

Reasons to vote “yes” in the referendum to pass the Constitutional Referendum

(a) Renaming the Junior Member of Council and Governing Body to Vice-President

- “Junior Member of Council and Governing Body” is too long. It is therefore usually referred to as the “Joint Rep”, e.g. their email address is “grad.jointrep@”. This is problematic, as Joint Rep is not an appropriate name for the role.
- “Joint Rep” is misleading: they are elected not to represent anyone, but to serve as a trustee of the College. In this role, they are obliged to act in the best interests of the College, as they see it. Acting purely as a representative would contravene their responsibilities as trustee.
- “Junior Member of Council and Governing Body” is ambiguous: there are four junior members of Council and Governing Body.
- “Junior Member of Council and Governing Body” fails to imply the other aspects of the role, such as serving as KCGS’s representative to CUSU and the GU.
- The equivalent role in KCSU is called the Vice-President, so matching this would minimise confusion. External Officers among JCRs and MCRs are also often called Vice-Presidents.
- The KCGS President often has a large workload: creating a nominal deputy and aide by implication of the title “Vice-President” may help to keep the Presidents’ workload more manageable.

(b) Making renaming officers simpler in future:

- The Executive Committee composition should be flexible and easily changed, as they represent a graduate body which turns over very quickly, and whose requirements can change drastically from year-to-year.
- Due to a bug in the way the Constitution is written, while the only practical way to amend it is via a referendum (the quorum burden for a General Meeting to amend it is very difficult to achieve), such a referendum cannot simultaneously amend the Standing Orders (though these can be amended easily at a General Meeting). This means that renaming an officer mentioned in the Constitution must be done in two parts, first a referendum and then a meeting. The amendment addresses this by ensuring any referendum which can amend the Constitution can also amend the Standing Orders.
- It is much easier to rename or repurpose officers which are not mentioned in the Constitution, as a referendum is not required. This amendment removes all named officers from the Constitution unless they have a specific duty mandated in the Constitution, to make renaming other officers as simple as possible.
- Though it removes the specific office of Joint Rep / Vice-President from the Constitution, the amendment adds to the Constitution a requirement to elect an (unspecified) officer to serve on Council and Governing Body. The Constitutional establishment of this function is therefore preserved.
- The requirement to always elect, never appoint, the five officers currently named in the Constitution is retained by the amendment, by making the two officers moved from the Constitution to the Standing Orders named exceptions to the general rule.

*Anjalene Whitter, on behalf of the Executive Committee
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