

REFERENDUM NOTIFICATION

BY ORDER OF THE RETURNING OFFICER (on 20 May 2020)

Constitutional Amendments

A number of proposed amendments to the Student's Union Constitution were approved at the Annual Business Meeting of the Students' Union Council, held on Wednesday 20 May 2020.

These amendments require ratification by the Student Members of the Students' Union.

Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25

The Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 was approved at the Annual Business Meeting of the Students' Union Council, held on Wednesday 20 May 2020.

Council approved a proposal to call a Referendum to seek the opinion of the membership of the Students' Union on the new Plan.

The Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 is available for review on the Students' Union website.

Referendum Details

In accordance with the Rules, this official notification shall be treated as comparable to the receipt of a signed referendum petition from the membership and shall be used to calculate the date of the Referendum.

The full Rules and Regulations for the referendum are available from the Returning Officer (studentvoice@qub.ac.uk) and are on the Students' Union website. (www.qubsu.org)

A referendum shall take place, by a secret ballot on QUBSU.org, of all student members, on Thursday 28 May 2020 from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m., to determine the opinion of the membership on the following amendments:

- An amendment to enable Clubs and Societies to undertake formal business (such as elections and AGMs/UGMs online) under normal circumstances.
- An amendment to enable Clubs and Societies to undertake member management (such as recruitment and paying of membership fees) online at the discretion of the Executive Management Committee.
- An amendment to enable all Union meetings to be conducted electronically.
- An amendment to update the role descriptions of the Vice President Education and Vice President postgraduate to reflect changes to academic representation processes within the University.
- An amendment to formally commit the Students' Union to implementing a new Academic Code of Practice in Queen's.

A referendum shall take place, by a secret ballot on QUBSU.org, of all student members, on Thursday 28 May 2020 from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m., to determine the opinion of the membership on endorsing the Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25.

Excerpt from the Minutes of the Wednesday 20 May 2020 Annual Business Meeting of Council

(SUC/M/20/03)

5.3 **An amendment to enable Clubs and Societies to undertake formal business (such as elections and AGMs/UGMs online) under normal circumstances**

INSERT the following (into Rule 8 – CLUBS & SOCIETIES, Section 5, Clause 5.1 – AGMS AND EGMS):

The Executive Management Committee permit a Club or Society to conduct an AGM or EGM, including elections, by electronic means, and may also detail any processes associated with any such AGM/EGM or election.

Proposer: Connor Veighey (Union President)
Seconder: Grian Ní Dhaimhín (Councillor)

[The motion was debated.]

Following a show of digital voting cards the result was:

44 For
0 Against
1 Abstention

The constitutional amendment was carried.

5.4 **An amendment to enable Clubs and Societies to undertake member management (such as recruitment and paying of membership fees) online at the discretion of the Executive Management Committee**

INSERT the following (into Rule 8 – CLUBS & SOCIETIES, Section 4, Clause 4.4 - MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITTEES):

The Executive Management Committee may approve: the electronic collection of membership fees; the process by which any such fees may be collected; and the data to be collected, and submitted to the Students' Union, in relation to membership details.

Proposer: Connor Veighey (Union President)
Seconder: Grian Ní Dhaimhín (Councillor)

[The motion was debated.]

Following a show of digital voting cards the result was:

44 For
0 Against
1 Abstention

The constitutional amendment was carried.

5.5 **An amendment to enable all Union meetings to be conducted electronically**

INSERT the following new clause (into Rule 7- COMMITTEE CONDUCT, Section 1, Clause 1.12) and number / renumber existing clauses accordingly:

1.12 Electronic Business

- 1.12.1 Notwithstanding any clause to the contrary in the Constitution and Rules, all official meetings, gatherings, notices, petitions, submissions, elections, communications, and other business detailed in the Constitution and Rules may be take place by electronic means.
- 1.12.2 Any business detailed in 1.12 shall take place as prescribed in the Constitution and Rules.
- 1.12.3 In any situation whereby technological limitations restrict business, except for Elections, being conducted in accordance with 1.12.2, The Clerk of Council may issue determinations to ensure the orderly conduct of any such business.

Proposer: Connor Veighey (Union President)
Seconder: Grian Ní Dhaimhín (Councillor)

[The motion was debated.]

Following a show of digital voting cards the result was:

45 For
0 Against
0 Abstention

The constitutional amendment was carried.

5.6 **An amendment to update the role descriptions of the Vice President Education and Vice President postgraduate to reflect changes to academic representation processes within the University**

DELETE the following (from Rule 4, Section 3 – THE VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION, 3.3):

Shall be responsible for liaising with Staff Student Consultative Committees and shall provide training in conjunction with the Directorate of Academic and Student Affairs, with a particular focus on undergraduate Students.

REPLACE with the following:

Shall be responsible for liaising with the University Authorities on matters related to student academic representation and student voice, with a particular focus on undergraduate students.

DELETE the following (from Rule 4, Section 7 – THE VICE PRESIDENT POSTGRADUATE 7.4):

Shall be responsible for liaising with Staff Student Consultative Committees and shall provide training in conjunction with the Directorate of Academic and Student Affairs, with a particular focus on postgraduate Students.

REPLACE with the following:

Shall be responsible for liaising with the University Authorities on matters related to student academic representation and student voice, with a particular focus on postgraduate students.

Proposer: Jason Bunting (Vice President Education)
Seconder: Grian Ní Dhaimhín (Councillor)

[The motion was debated.]

Following a show of digital voting cards the result was:

43 For
0 Against
2 Abstentions

The constitutional amendment was carried.

5.7 **An amendment to formally commit the Students' Union to implementing a new Academic Code of Practice in Queen's**

INSERT the following new clause (into Rule 4 – Executive Management Committee, Section 1) and number / renumber existing clauses accordingly:

The Executive Management Committee shall be responsible, for ensuring that the Students' Union supports effective student academic representation across the University, including the Student Academic Representation Code of Practice.

Proposer: Jason Bunting (Vice President Education)
Seconder: Grian Ní Dhaimhín (Councillor)

[The motion was debated.]

Following a show of digital voting cards the result was:

43 For
0 Against
2 Abstentions

The constitutional amendment was carried.

6.3 Proposal to Conduct a Referendum to Endorse the Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25

"A Referendum shall take place, via by a secret ballot of all student members on QUBSU.org, on Thursday 28 May 2020, with polling taking place between 8.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m.

The purpose of this Referendum shall be to seek the endorsement of the membership of the Students' Union Strategic Plan 2015-20 as approved by the Students' Union Council on 20 May 2020."

[The motion was debated.]

Following a show of digital voting cards the result was:

38 For
1 Against
4 Abstentions

The constitutional amendment was carried.