



Meeting : Union General Meeting	
Date : Wednesday Week 5 25 th Feb 2015	
Venue : KBG12	
Time : 6pm	
Quorum : 100 Met (140)	
1	Apologies No Apologies were noted
2	Minutes of Previous Meetings UGM 14 th Oct 2014 Proposed by Christopher Collins Seconded by Keith Young Minutes passed.
3	Matters Arising No matters arising
4	Motions and Resolutions
4.1	Motion UL Students Union shall take a stance in favour of a Yes vote in the upcoming referendum that: "Marriage should be contracted in accordance with law by two people without distinction as to their sex." Proposed by Brian McCarthy, Roisín O'Connor, Francis Lee, Sean Lynch, Bobby Kaghazchi Seconded by Cian Heneghan, Zoe Kearney, Aisling Farell, Robert Neenan, Luke Blake, Brian Kiely, Damien O'Connor, Géaroid Mangan, Michael Ryan, Cara Guckian Abstention: 9 Against: 1 Majority in favour UL Students Union will take a stance in favour of a Yes vote in the upcoming referendum on marriage equality. Motion carried.

4.2

Motion to amend **Article 5.3**

Reasoning

The returning officer asked that her position be removed from this article. Schedule 1 has specified the logistics of running a referendum. There is no need for repetition.

3. ~~The Student Council shall be responsible for approving the terms of Referenda motions on the recommendation of the Executive. The returning officer shall be responsible for deciding the wording of the question on the referendum ballot paper. The referendum shall be supervised by the returning officer. The polling stations shall be open for twenty eight hours, at least 10 of which shall include a manned polling station on campus.~~

Proposed New Article 5.3

The Student Council shall be responsible for approving the terms of Referenda motions on the recommendation of the Executive.

Proposed by Oisín Blakely, 2nd Year Food Science

Seconded by Brendan McAuliffe, 1st Year Nursing

Abstentions: 1

Majority in favour amended Article 5.3. Motion carried.

Motion to amend **Article 7.3 & 7.10**

Reasoning.

Currently of the 11 Executive members only two have a vote at Council, the Faculty Officer who is also a Department Representative and the Chairperson of Council in case of a tie. Council indicated a preference to give current student members of Executive a vote on Student Council. Given their current student status and background knowledge of all items presented it was deemed fair they should have a vote.

The sabbatical officers are answerable to the entire Executive and all of Council. They do not have a vote and have no voting influence on council decisions.

3. The membership of the Council shall be made up of the following categories:

1° The Department Representatives

2° The Interest Group Councillors

3° Chair of Student Council (casting vote)

4° The voting members of the Executive

10. The quorum for all Council meetings shall be a simple majority of Council members. Each Council member shall have one vote except for the President, the Deputy President Welfare and the Vice President Academic who shall not be entitled to vote at Council meetings and, unless otherwise specifically provided for in this Constitution, voting at Council shall be by simple majority of members present and voting.

Proposed new Article 7.3

The membership of the council shall be made up of the following categories

- **The Department Representatives**
- **The Interest Group Councillors**
- **Chair of Student Council (Casting vote)**
- **The voting members of Executive**

Proposed new Article 7.10

The quorum for all Council meetings shall be a simple majority of all Council members. Each Council member shall have one vote except for the President, the Deputy President Welfare and the Vice President Academic who shall not be entitled to vote at Council meetings and, unless otherwise specifically provided for in this Constitution, voting at Council shall be by simple majority of members present and voting.

Proposed by Maks Kropinski, Erasmus

Seconded by Patricia O'Brien, 1st Year European Studies

Majority in favour of amended Articles 7.3 and 7.10. Motion carried.

<p>4.4</p>	<p>Motion to amend Article 7.5</p> <p>Reasoning The dates are wrong. The officers terms of office runs from June to May. Membership of the council – propose to remove this section from 7.5 as it is confusing and is ambiguous when having to consider Article 20. Removal of an officer</p> <p>. _____ The Council members shall be elected in Semester two from among the members of the Union in their constituencies in accordance with schedule 1 (Election Regulations) of this Constitution for the following academic year. They will serve as members of the Council from the 1st of June to the 31st May of the following year. Council members would be deemed resigned if they miss two consecutive Council meetings without sending apologies. Membership of Council may be amended by an 80% majority of elected members.</p> <p>Proposed New Article 7.5 The Council members shall be elected in Semester two from among the members of the Union in their constituencies in accordance with schedule 1 (Election Regulations) of this Constitution for the following academic year. They will serve as members of the Council from the 1st of June to the 31st May of the following year. Council members would be deemed resigned if they miss two consecutive Council meetings without sending apologies.</p> <p>Proposed by Gerard Byrne, 3rd Year Physical Education Seconded by Niamh Masterson, 4th Year Media Majority in favour of amended Article 7.5. Motion carried.</p>
<p>4.5</p>	<p>Motion to amend Article 7.12</p> <p>Reasoning This did not make sense in its original format. DDM and Academic will endeavour to schedule 4 meetings but it is not always possible.</p> <p>12. There will be at least three four ordinary Council meetings per semester, but at a minimum council meeting shall be called at least three times per semester by the Vice President Academic.</p> <p>Proposed new Article 7.12 There will be at least three ordinary Council meetings per semester.</p> <p>Proposed by Oisín Blakely, 2nd Year Food Science Seconded by Alex Lynch, 2nd Year Law Plus Majority in favour of the amended Article 7.12. Motion carried.</p>

4.6**Motion to amend Article 8.6**

Reasoning

Three consecutive meetings without apologies is not reasonable.

6. Any member of the Executive ~~[(except for any Clubs Officer or Societies Officer)]~~ who fails to attend ~~two~~three consecutive meetings of the Executive or two consecutive ~~S~~student ~~C~~ouncils or one ~~G~~eneral ~~M~~meeting without giving apologies to the ~~P~~resident and does not provide satisfactory reasons acceptable to the ~~e~~Executive, shall be considered to have resigned.

Proposed New Article 8.6

Any member of the Executive (except for any Clubs Officer or Societies Officer) who fails to attend two consecutive meetings of the Executive or two consecutive Student Councils or one General Meeting without giving apologies to the President and does not provide satisfactory reasons acceptable to the Executive, shall be considered to have resigned.

Proposed by Patricia O'Brien, 1st Year European Studies

Seconded by Alex Lynch, 2nd Year Law Plus

Abstentions: 1

Majority in favour of the amended Article 8.6. Motion carries.

<p>4.7</p>	<p>Motion to amend Article 8.9</p> <p>Reasoning The solicitor has advised not to include “and are not employees of the Union”. In the eyes of the Irish revenue sabbatical officers are paid a wage and are therefore employees.</p> <p>9. The positions of President, Deputy President Welfare and Vice President Academic may be sabbatical posts holders. No member shall be eligible to stand for and serve more than two sabbatical terms of office. The post holders shall be paid an allowance determined by <u>Sstudent Ceouncil</u> and reviewed by <u>Ggeneral Mmeeting</u> annually. The post holders will not receive any other wage/ reimbursement/ bonuses/allowance or any possible payment other than the allowance agreed by <u>Council</u>. Sabbatical Post holders are elected officers of the Union, and are not employees of the Union. They will be required to sign and abide by an agreement of office. Fines maybe imposed <u>upon any of them</u> by Council as outlined in schedule 5 (Representatives).</p> <p>Proposed new Article 8.9 The positions of President, Deputy President Welfare and Vice President Academic may be sabbatical posts holders. No member shall be eligible to stand for and serve more than two sabbatical terms of office. The post holders shall be paid an allowance determined by Student Council and reviewed by General Meeting annually. The post holders will not receive any other wage/ reimbursement/ bonuses/allowance or any possible payment other than the allowance agreed by Council. Sabbatical Post holders are elected officers of the Union. They will be required to sign and abide by an agreement of office. Fines maybe imposed upon any of them by Council as outlined in schedule 5 (Representatives).</p> <p>Proposed by Joe Kearney, 2nd Year Politics and Public Administration Seconded by Laura Scally, 3rd Year Science Education Majority in favour of amended Article 8.9. Motion carried.</p>
<p>4.8</p>	<p>Motion to amend Article 8.10.2</p> <p>Reasoning With reference to the role of the Executive the Solicitor advised to specify when exactly the executive could act in the absence of Student Council 2° Act in the <u>gAbsence of Student Council at times outside of the Academic Year</u></p> <p>Proposed new Article 8.10.2 2° Act in the absence of Student Council at times outside of the Academic Year</p> <p>Proposed by Marian O'Donnell, 4th Year HPSS Seconded by Maks Kropinski, Erasmus Majority in favour of amended Article 8.10.2. Motion carried.</p>

4.9

Motion to amend **Article 20**

Reasoning

1. There was no provision to remove an exec member or council member who was elected unopposed. 2. If someone has been expelled by the University they are no longer a member of the Union. This applies for Sabbatical officers are students in the eyes of the University. 3. There is no need to repeat items that have been dealt elsewhere in the constitution

Current Article 20. Removal of an Officer

1. Every directly elected Executive Officer or Council members shall be liable to be removed from office on a proposal to that effect approved by a Referendum held in accordance with schedule 1 (Election Regulations) of the Constitution. Where such a proposal is approved it shall take effect upon the declaration of the Returning Officer. A quorum for the removal of an officer shall be 50% of the total valid poll in the previous election of the position. Where such a proposal is approved, s/he will be deemed to have resigned and may not stand for re-election in any subsequent election.
2. The indirectly elected executive officers and council members shall be liable to be removed from office on a proposal to that effect to Student Council or Clubs & Societies Council approved by their constituencies held in accordance with article 20.1 and schedule 1 (Election Regulations) of the Constitution.
3. The PSU Executive Nominee, as affiliates, shall not be deemed resigned by the union they can be excluded from representing postgrads on union committees and the Executive could then seek the PSU Executive to nominate a replacement representative.
4. The regulations for a ballot to remove a member of the executive from office shall be determined by the returning officer, within the limits of this constitution.
5. Directly Elected Executive members who are on external placement as part of their studies shall be deemed resigned from their posts or shall be deemed to have resigned if they miss without apologies:

1° One General Meeting

2° Two consecutive Council meetings

3° Two consecutive Executive meetings

4° Two consecutive Management Committee meetings

5° Breach of the University disciplinary regulations on the grounds of gross misconduct resulting in exclusion from the University

6. Council members, directly or indirectly elected, who are on external placement as part of their studies shall be deemed resigned from their posts or shall be deemed to have resigned if they

1° miss without apologies two consecutive council meetings

2° Breach of the University disciplinary regulations on the grounds of gross misconduct resulting in exclusion from the University

4.9

Proposed New Article 20. Removal of an Officer

Cntd

1. Every Executive Officer or Council member who has been elected where there was at least two candidates (which may include a reopen nominations candidate) in the election shall be liable to be removed from office on a proposal to that effect approved by a Referendum held in accordance with schedule 1 (Election Regulations) of the Constitution. Where such a proposal is approved, it shall take effect upon the declaration of the Returning Officer. A quorum for the removal of any such Executive Officer or Council member shall be 50% of the total number of valid votes cast in the election for the position. Where such a proposal is approved, s/he will be deemed to have resigned and may not stand for re-election in any subsequent election.
2. Every Executive Officer or Council member who has been elected where there was not at least two candidates (which may include a reopen nominations candidate) in the election shall be liable to be removed from office on a proposal to that effect to the Council passed by a Qualified Majority of Council members present and voting. Where such a proposal is passed, s/he will be deemed to have resigned and may not stand for re-election in any subsequent election.
3. The Clubs Officer and the Societies Officer on the Executive shall only be liable (subject to Article 20.5 below) to be removed from office by a proposed to that effect passed by the Clubs and Societies Council in accordance with the Clubs and Societies Rulebook.
4. The Postgraduate Students' Union Executive Nominee shall not be liable to be removed from Office by the Union (subject to Article 20.5 below) and may only (subject to Article 20.5 below) be removed by the Postgraduate Student Union in accordance with their own procedures. Notwithstanding the foregoing, They can be excluded from representing postgraduates on any committee or other body formed by the Union and the Executive may then seek the PSU Executive to nominate a replacement representative.
5. Any Executive member or Student Council member who has been expelled from the University as a result of a breach of the University's Code of Conduct shall be deemed automatically resigned from office upon such expulsion coming into effect.

Proposed by Oisín Blakely, 2nd Year Food Science

Seconded by Alex Lynch, 2nd Year Law Plus

Majority in favour of amended Article 20. Motion carried.

4.10

Motion to amend **Article 21**

Reasoning

The solicitor has advised against this that one person would have interpretation of the constitution. She advised referring to the Exec, rather than Council, who would be required to seek legal advice. It is more practical for Exec to get legal advice and reply to a student in a timely manner.

Current Article 21. Interpretation

In the event of a challenge to the interpretation of any part of this constitution, the ruling of the president shall be sought. Any member of the Union who is dissatisfied with the President's ruling may, by notice in writing delivered within two weeks of the President's ruling, appeal to the Student Council. If a member of the union remains unsatisfied with the ruling of union council they put forward a motion to general meeting.

Proposed New Article 21 Interpretation

Subject to the application of the provision of Schedule 1, any member may seek the opinion of the President on the interpretation of any provision of this Constitution (excluding Schedule 1). If the member is dissatisfied with the President's opinion, the member may, by notice in writing, request the Executive to decide on the correct interpretation of the relevant provision(s) of the Constitution. The Executive shall be required to seek legal advice and to take into account that legal advice in deciding the correct interpretation of the Constitution.

Proposed by Dave Tierney, PhD

Seconded by Una Roddy, 4th Year English and New Media

Abstentions: 1

Majority in favour of amended Article 21. Motion carried.

<p>4.11</p>	<p>Motion to amend Article 24</p> <p>Reasoning To remove definitions that were not relevant to the constitution and insert required definitions</p> <p>6. College – One of the constituent colleges of the University for the Plassey Campus.</p> <p>7-6. Constitution – This document in its entirety.</p> <p>8. Cost Centre – department of Union.</p> <p>7. Council – as defined in Article 7.</p> <p>8. Department Representative - an elected representative from each department in each faculty in the University</p> <p>9.</p> <p>8. Department Representative - an elected representative from each department in each faculty in the University</p> <p>Proposed by Marian O'Donnell, 4th Year HPSS Seconded by Maks Kropinski, Erasmus Majority in favour of amended Article 24. Motion carried.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Audited Accounts – deferred to EGM March 26th, Week 9 Any Other Business</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Executive Officers Reports – deferred to EGM March 26th, Week 9.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Items for Discussion – Presentation from USI President Laura Harmon.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>AOB – no items discussed as meeting over-ran.</p>	
	<p>Meeting end 20:05</p>	