

Proposal 2 – Amendments to the Constitution of the Students’ Union – Rep Roles and Clubs and Societies

Summary

An all-student vote will take place on Thurs 18 April on amendments to the Rules of the Union to amend democracy structures with the following effect(s):

Proposed Changes to Student Rep Roles:

- Allow Faculty and School Reps to temporarily step back from their roles if they need to. Allow other reps to take on some of their duties during this period.
- Allow vacant Faculty and School Rep roles to be filled by the next ranked candidate from the original election.
- Only allow students to stand for election to Student Association Chairperson roles if they will be students for the duration of the role.
- Change the term of office of a Student Association Chairperson to be 1 Aug – 31 July to align with the Club and Society Committee calendar.
- Require Student Officers to hold two open meetings per semester open to all students where they update on their work and also answer questions from students.

Changes to Clubs and Societies:

- Formally establish a Clubs and Societies Committee to allow for more student involvement in approving new Clubs and Societies and in reviewing the rules and supports for Clubs and Societies.
- Require people who are not Queen’s students to be at least sixteen years of age before they can join a Club or Society.
- Update the names and details of Clubs and Societies behaviour and conduct procedures.

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 – STUDENT 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 – STUDENT 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.