

B2new Strengthening National Young Greens events and our Executive Committee election cycle

Proposer: Rosie Rawle (Oxfordshire)
Agenda item: B Motions (Policy and Organisational)
Status: Modified

Synopsis

Synopsis: Currently, Convention is our only national event of the year to both mobilise new and existing members, and allow the membership to carry out formal and binding processes of accountability. The fact that Convention is also a single event held in the autumn also means that our elected representatives oddly come into position after the start of the academic year, and with little time to prepare for upcoming local and national elections. This motion seeks to do three things:

1. Move Convention to spring, and mandate EC to create and coordinate a new national political mobilising event in the autumn
2. Mandate that the autumn event should involve a General Meeting, that will comprise of an accountability session with motions of No-Confidence, Censure and Commendation
3. Put in place a handover period between elected representatives to ensure a smooth transition

Motion Text

1 **Young Greens notes:**

2 1. That Convention is our largest event of the year, and only one of its
3 kind.

4 1. That Convention is the only face-to-face national event involving
5 democratic and accountability processes.

- 6 1. That other youth-led organisations and networks operating in the higher
7 education sector hold two national events per year – one in which the
8 primary focus is democracy, and the other, mobilising new and existing
9 members.
- 10 1. That the academic year begins in early Autumn, but our elected Executive
11 Committee, Structural Procedures Committee and Senate Co-Chairs are
12 elected in late Autumn.
- 13 1. Many democratic organisations have established an election process that
14 allows for a handover period between outgoing and incoming
15 representatives, while this currently happens in the Young Greens by
16 written "handover guides" produced by the current EC.
- 17 1. That Convention currently follows shortly after GPEW Autumn Conference,
18 resulting in the last 3 months in office for EC members exceptionally
19 busy, which can lead to burnout or impact the quality of both events.
- 20 **Young Greens believes:**
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- 23 1. That face-to-face national annual events can be inspiring and exciting
introductions for new members, and vital energisers for active
campaigners.
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- 26 1. That to build a strong and active network of Young Greens across England
and Wales, EC needs to be organising effective events for mobilising
political engagement.
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- 28 1. That since representatives elected in the annual ballot are elected by the
national membership, they need to be accountable to the membership
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- 31 1. That for the membership to hold its representatives to account
effectively, there need to be multiple entry points and opportunities
available throughout the year.

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1. That robust democracy and accountability requires formal mechanisms through which the membership can commend, reprimand and, if necessary, remove from office elected representatives.

35 **Young Greens resolves:**

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1. To amend Article A1.1 in the Standing Orders from:
"The Young Greens Convention shall be held once per year in Autumn" - to -
"The Young Greens Convention shall be held once per year in Spring"

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1. To coordinate an annual national political organising event, to inspire, train and mobilise the membership.

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1. To insert Article B1.7 in the Standing Orders, that reads:
 1. "A General Meeting will be held at a national autumn event"

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1. To insert a new byelaw 1.6, and renumber accordingly:
 1. "EC members shall individually provide a six month progress report to the membership and take part in a face-to-face accountability session with members at the annual autumn event."

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1. To insert a new byelaw 2.8:
 1. "SPC members shall individually provide a six month progress report to the membership and take part in a face-to-face accountability session with members at the autumn event."

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1. To insert a new byelaw 3.10:

1. "Senate Co-Chairs members shall individually provide a six month progress report to the membership and take part in a face-to-face accountability session with members at the annual autumn event."

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1. To insert a new byelaw 4.6, and renumber accordingly:

1. "Green Students Campaign Committee members shall together provide a six month progress report to the membership and take part in a face-to-face accountability session with members at the annual autumn event."

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1. That elected representatives will have a handover period of two months at the end of their tenure, in order for the representative-elect to observe and support their work through the election season.

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1. To insert the following in the Standing Orders, and renumber accordingly:

64 **Section D: Autumn General Meeting**

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1. There will be a Young Greens General Meeting held at the autumn

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2. The Autumn General Meeting consists solely of accountability sessions for the following representatives elected in the annual ballot:

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- Executive Committee co-chairs

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- Treasurer

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- Non-portfolio EC members

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- Region Senate Co-Chairs

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- Green Students Committee

73 3. The Autumn General Meeting must take note of mandatory six-month progress
74 reports from

75 4. The accountability session will take the form of a face-to-face Q&A with the
76 membership

77 5. There must be at least 25 members of the Young Greens excluding employees at
78 any General Meeting for decisions to be binding

79 6. Motions of No-Confidence may be put forward during the accountability session
80 and will pass with a two-thirds majority

81 7. Motions of Censure and Commendations may be put forward during the
82 accountability session. Motions of Censure and Commendations will pass with a
83 simple majority.

84 8. Every Young Green is eligible to vote at the Autumn General Meeting

85 9. Young Greens employees have no voting rights