

1. Motion: To make NaSTA A legal entity with Charity status

Proposer: Chris Osborn – NaSTA Development Officer

Seconder: Avneet Chauhan – NaSTA Chair

NaSTA Believes:

1. NaSTA does not currently exist as a legal entity,
2. NaSTA cannot undertake actions as an organisation such as entering into a contract or sponsorship agreement with organisations or companies.
3. Current limits on the amount of time individuals can be formally involved with NaSTA have led to problems with hand overs and the loss of information and contacts important to the running of NaSTA.

NaSTA Further Believes:

1. By becoming a legal entity NaSTA can enter into contacts and agreements that are beneficial to both NaSTA as an organisation and member stations.
2. Research has been undertaken by several NaSTA executive teams to determine the best model for NaSTA to exist as a legal entity which has informed the research by the current development officer into what form NaSTA should take.
3. Charities have to have a trustee board of members serving typically 3 year terms. This will provide continuous support for both executive and host teams and ensure smoother transitions than the current model provides.

NaSTA Notes:

1. There are several potential benefits to becoming a charity including:
 - a. A trustee with a term of several years managing the accounts which prevents the need for all signatories to change every year. This will ensure NaSTA are not left without access to the bank account for weeks or months over handover as is currently the case.
 - b. Contacts can be maintained by the trustees and passed on efficiently to new Executive Officers.
 - c. NaSTA can appoint trustees from outside of student television who have specific skills or experience in the television and media industries that can enhance NaSTA's activities and the opportunities available to members.
 - d. NaSTA can enter into agreements and contracts with other organisations.
 - e. NaSTA can apply for funding grants that are only available to charities.
2. In order to become a charity NaSTA must take several steps:
 - a. Appoint trustees (at least 3, probably between 6-10). They will be legally responsible for ensuring that NaSTA abides by legal and financial rules governing charities.
 - b. Ensure that NaSTA meets a "charitable purposes for the public benefit". As NaSTA has an educational role supporting student TV stations and enabling members to gain skills in all areas of TV production this should ensure NaSTA meets these requirements.

- c. Choose a charitable structure. The one that will serve NaSTA best would be Association Charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) or a Charitable Company. An Association CIO is the model best suited for charities with wider membership who have voting rights and want to be incorporated which means that the charity can conduct business in its own name and has limited liability so trustees are not liable for a financial loss.
 - d. Create a governing document. This will involve a complete rewrite of the NaSTA Constitution to make it pass the Charity Commission guidelines.
3. NaSTA's governance structure will have to change. The Trustee Board will be legally responsible for NaSTA as a charity. However it can delegate political and day to day administrative duties to the NaSTA Exec who can continue to be elected as they currently are. The Chair should sit on the trustee board. This is a similar model to the one which Students' Unions operate under.
4. The relationship between NaSTA and STAN will have to be formalised. The STAN trustee board will have to be renamed to avoid confusion with the legally responsible NaSTA trustees. There should still be a separate body to run STAN and their Chair should become a NaSTA trustee.
5. There will be an increased administrative workload created by becoming a charity. Charities have to present annual reports and accounts to the Charity Commission. This workload can be dealt with by a combination of the Trustee Board and the enlarged NaSTA Executive.
6. NaSTA Trustees will need to create guidelines for Executive Officers and Host Officers to ensure that any payments from the NaSTA budget towards NaSTA Conference costs do not breach ultra vires rules on charities supporting the work of other charities (i.e. NaSTA and a Students' Union).

NaSTA Resolves:

1. To mandate the 2017-18 NaSTA executive officers to make NaSTA a legal entity with charitable status. They should aim to meet the following timeline:
 - a. Constitution written by 1st October.
 - b. Constitution approved in online general meeting by 20th December
 - c. Trustees appointed by 1st February
 - d. Application for charity status completed by 1st April
2. To mandate the 2017-18 NaSTA executive officers to liaise with the STAN trustees to find a suitable relationship between NaSTA and STAN within the framework of NaSTA as a legal entity.