

## REFERENDUM NOTIFICATION

BY ORDER OF THE RETURNING OFFICER (on 9 April 2024)

### **Constitutional Amendments**

A number of proposed amendments to the Student's Union Constitution were approved at the Statutory Meeting of the Student's Union Council held on Thursday 29 February 2024, and the Annual Business Meeting of the Students' Union Council held on Monday 8 April 2024.

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

### **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 ([su.voice@qub.ac.uk](mailto:su.voice@qub.ac.uk)) and are on the Students' Union website. ([www.q-su.org](http://www.q-su.org))

A referendum shall take place, by a secret ballot on Q-SU.org, of all student members, on Thursday 18 April 2024 from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., to determine the opinion of the membership on the amendments outlined in the minute excerpts below.

The amendments shall be collated and put as follows:

#### Proposal 1 –Amendments to the Constitution – Democracy Review

“Do you support the proposal on Democracy in the Students' Union (**attached**) to amend the Students' Union Constitution and Rules?”

YES

NO

#### Proposal 2 –Amendments to the Constitution of the Students' Union- Reps and Clubs and Societies

“Do you support the proposal on Rep Roles and Clubs and Societies in the Students' Union (**attached**) to amend the Students' Union Constitution and Rules?”

YES

NO

## Excerpt from the Minutes of the Thursday 29 February 2024 Statutory Meeting of Council

### 5. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS/RULE AMENDMENTS

#### 5.1 Deliberative democracy process in the Students' Union SUC/P/24/7

The Union Speaker declared an interest in the agenda item under consideration. In the absence of the Deputy Speaker, and the participation of the Union President in moving this agenda item, the Council elected Councillor Niamh Bone as acting Union Speaker for this agenda item.

The Council considered a number of amendments to the Constitution and Rules to introduce deliberative democracy processes and increased participation opportunities for Student Members in policy development and approval in the Students' Union as detailed in paper SUC/P/24/7.

Some Councillors expressed a view that Councillors should be given additional time to review the proposals in their totality. It was noted that considerable discussion of the proposals had been undertaken at recent prior meetings of the Council.

Council agreed to proceed with consideration of the proposals as tabled, noting that Council can agree at any stage to defer a formal vote on proposals to future meeting of the Council.

The Union Speaker received a Point of Order regarding quorum. The Clerk of Council undertook a quorum count, and the Union Speaker declared the meeting to be quorate.

The proposed motions were debated and amended by means of friendly amendment.

The revised proposals, including all friendly amendments are detailed in paper SUC/P/24/8.

A proposal to arrange a Special Meeting of Council to give further consideration to the proposals did not receive sufficient support to be carried.

The Council agreed to put the revised proposals to an online vote of Council members present, to be scheduled by the Clerk of Council no earlier than Monday 11 March 2024.

The online vote took place from Thursday 14 March 2024, 2.00 p.m. to Wednesday 20 March 2024, 2.00 p.m. and the result was:

- 22 For
- 0 Against
- 0 Abstention

The constitutional amendment was carried.

The Council approved an enabling motion to authorise the Clerk of Council to composite the amendments approved at the meeting such that invalid references were removed from the text of the Constitution and to provide the text to the Returning Officer for a referendum.

Councillor Matthew McCallion resumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**INSERT (INTO Rule 5 – COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, STUDENT NETWORKS AND FORUMS) a new Section and renumber existing sections accordingly:**

**THE PROPOSAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

The remit of the Proposal Support Committee, as delegated by the Council, will be:

To establish and review procedures for the Student Idea Submission process as detailed in the Rules;

To make recommendations on the effectiveness of the Student Idea Submission process to the relevant Union body and to undertake an annual review on behalf of Council;

To establish an annual schedule for Student Idea Submission activities, including Online Voting, Student Assembly events and associated Referendums;

To support the development of policy by proposers and provide oversight of the Student Idea Submission Process;

To make necessary arrangements and approvals for Student Idea Submission activities, including Online Voting and Student Assembly; and

To consider other issues delegated to it by Council.

The membership of the Proposal Support Committee shall be ten elected members of the Council, the Union President and the Union Speaker (who shall chair the Committee), all with voting rights. The Clerk of Council (or nominee) and the Director of the Students' Union (or nominee) shall be in attendance, but shall not have voting rights.

Students' Union staff resources shall be available to support the activities of the Proposal Support Committee.

Committee members shall be provided with relevant training opportunities to support them in their role.

Minutes of meetings of the Committee shall be published on the Union website and made available to the Student Membership.

**DELETE (From Rule 1, Section 7 - LAPSE OF UNION POLICY)**

**7. LAPSE OF UNION POLICY**

- 7.1 All policies that have been in existence for three years or more will lapse at the Annual Business Meeting of the Council, unless Council otherwise directs.
- 7.2 A list of headings of all policies due to lapse shall be available for consultation in the office of the Clerk of Council not less than 15 days (excluding Saturday and Sunday) before the Annual Business Meeting.
- 7.3 Any Student Member may submit a written objection to the lapse of any policy to the Clerk of Council by 5.00 p.m. on the closing date for business for the Annual Business Meeting. Such an objection will be tabled as a motion to the Annual Business Meeting.

- 7.4 Any policy to which there is no such objection shall lapse at the Annual Business Meeting.
- 7.5 Mandatory policy of the Students' Union shall not lapse until such time as it has been rescinded by a mandatory decision of the membership.

**REPLACE WITH:**

**7. STUDENTS' UNION POLICY**

7.1 Policy Formulation

- 7.1.1 The Union shall formulate policy on student matters and on other matters of relevance to the student membership.
- 7.1.2 Policy may be formulated, and resolutions approved, by Union General Meetings, Referendum or Student Ideas Submission.
- 7.1.3 The Council shall receive a report of all additions and amendments to Union policy at the next available opportunity.
- 7.1.4 Details of all policy shall be published online and be available to the Student Membership.
- 7.1.5 The Council shall review the status of all policies and review progress of policy on no less than an annual basis. The outcomes of any such review shall be published online and be available to the Student Membership.
- 7.1.6 The Council may consider and approve Union policy referred to the Council by Student Ideas Submission Process on matters of extreme urgency. A matter of extreme urgency is a matter which could not have reasonably been brought for consideration by the Student Submission process.
- 7.1.7 Any policy approved directly by the Council shall have effect only until such time as it has been considered at the next available opportunity through the Student Submission process.
- 7.1.8 The Council may consider and approve resolutions which support the implementation of established Union policy. Any such resolution may not materially alter or negate established policy.

7.2 Mandatory Policy

- 7.2.1 Mandatory Policy for the Union may be determined by a Union General Meeting or by a Referendum in accordance with the procedures contained within the Rules.
- 7.2.2 A mandatory decision of the Student Membership shall only be amended or overturned by a mandatory decision of the Student Membership.
- 7.2.3 A motion or proposal to alter or rescind a mandatory decision of the Student Membership shall not be considered within 12 months from the date of passing such a decision.
- 7.2.4 Mandatory policy of the Students' Union shall not lapse until such time as it has been rescinded by a mandatory decision of the membership.

### 7.3 Policy Lapse

- 7.3.1 All non-mandatory policies that have been in existence for three years or more will lapse at the end of the third full academic year after approval, unless Council otherwise directs.
- 7.3.2 All policies due to lapse shall be available for Council to consider at a Statutory Meeting of the Council, as scheduled by the Clerk of Council.
- 7.3.3 Any Student member may submit a written objection to the lapse of any policy to the Clerk of Council. Such an objection shall be tabled as a motion at the Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 7.3.4 Policy for which the Council has approved an objection shall be referred to the Proposal Support Committee for consideration through the Student Ideas Submission Process. Any such policy shall not be deemed to have lapsed until it has been considered at the next available opportunity.

**INSERT (INTO Rule 1 – PROCEDURES FOR THE COUNCIL, UNION GENERAL MEETINGS, REFERENDA AND REMOVAL OR RESIGNATION OF ELECTED UNION OFFICERS) a new Section and renumber existing sections accordingly:**

#### **STUDENT IDEA SUBMISSION**

##### Proposal Submission and Development

Student members may propose policy through a digital Student Idea Submission Process.

The Clerk of Council shall determine the form of digital submission, taking due account of any recommendations of the Proposal Support Committee.

The Proposal Support Committee shall support the development of policy by proposers and shall have oversight of the Student Idea Submission Process.

The Proposal Support Committee shall consider all submitted proposals, normally within twenty-one working days, and undertake any of the following actions, as deemed necessary:

- Provide additional information or amendments to a proposal, including screening for factual inaccuracies and legibility.
- Equality screening
- Legal screening
- Reject a proposal, or referral of a proposal for consideration to an officer of the Union or to another body of the Union, if the proposal is not deemed to be a valid policy proposal.
- Refer a proposal to the Council for consideration if the proposal is a matter of extreme urgency.
- Progress a proposal to **an Online Vote if the Committee** deems a proposal valid for consideration by the membership.

- Progress a proposal to a Student Assembly if the Committee deems that a proposal requires further scoping or deliberative development, including if a proposal requires contributions by particular cohorts of students.

The Proposal Support Committee shall not make any determination or recommendation on the substantive matters of proposal.

A student may appeal a decision of the Proposal Support Committee to the Council. The Council may delegate consideration of appeals to a Sub-Committee of the Council, which shall not be the Proposal Support Committee.

The Proposal Support Committee may conduct business electronically.

#### Online Vote

Proposals referred to an Online Vote shall be published on the Students' Union website and Students' Union's online voting platform.

The schedule for the online voting period, the details of the voting process, and the matters for consideration shall be published on the Students' Union website.

Online voting shall be conducted over a period of at least five working days.

Student members may submit feedback on proposals and vote on proposals, subject to the Rules.

The Proposal Support Committee shall approve procedures for the conduct of the online vote, subject to the Rules.

The Students' Union shall host an in-person and online discussion event during each period of online voting, for members to discuss matters under consideration.

An online vote with fewer than seventy votes cast shall be deemed to be inquorate.

A proposal:

Shall require the vote of 75% of those voting to be deemed carried and considered to be policy.

Receiving the vote of 25%, or less, of those voting shall not be considered again within 12 months from the date of passing such a decision.

Receiving greater than 25%, but less than 75%, of the vote, shall be referred to the Proposal Support Committee for review and further consideration.

There shall not be more than two online voting periods in each semester.

An online vote may not consider amendments to the Constitution and associated Rules.

All policy deemed to be carried shall be published on the Students' Union website and reported to the Council.

#### Student Assembly

A Student Assembly shall be convened by the Proposal Support Committee, when deemed necessary, for further scoping or deliberative development of proposals, including if a proposal requires contributions by particular cohorts of students.

A Student Assembly may give detailed consideration to proposals and recommend policy proposals to be put by the Proposal Support Committee for consideration by the Student Membership by Referendum.

Membership of a Student Assembly shall be open to all Student Members of the Union. Student Members may be required to register to participate in a Student Assembly.

Membership of a Student Assembly shall be representative of the diversity of the Student Membership and shall be selected randomly by means of sortition from amongst the Student Membership.

The criteria and process for sortition shall be proposed by the Proposal Support Committee and approved by the Management Board.

The criteria and process for sortition shall be published on the Students' Union website and reported to the Council. Sortition shall utilise data defined by the relevant University student classification system or Students' Union records system.

A Student Assembly shall have between 24 - 48 members.

The Proposal Support Committee shall determine:

- The number of Student Assembly events convened in each academic year. There shall be a minimum of one Student Assembly convened in each semester if there are proposals to be considered.
- The size of membership of each Student Assembly.
- The maximum number of distinct proposals to be considered by each Student Assembly.
- The process and format of discussion, debate and democratic decision-making at a Student Assembly.
- The Chairperson or facilitator of each Student Assembly, who shall receive appropriate training and support for the role.
- Those entitled to observe, contribute, and participate in a Student Assembly, in addition to the membership of the Student Assembly. This may include recognised student groups, University staff, or subject area experts.
- Which student cohorts, if any, are relevant to a proposal under consideration and if they should be approached to contribute to the Student Assembly.
- Other relevant matters required to conduct a Student Assembly.

Notice of a Student Assembly and of the matters under consideration shall be published on the Students' Union website. Any such notice shall invite expressions of interest from Student members interested in contributing to the Student Assembly.

Members of a Student Assembly shall take into account the best interests of the Union members and shall be required to declare any potential conflict of interest arising from any matter under consideration.

The Students' Union shall endeavour to recognise the contribution of Student Assembly members.

A Student Assembly may not consider amendments to the Constitution and associated Rules.

All policy deemed to be carried shall be published on the Students' Union website and reported to the Council.

Minutes of meetings of the Assembly shall be published on the Union website and made available to the Student Membership.

**DELETE (From Rule 1):**

**“PROCEDURES FOR THE COUNCIL, UNION GENERAL MEETINGS, REFERENDA AND REMOVAL OR RESIGNATION OF ELECTED UNION OFFICERS”**

**REPLACE WITH:**

**“PROCEDURES FOR THE COUNCIL, UNION GENERAL MEETINGS, REFERENDA, STUDENT IDEA SUBMISSION AND REMOVAL OR RESIGNATION OF ELECTED UNION OFFICERS”**

**DELETE (From Rule 1, Section 4. REFERENDA, Article 4.1):**

A Referendum shall be held on any proposal when more than half of all of the voting members of the Council deem it necessary or upon receipt by the Returning Officer (see Rule 2) of a Petition bearing the names, signatures and student numbers of 1.5% of the Student Membership. The Returning Officer shall determine the form of a Petition document and may also, at their discretion, accept digital Petitions provided that they can verify the identity and authenticity of petitioners. Petitions shall not be deemed valid unless submitted to the Returning Officer within twenty working days from the date on which the Petition commenced.

**REPLACE WITH:**

A Referendum shall be held on a proposal:

When more than half the membership of Council, present and voting at a properly constituted meeting of Council, deem it necessary. Any such proposal shall be considered by the Student Idea Submission process and progressed to a Student Assembly in advance of a Referendum being held; or

On receipt by the Returning Officer (see Rule 2) of a Petition bearing the signatures and student numbers of 2.5% of the Student Membership. The Returning Officer shall determine the form of a Petition document and may also, at their discretion, accept digital Petitions provided that they can verify the identity and authenticity of petitioners. Petitions shall not be deemed valid unless submitted to the Returning Officer within twenty working days from the date on which the Petition commenced; or

When the Proposal Support Committee authorise a Referendum to on any proposal considered by a Student Assembly.”

**DELETE (From Rule 1, Section 4. REFERENDA, Article 4.2):**

A Referendum held under 4.1 shall be on a proposal decided by the Council, or as stated on the submitted Petition. If more than one proposal is submitted, the procedure in 4.1 must be adhered to with regard to each separate proposal.

**REPLACE WITH:**

A Referendum held under 4.1 shall be on a proposal decided by the Council, as stated on the submitted Petition, or as authorised by the Proposal Support Committee. If more than one



proposal is submitted, the procedure in 4.1 must be adhered to with regard to each separate proposal.

**DELETE (From Rule 1, Section 4. REFERENDA, Article 4.3):**

If the Referendum is called by the Council as in 4.1, then the date on which the Council decision is minuted and placed on the Students' Union website and authorised noticeboards shall be treated as comparable to the receipt of a Referendum Petition as in 4.1 and shall be used for the purpose of calculating when the Referendum is to be held.

**REPLACE WITH:**

If the Referendum is called by the Council or Proposal Support Committee as in 4.1, then the date on which the Council or Proposal Support Committee decision is minuted and placed on the Students' Union website and authorised noticeboards shall be treated as comparable to the receipt of a Referendum Petition as in 4.1 and shall be used for the purpose of calculating when the Referendum is to be held.

**DELETE (From Rule 1, Section 4. REFERENDA, Article 4.4):**

The Referendum must begin within 21 clear days from the receipt of the Referendum Petition, but no earlier than eight clear days from the receipt of the Referendum Petition, and can last no longer than ten working days (excluding Saturday and Sunday).

**REPLACE WITH:**

The Referendum must begin within 21 clear days from the receipt of the Referendum Petition, but no earlier than eight clear days from the receipt of the Referendum Petition, and can last no longer than ten working days (excluding Saturday and Sunday). A Referendum authorised by the Proposal Support Committee may begin within five working days from the date on which the decision is minuted and published.

**DELETE (From Rule 1, Section 4. REFERENDA, Article 4.7):**

Each side in the Referendum shall be entitled only to the following printed publicity which must be printed by the Students' Union:

200 A3 Posters;

500 A4 Posters;

1000 A5 Flyers.

The Returning Officer may amend the entitlement to printed publicity material, provided that each side in a referendum campaign receive the same entitlement.

**REPLACE WITH:**

Each side in the Referendum shall be entitled only to the following printed publicity which must be printed by the Students' Union:

200 A3 Posters;

500 A4 Posters;

1000 A5 Flyers.

The Returning Officer may amend the entitlement to printed publicity material, provided that each side in a referendum campaign receive the same entitlement.

There shall be no entitlement to printed publicity material in any Referendum authorised by the Proposal Support Committee, unless the Committee approves that there be an entitlement.

## Excerpt from the Minutes of Monday 8 April 2024 Statutory Meeting of Council

### 5. Constitutional Amendments/Rule Amendments SUC/P/24/9

#### 5.1 An amendment to the role of Faculty Representative and School Representative

Proposer: Beth Elder (Students' Union President)  
Seconder: Róisín Keenan (Women Students' Association Chairperson)

#### 5.2 An amendment to the eligibility and terms of office for Student Association Committees

Proposer: Beth Elder (Students' Union President)  
Seconder: Róisín Keenan (Women Students' Association Chairperson)

#### 5.3 An amendment to requiring Student Officers to hold two open meetings per semester to enable more direct scrutiny by students of their work

Proposer: Beth Elder (Students' Union President)  
Seconder: Róisín Keenan (Women Students' Association Chairperson)

#### 5.4 An amendment to require the text of constitutional amendments to be available to Councillors ten days in advance of a meeting

Proposer: Jess Hindley (Student Officer Welfare)  
Seconder: Matthew McCallion (Union Speaker)

#### 5.5 An amendment to formally incorporate the existing Clubs and Societies Committee into the Constitution of the Students' Union

Proposer: Beth Elder (Students' Union President)  
Seconder: Róisín Keenan (Women Students' Association Chairperson)

#### 5.6 An amendment to set a standard minimum age of sixteen years of age for Associate members (i.e. non-QUB student members) of Clubs and Societies

Proposer: Beth Elder (Students' Union President)  
Seconder: Róisín Keenan (Women Students' Association Chairperson)

#### 5.7 An amendment to limit the number of Associate Members of a Club or Society to a maximum of 25% of the total membership of the Club or Society

Proposer: Beth Elder (Students' Union President)  
Seconder: Róisín Keenan (Women Students' Association Chairperson)

#### 5.8 An amendment to update references to the Club and Society Complaints and Investigations Procedure

Proposer: Beth Elder (Students' Union President)  
Seconder: Róisín Keenan (Women Students' Association Chairperson)

#### 5.9 An amendment to update references and guidance on considering internal disagreements within Clubs and Societies and clarifying when formal procedures are appropriate

Proposer: Beth Elder (Students' Union President)  
Seconder: Róisín Keenan (Women Students' Association Chairperson)

The proposed amendments are detailed in paper SUC/P/24/9.

The Council noted that item 5.4 proposed an amendment to Chapter One of the Constitution. Any such amendment requires the support of one-half of the elected membership of the Council. The Union Speaker ruled that the amendment would not be considered as there were

an insufficient number of Councillors present at the meeting to support the proposed amendment.

The Council agreed to consider amendment 5.7 independently of the other amendments, which were all considered in block by Council.

Proposed amendments (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8, 5.9) were debated and voted on by a show of voting cards. The result was:

- 33 For
- 0 Against
- 0 Abstention

The constitutional amendments were carried.

Proposed amendment 5.7 was debated and voted on by a show of voting cards. The result was:

- 13 For
- 12 Against
- 6 Abstention

The constitutional amendment was deemed to have fallen.

The Council approved an enabling motion to authorise the Clerk of Council to composite the amendments approved at the meeting such that invalid references were removed from the text of the Constitution and to provide the text to the Returning Officer for a referendum.

**An amendment to the role of Faculty Representative and School Representative**

**INSERT (into RULE 5 - COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL AND ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION, SECTION 11 – ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION) new clauses and number/renumber as appropriate:**

11.X A Faculty Representative or School Representative may take a recess from their duties and responsibilities by submitting notice to the Clerk of Council. The notice shall detail the period of any recess. The Students' Union shall maintain regular and appropriate contact with a Faculty Representative or School Representative during a period of recess:

11.X.1 In the event of an Undergraduate Faculty Representative taking a period of recess, the Student Officer Undergraduate Education shall undertake the duties and responsibilities of the Faculty Representative for the duration of recess. The Student Officer Undergraduate Education may delegate duties and responsibilities of the Faculty Representative to Undergraduate School Representatives from within the electorate of the Faculty Representative. A School Representative may not undertake the Faculty Representative's attendance at meetings of the Executive Management Committee or membership of the Students' Union Council.

11.X.2 In the event of a Postgraduate Faculty Representative taking a period of recess, the Student Officer Postgraduate Education shall undertake the duties and responsibilities of the Faculty Representative for the duration of recess. The Student Officer Postgraduate Education may delegate duties and responsibilities of the Faculty Representative to Postgraduate School Representatives from within the electorate of the Faculty Representative. A School Representative may not undertake the Faculty Representative's attendance at meetings of the Executive Management Committee or membership of the Students' Union Council.

11.X.3 In the event of an Undergraduate School Representative taking a period of recess, the Student Officer Undergraduate Education shall undertake the duties and responsibilities of the School Representative for the duration of the recess. The Student Officer Undergraduate Education may delegate the duties and responsibilities of the School Representative to a recognised Course Representative from within the electorate of the School Representative. A Course Representative may not undertake the School Representative's membership of the Students' Union Council.

11.X.4 In the event of a Postgraduate School Representative taking a period of recess, the Student Officer Postgraduate Education shall undertake the duties and responsibilities of the School Representative for the duration of the recess. The Student Officer Postgraduate Education may

delegate the duties and responsibilities of the School Representative to a recognised Course Representative from within the electorate of the School Representative. A Course Representative may not undertake the School Representative's membership of the Students' Union Council.

- 11.X A Faculty Representative or School Representative may resign by lodging their resignation in writing with to the Council, through the Clerk of Council.
- 11.X In the event of a Faculty Representative or School Representative post becoming vacant due to an elected post holder not taking up their post, or resigning or being deemed to have resigned from the date of commencement in post and next successive teaching week, the Clerk of Council may instruct the Returning Officer to conduct a recount of the ballots in the original election:
- 11.X.1 In any such recount, the originally successful candidate will be deemed to be ineligible and any preference votes for cast for the originally successful candidate will be deemed invalid.
- 11.X.2 The term of office of a candidate deemed elected by means of a such a recount shall be from from the first working day following their election to end period of the term of office stipulated in the original election.
- 11.X In the event of a Faculty Representative or School Representative post becoming vacant in all other circumstances, the Students' Union shall organise a bye-election as determined by the Returning Officer.

**An amendment to the eligibility and terms of office for Student Association Committees**

**DELETE (From RULE 2 - ELECTIONS, SECTION 8 – ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL):**

- 8.10 There shall be a Student Associations constituency whose membership shall be a Student Association Chairperson from the recognised Student Associations as prescribed by the Rules. Eligibility shall be as detailed in the Rules. Candidates and voters in these elections shall, where possible, be defined by the relevant University student classification system, or Students' Union records system, as being members of the constituency in which they are standing and / or voting. Non withstanding any provision to the contrary, the Returning Officer may conduct elections for the Student Association constituency of Council in the second semester.

**INSERT (INTO RULE 2, SECTION 8 – ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL):**

- 8.10 There shall be a Student Associations constituency whose membership shall be a Student Association Chairperson from the recognised Student Associations as prescribed by the Rules. Eligibility shall be as detailed in the Rules. Candidates and voters in these elections shall, where possible, be defined by the relevant University student classification system, or Students' Union records system, as being members of the constituency in which they are standing and / or voting. **Candidates in their final year, whose shall cease**

**to be Student Members during the term of office of a Student Association Chairperson, shall be deemed ineligible.** Non withstanding any provision to the contrary, the Returning Officer may conduct elections for the Student Association constituency of Council in the second semester.

**DELETE (FROM RULE 9 – STUENT ASSOCIATIONS, SECTION 5. – COMMITTEES AND ELECTIONS):**

5.8 Committee members shall hold their post from the first working day of July in the year in which they were elected, until the last working day of June in the following year. Committee members elected by means of a bye-election shall hold their post from the date of their election until the last working day of June the following year. A committee member-elect shall commence in post immediately when a vacancy arises in the post to which they are elected.

**INSERT (INTO RULE 9 – STUENT ASSOCIATIONS, SECTION 5. – COMMITTEES AND ELECTIONS):**

5.8 Committee members shall hold their post from the first working day of **August** in the year in which they were elected, until the last working day of **July** in the following year. Committee members elected by means of a bye-election shall hold their post from the date of their election until the last working day of **July** the following year. A committee member-elect shall commence in post immediately when a vacancy arises in the post to which they are elected.

**INSERT (NEW RULE – TRANSITORY ARRANGEMENTS):**

**TRANSITORY ARRANGEMENTS**

**1. TRANSITORY ARRANGEMENTS**

1.1 RULE 9 – STUENT ASSOCIATIONS, SECTION 5. – COMMITTEES AND ELECTIONS)

1.1.1 Clause 5.8 shall come into effect on approval from the Management Board.

1.1.2 Any Student Association Committee member in post on the date of any such approval shall have a term of office as prescribed in Clause 5.8.

1.1.3 Any Student Association Committee member-elect on the date of any such approval shall commence in post on the date prescribed in Clause 5.8, notwithstanding any date prescribed at the time of election.

1.2 If the above amended clause is not in effect by the last working day of June 2026, the amendment shall be expunged from the Constitution.

1.3 These transitory arrangements shall have no standing from the first working day of July 2026 and shall be expunged from the Constitution on the first working day of July 2026.

**An amendment to requiring Student Officers to hold two open meetings per semester to enable more direct scrutiny by students of their work**

**INSERT (INTO RULE 4 – APPENDIX ONE – STUDENT OFFICER PROTOCOL, SECTION 19 – QUESTIONS TO STUDENT OFFICERS) a new clause and number/renumber as appropriate:**

19.X Each Sabbatical Student Officer shall, on two occasions per semester, be required to attend a meeting open to the Student Membership for the purpose of presenting a report on their general activities undertaken in the students' interests and responding to questions from Student Members. The meetings shall be chaired by Speaker. The schedule of meetings shall be published by the Clerk of Council and the meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules.

**An amendment to formally incorporate the existing Clubs and Societies Committee into the Constitution of the Students' Union**

**INSERT (INTO Rule 5 – COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, STUDENT NETWORKS AND FORUMS) a new Section and renumber existing sections accordingly:**

**THE CLUBS AND SOCIETIES COMMITTEE**

The remit of the Clubs and Societies Committee, as delegated by the Council, will be:

To address issues related to Clubs and Societies;

To consider proposals for recognition or dissolution of Clubs & Societies;

To consider Students' Union governance arrangements for Clubs and Societies; and

To consider other relevant issues delegated to it by Council.

The membership of the Clubs and Societies Committee shall be ten elected members with voting rights.

In addition to the ordinary membership of the Committee, as outlined above, the Committee shall be chaired by the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement, who shall be responsible for convening meetings of the Committee.

**An amendment to set a standard minimum age of sixteen years of age for Associate members (i.e. non-QUB student members) of Clubs and Societies**

**DELETE (FROM RULE 8 – CLUBS & SOCIETIES, SECTION 4):**

4.2 A non-student or student of another institution shall be eligible, at the discretion of the Students' Union, to join a recognised Club or Society as an Associate Member. An Associate Member may only join Clubs and Societies upon completion of registration with the Club or Society. This includes payment of the agreed membership fee, if such a fee is levied. On completion of registration, the Associate Member has agreed by association to be governed by all policies of Queen's University Belfast Students' Union. Students of INTO Queen's University Belfast shall be considered to be Associate Members.



INSERT (INTO RULE 8 – CLUBS & SOCIETIES, SECTION 4):

- 4.2 A non-student, or student of another institution, **normally aged 16 or older** shall be eligible, at the discretion of the Students' Union, to join a recognised Club or Society as an Associate Member. An Associate Member may only join Clubs and Societies upon completion of registration with the Club or Society. This includes payment of the agreed membership fee, if such a fee is levied. On completion of registration, the Associate Member has agreed by association to be governed by all policies of Queen's University Belfast Students' Union. Students of INTO Queen's University Belfast shall be considered to be Associate Members.

**An amendment to update references to the Club and Society Complaints and Investigations Procedure**

DELETE (FROM RULE 8 – CLUBS & SOCIETIES, SECTION 8):

- 8.1 Any formal complaints concerning the activity of a Club or Society, or concerning the activity of a committee member, or other authorised officer of a Club or Society representing that Club or Society, shall be made to the Director of the Students' Union. The General Club and Society Complaints procedure shall be set out in the Clubs and Societies Committee Handbook.

INSERT (INTO RULE 8 – CLUBS & SOCIETIES, SECTION 8):

- 8.1 Any formal complaints concerning the activity of a Club or Society, or concerning the activity of a committee member, or other authorised officer of a Club or Society representing that Club or Society, shall be made to the Director of the Students' Union. **Any such complaints will be handled in accordance with the Club and Society Complaints and Investigations Procedure.**"

**An amendment to update references and guidance on considering internal disagreements within Clubs and Societies and clarifying when formal procedures are appropriate**

DELETE (FROM RULE 8 – CLUBS & SOCIETIES, SECTION 9 - MEMBER RELATIONS ISSUES, SECTION 9.1) and renumber existing clauses as appropriate:

- 9.1 Club/Society Member Complaints Procedure
- 9.1.1 There shall be a Club and Society Member Complaints Procedure, which shall be set out in the Clubs and Societies Committee Handbook.
- 9.1.2 There shall be Club and Society Complaints Procedure, which shall be set out in the Clubs and Societies Committee Handbook.
- 9.1.3 There shall be Club and Society Member Conduct Procedure, which shall be set out in the Clubs and Societies Committee Handbook.

- 9.1.4 Student Members and Associate Members should raise internal complaints and disputes through the Club and Society Member Complaints Procedure.

**DELETE (FROM RULE 8 – CLUBS & SOCIETIES, SECTION 9 - MEMBER RELATIONS ISSUES, SECTION 9.4) and renumber existing clauses as appropriate:**

- 9.4 Club and Society Member Conduct Procedure
- 9.4.1 The Club and Society Member Conduct Procedures should be used to address all internal Club or Society conduct issues.
- 9.4.2 The University's Conduct Regulations apply to all Student Members. The Students' Union will follow the principles therein to deal with conduct issues relating to Associate Members.

**INSERT (INTO RULE 8 – CLUBS & SOCIETIES, SECTION 9 - MEMBER RELATIONS ISSUES, SECTION 9.4) and renumber existing clauses as appropriate:**

- 9.4 Internal Member Issues
- 9.4.1 Club / Society committees shall follow the Internal Member Issues guidance on the Club and Society Online Handbook to handle local issues amongst their members. Matters relating to student misconduct, health and safety, or conduct occurring outside the recognised activities or responsibility of the Club / Society should be discussed with Students' Union staff for advice and signposting.
- 9.4.2 The University's Conduct Regulations apply to all Student Members. The Students' Union will follow the principles therein to deal with conduct issues relating to Associate Members.