarding AGM and reaffiliation due to the global pandemic.
3. AUSA and Student Activities still need to have some structure to work within to maintain fairness for all.

AGM resolves:

1. To extend the deadline for AGMs for Sport and Societies to 15 June with their 20/21 affiliated members for those Student Activities that require the extension.
2. To extend the deadline for reaffiliation documents to be submitted to 31 September 2021 for those Student Activities that require the extensions.
3. Student Activities must contact AUSA by 1 April 2021 to advise they would like to utilise above extensions for the 20/21 academic year.