

# CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL



## 1. About the Constitution

1.1. This Constitution has been approved by the Student Council and the Governing Body and takes effect from 1 August 2023. It replaces all previous versions. It will be reviewed not later than 31 July 2027 and any changes will require the approval of both parties.

1.2. Morley College London recognises that its mission “*to empower individuals and strengthen communities through the transformative impact of learning*” can only be achieved with the continued close involvement of its student body. The Student Engagement Policy adopted by the Governing Body commits the College to promote, encourage and capture student voice from across the range of its diverse student body and to make effective use of that voice in enhancing the quality and scope of its curriculum offer and the student experience generally.

1.3. Part II of the Education Act 1994 requires institutions in the Further and Higher Education sectors to ‘take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that any students’ union for students at the establishment operates in a fair and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances’. The term ‘students’ union’ includes any ‘representative body whose principal purposes include representing the generality of students’. The Governing Body recognises the Student Council established by this constitution as a democratically run organisation, committed to serving and representing the students of the College.

1.4. The College has agreed to provide financial and operational resources to support the work of the Student Council and of student representatives, including administrative support. The College has also agreed to fund the publication of Morley Magazine and to facilitate the operation of Morley Clubs.

## 2. Definitions

2.1. **Class Representative (CR).** A student elected by a class to represent the views of that class in discussions with College management at centre or programme level.

2.2. **Morley Clubs.** Clubs and societies recognised by the Student Council and comprising students and other eligible persons who wish to meet regularly to pursue shared interests.

2.3. **Student.** A student is anyone who has enrolled on a course at Morley of at least one term’s duration in a particular academic year.

2.4. **Student Council.** The body representing student interests across the College. It meets at least once a term to discuss college-wide issues affecting students

and to question members of the Senior Leadership Team and other senior managers of the College. It also regulates Morley Clubs, appoints student members of College committees and nominates the student governors who are to be appointed to the Governing Body.

**2.5. Student Governor.** One of the two students appointed to the Governing Body on the nomination of the Student Council to bring a student perspective to the Governing Body's consideration of strategic issues facing the College. Each Student Governor serves for a term of up to two years, which may be renewed for up to a further two years, provided that no Student Governor may serve for a period of office exceeding four years in total. A student who has previously served as a Student Governor may be re-appointed if there has been a break of one year or more between the end of their previous period of office and their re-appointment. A student governor's term of office will end if they cease to be a student or if the Student Council resolves to terminate their appointment.

### **3. Class Representatives**

3.1. Each class may elect one CR. Elections will normally take place at a class meeting in the first four weeks of the College year, or at one of the first four meetings of the class if the class is formed later in the year.

3.2. Each CR will serve for a period of one year so long as the class by which they were elected is in existence. In the event of a vacancy occurring as a result of the CR leaving or standing down, a new election will take place.

3.3. A list of the names of the CRs, showing the class that each of them represents, will be made available to all students.

### **4. The Student Council**

4.1. The Student Council represents student interests across the College and expresses the student voice on any matter affecting students.

#### **Membership**

4.2. The Council will comprise 19 members as follows:

- 15 CRs elected in accordance with Clause 5.3. below ;
- three members nominated by Morley Clubs in accordance with the Constitution for Morley Clubs, at least one of whom must be a current Morley student; and
- the Editor of Morley Magazine.

4.3. The CRs at each Centre will elect five of their number as members of the Student Council. Should fewer than five CRs from any Centre be nominated for election, the candidates gaining the highest numbers of votes in elections at the other two Centres after the five places on the Council allocated to CRs from that Centre have been filled will fill the remaining places, in order of the number of votes cast for each.

4.4. The Council will make arrangements to fill any vacancies arising during the year. It may also co-opt up to three additional members with specialist skills and knowledge for limited periods (not exceeding a year) to assist it to undertake specific pieces of work.

### **Functions**

4.5. The main functions of the Council include:

- considering matters raised by Council members or by individual students or groups of students that affect students generally, whether related to the curriculum or to the wider student experience, and making recommendations where appropriate to the Senior Leadership Team;
- appointing student representatives to serve on College Committees and working groups
- appointing the Editor of *Morley Magazine* and making arrangements to oversee its publication
- nominating student governors for appointment (subject to eligibility) as members of the Governing Body
- regulating the affairs of Morley Clubs, including approving arrangements for the election of Clubs representatives to serve on the Council
- organising an annual student conference
- providing representation for students in relation to disciplinary and conduct matters and training and support for student members of disciplinary and conduct panels.

### **Officers**

4.6. The Council will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its members at the first meeting in each College year. Both Chair and Vice-Chair must be current Morley students.

4.7. A Chair or Vice-Chair who has served for four successive years shall not be eligible for re-election to that office unless there has been a break of one year or more between the end of their previous period of office and their re-appointment.

4.8. The Council may appoint a Secretary and/or Treasurer from among its members or may request the provision by the College of a designated support officer to fulfil one or both of those roles.

### **Finance**

4.9. The Council will receive an annual grant from the College, which it may spend at its discretion to enhance the student experience. The Council may choose to supplement that grant by raising additional funds.

4.10. The Council will have its own bank account, which it must maintain in credit at all times. The Chair, the Treasurer and up to two other members of the Council will be signatories to the account. Any disbursement from the account shall require the signature of any two of these signatories.

4.11. The Treasurer in consultation with the Chair will manage the account and present a report and accounts to the Council and to the Governing Body annually.

**Proceedings**

4.12. The Student Council shall have the power to make, repeal or amend its own standing orders. A meeting of the Council shall be quorate if at least 40 per cent of members are present.

4.13. Ordinary meetings will be arranged at least termly by the Secretary, following consultation with the Chair. A special meeting of the Council may be called by the Chair or at the written request of at least five members of the Council. The request must state the purpose of the meeting. The meeting shall be called within 10 days and take place within 28 days of the request being received.