

QMU AGM 2020 (30/10/2020)

AGENDA AND AMENDMENTS

A NOTE ON THIS YEARS AGM

Various mitigating factors have made this year's AGM more difficult than usual. For a start, there's the business of the global pandemic and the fact that this is the AGM for the previous executive, four months into our term. There's a degree of inevitability in delaying this AGM, we have tried to organise it several times and we were really hoping to have it in person but unfortunately every time that the constellations aligned, fresh restrictions emerged. We understand that this breaks our current constitution and so we are proposing the two amendments at the bottom of this document to allow for more flexibility around AGMs. It's not every year we have a global pandemic (we hope) but the struggles with organising this year have highlighted that we need a constitution that has scope for events like this to happen. This year OSCR advice has been very clear that having an AGM takes priority over the wording of the constitution and we can adjust and ignore whatever we need to, to make it work. However, we don't want future years to have to take this course, so we are asking for your support to enshrine these provisions in the constitution.

The other big issue is continuity. When we last had an AGM (2 execs ago now) we were embarking on a restructure and the then current executive 2018/2019 did not elect a new honorary treasurer or appoint solicitors for the Union. We do not know why this did not occur or why it was not rectified throughout the last year but we assume that because they were aiming to pass a new constitution in the following year it was presumed that there would be no need for these roles. As a constitution did not pass last year these requirements are still necessary for an AGM. As we have not had these roles in the past year and the previous incumbent treasurer served for many years, we are proposing that for the appointment of solicitors and the treasurer, we delay it to an EGM no later than 2 months away (which will be proposed in the meeting). This would give us time to adjust the current situation and figure out how best to reintroduce these roles, work out how to afford them in our current financial situation, as well as allow time for our members to find and present suitable candidates for the role. Again this is not an ideal situation and we are asking for your support to back up this solution and ensure that we are not rashly instating a candidate for the sake of it.

The final issue in this AGM is minutes. We never received minutes of the last AGM at handover, we have contacted all previous members of the executive to look for them, we have scoured our computers, our groups, our emails and our physical archives to try to find a copy of them. These are now minutes from two executives past. While this issue is beyond the control of the current executive we are

nevertheless very embarrassed by this situation and apologise on behalf of the Union. We have sought legal advice and been told we can approve minutes in absentia. This situation is beyond ideal but it will at least allow us to have a legally compliant AGM and allow us to progress with this year.

We are very sorry that these issues have occurred at the AGM and promise that we will resolve them so that the AGM closing our year does not face similar problems. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

QMU Executive 2020-21

AGENDA

- i. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
- ii. Update from the current President.
- iii. Report of the President
- iv. Report of the Vice President (Membership, Clubs and Societies)
- v. Report of the Vice President (Board of Management)
- vi. Report of the Honorary Treasurer: full annual accounts for year ending June previous; Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure for six months ended 31st December previous (including comments of the Auditors and Board of Management on financial situation of the Union). *
- vii. Reports of the Convenors of Standing Committees
- viii. Announcement of election of President, Vice President (Membership, Clubs and Societies) and Vice President (Board of Management)
- ix. Announcement of election of members of the Board of Management
- x. Nomination and election of Honorary President
- xi. Nomination and election of Honorary Vice-Presidents
- xii. Nomination and election of Honorary Life Members
- xiii. Nomination and election of Honorary Treasurer**
- xiv. Nomination and election of Auditors
- xv. Nomination and election of Solicitors***
- xvi. Nomination and election of Bankers
- xvii. Alterations to the Constitution

*To be delivered by our current accountant Brendan O'Donnell

** A vote will be held in the AGM to agree a delay of this nomination till an EGM no later than 2 months from this date.

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Amendment 1- Crisis Flexible AGM Dates

Proposer: Ruairaidh Campbell (President)

Seconded: Lachlan Farquharson (VPBoard)

Justification

The global Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted that the current Constitutional rules for AGMs are too inflexible at times like this and do not allow for suitable alternative arrangements to be made. To hold the AGM this year, in line with OSCR's guidance we have had to ignore elements of our constitution to ensure that we could meet the requirements of charities law to hold an AGM. If the Corona Virus pandemic continues or a similar crisis occurs we do not want future boards to face the same issues. This amendment puts the power in the hands of the board to delay the date of the AGM to allow for issues to subside.

Current Wording:

IV C.

There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Union during the first four weeks after the spring vacation, notice of which is to be posted on the Union notice board at least 10 days prior to the date of the Meeting and shall be exhibited there until the date of the Meeting.

Addition:

C.

1. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Union during the first four weeks after the spring vacation, notice of which is to be posted on the Union notice board at least 10 days prior to the date of the Meeting and shall be exhibited there until the date of the Meeting.

(i) In times of reasonably deemed crises beyond the Union's control a vote of the Board of Management may postpone the AGM by up to three months from the anniversary of the previous AGM. In this instance the board must release a statement notifying members of this decision.

(ii) The crisis will be deemed reasonable by the board of Management. A crisis is deemed reasonable if hosting the AGM at the normal time would severely impact the safety of our members, compromise the Union legally or would significantly affect member's ability to travel, attend, or participate. Such considerations that would be under the board discretion would include, but not be limited to:

- a. International pandemics; or
- b. International or local conflicts; or
- c. Natural disaster; or
- d. Ecological disaster; or
- e. Potential government guidance

(ii) If after three months has passed, it is deemed by the board that the crisis is still in effect, or the AGM has still not occurred, another vote of the Board of Management must pass to delay the AGM again.

(iii) The AGM may not be postponed any longer than 6 months from the anniversary of the previous AGM.

Amendment 2- Crisis Online AGM

Proposer: Ruairaidh Campbell (President)

Seconded: Lachlan Farquharson (VPBoard)

Justification

The global Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted that the current Constitutional rules for AGMs are too inflexible at times like this and do not allow for suitable alternative arrangements to be made. To hold the AGM this year, in line with OSCR's guidance we have had to ignore elements of our constitution to ensure that we could meet the requirements of charities law to hold an AGM. If the Corona Virus pandemic continues or a similar crisis occurs we do not want future boards to face the same issues. This amendment puts the power in the hands of the board to host the AGM online.

Current Wording:

IV C.

There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Union during the first four weeks after the spring vacation, notice of which is to be posted on the Union notice board at least 10 days prior to the date of the Meeting and shall be exhibited there until the date of the Meeting.

1. The following business shall be undertaken at the Annual General Meeting:

i. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

ii. Report of the President

iii. Report of the Vice President (Membership, Clubs and Societies)

iv. Report of the Vice President (Board of Management)

v. Report of the Honorary Treasurer: full annual accounts for year ending June previous; Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure for six months ended 31st December previous (including comments of the Auditors and Board of Management on financial situation of the Union)

vi. Reports of the Convenors of Standing Committees vii. Announcement of election of President, Vice President (Membership, Clubs and Societies) and Vice President (Board of Management)

viii. Announcement of election of members of the Board of Management

ix. Nomination and election of Honorary President

x. Nomination and election of Honorary Vice-Presidents

xi. Nomination and election of Honorary Life Members

xii. Nomination and election of Honorary Treasurer

xiii. Nomination and election of Auditors

xiv. Nomination and election of Solicitors

xv. Nomination and election of Bankers

xvi. Alterations to the Constitution 26

xvii. Any other competent business 2. All nominations for candidates for the posts of Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents should be made in writing, clearly stating the proposer, seconder and acceptance by the candidate.

Addition:

5.

(i) In times of reasonably deemed crises out with the Unions control such as, but not limited to;

- a. International pandemics; or
- b. International or local conflicts; or
- c. Natural disaster; or
- d. Ecological disaster; or
- e. Potential government guidance

where an in-person AGM would be dangerous, illegal or impractical, a vote of the Board of Management may adjust the form of the AGM to a suitable online platform.

(ii) In this instance all nominations will be considered 'written' if received in text via email, message, google form or other appropriate channel.

(ii) Any member attending on the platform will be deemed 'present' at the AGM and have the same rights as a member at an in person AGM.

(iii) The AGM will be considered 'posted if announced online.'

Amendment 3- Spelling Error

Proposer: Lachlan Farquharson (VPBoard)

Seconded: Ruairaidh Campbell (President)

Justification

Fixing a spelling error in the Constitution.

Current Wording:

VII D.

d. Section VII of the Constitution and the Staff od the Queen Margaret Union

Alteration:

d. Section VII of the Constitution and the Staff of the Queen Margaret Union

Amendment 4 – QMU Board of Management CSR Numbers (1.1)

Proposer: Lachlan Farquharson (VPBoard)

Seconded: Ruairaidh Campbell (President)

Justification

The current Constitution has discrepancies on two different pages that states the number of permitted Current Student Representatives. One page states thirteen (13) whilst the next one over states twelve (12). The effect of this was felt in the most recent Autumn By-Election in which following the guidance in the Constitution of seat numbers lead to thirteen board members (due to numbers of representatives elected in prior elections before my time) whilst also still being unable to fulfil the Constitution guidance at Section III(1)(b). The QMU has grown in recent years with a more proactive and larger board, even in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic, and currently stands at thirteen (13) Current Student Representatives. This amendment will fix the discrepancy which exists in this document and will reflect what our most current set of board member numbers is. There should be no reason why we can't increase the representation on board, and to limit it would be detrimental to the engagement and desire of students wanting to be involved.

Current Wording:

III B (3).

Current Student Representatives (x13)

III B. 1. Terms of office:

b. Twelve Current Student Representatives split across five constituencies as follows:

Amendment

III B (3).

Current Student Representatives (x13)

III B (1) Terms of office:

b. Thirteen Current Student Representatives split across five constituencies as follows:

Amendment 5 – QMU Board of Management CSR Numbers (1.2)

On the basis of (1.1) passing

Proposer: Lachlan Farquharson (VPBoard)

Seconded: Ruairaidh Campbell (President)

Justification

With the increase to thirteen Current Student Representatives, it would be suitable to assign this to the Two (2) Representatives elected biannually to hold a post lasting from the Autumn By-Election until the Spring Annual General Election to three (3). The reason for this over a first-year position has been the historical electoral evidence of lack of First Years running for the seats. In recent years we have seen an increase in engagement from First Years into that role for board, however they are not limited from running from an ordinary CSR position anyways (which occurred in the 2019 Annual General Election with First Years polling well against older year students), meaning that an increase in general CSRs is perhaps the best option.

Current Wording:

III B. 1. (b)

iv. Two (2) Representatives elected biannually to hold a post lasting from the Autumn By-Election until the Spring Annual General Election and vice-versa. The post becomes vacant at the Autumn By-Election and the Spring Annual General Election.

Amendment

III B. 1. (b)

iv. Three (3) Representatives elected biannually to hold a post lasting from the Autumn By-Election until the Spring Annual General Election and vice-versa. The post becomes vacant at the Autumn By-Election and the Spring Annual General Election.

Amendment 6 – QMU Board of Management CSR Numbers (2)

Proposer: Lachlan Farquharson (VPBoard)

Seconded: Ruairidh Campbell (President)

Justification

This proposal is that in the Autumn By-Election we move from two (2) twelve-month term seats to one for First Year Current Student Representatives (known as FY CSR A) and increase from one (1) six-month seat to two for First Year Current Student Representatives (known as FY CSR B). In addition, First Years could potentially want to be involved with board in the Annual General Election rather than the initial Autumn By-Election that occurs straight after Freshers' hence the proposal for change for two six-month seats over one. This allows more flexibility for Freshers' who may want to be involved at a later date, or those who wish to re-evaluate their options after their first six-month term that was elected after Freshers'.

Current Wording:

III B. 1. (b)

iii. Two (2) Representatives (who must be in their First Year of Matriculation/Registration at the University of Glasgow) elected in the Autumn By-Election to hold an annual post lasting until the following Autumn By-Election.

v. One (1) Representative (who must be in their First Year of Matriculation/Registration at the University of Glasgow) elected biannually to hold a post lasting from the Autumn By- Election until the Spring Annual General Election and vice- versa. The post becomes vacant at the Autumn By- Election and the Spring Annual General Election.

Amendment

III B. 1. (b)

iii. One (1) Representatives (who must be in their First Year of Matriculation/Registration at the University of Glasgow) elected in the Autumn By-Election to hold an annual post lasting until the following Autumn By-Election.

v. Two (2) Representative (who must be in their First Year of Matriculation/Registration at the University of Glasgow) elected biannually to hold a post lasting from the Autumn By- Election until the Spring Annual General Election and vice- versa. The post becomes vacant at the Autumn By- Election and the Spring Annual General Election.