

Schedule 7 – MISU Elections, By-Elections & Referenda

7.1 As per Article 11.5 of the MISU Constitution;

Voting in all MISU elections and referenda shall be by secret ballot and, in the case of elections shall be cast in accordance with the Single Transferable Vote (STV) System. (Article 11.5.1)

Voting in all MISU General Elections, By-Elections and Referenda shall be conducted through electronic ballot (or e-ballot) in the first instance however where the electronic system is unavailable the Returning Officer shall request for a paper ballot to be held. (Article 11.5.2)

Where the Returning Officer has requested a paper ballot to be held, this shall apply to both the Limerick and Thurles campuses. (Article 11.5.3)

7.2 Procedure for an Electronic Vote

Where an electronic vote for either an MISU Election, By-Election or Referendum is to take place through an electronic vote, the following shall apply;

7.2.1 Voting shall last for at least ten consecutive hours

7.2.2 The Returning Officer shall open a polling station on both the Limerick and Thurles Campuses to facilitate electronic voting.

7.2.3 Students shall be able to cast their vote via the MISU website.

7.2.4 All election material issued by the MISU Returning Officer shall carry the web address of the online voting site.

7.2.5 Each student's College ID number will be validated by the voting system and a student will only be able to cast one vote

7.2.6 Upon casting their vote, and where allowed by the system, the student shall receive a vote acknowledgement notification.

7.3 Procedure for Counting of an Electronic Ballot

7.3.1. Counting of votes shall begin no earlier than 30 minutes after the closing of the polling stations, in an area designated by the Returning Officer.

7.3.2 As there are no physical ballots to be counted, the count screen of the election system shall be visible to candidates, their agents or the general student body

7.3.4 Candidates or their agents shall be allowed to observe the count but are not permitted to interfere in the count and may be asked to leave by the Returning Officer, if their presence is deemed to be disruptive.

7.3.5 Officerships to be filled, will be counted in the reverse order from how they are listed in the MISU Constitution.

- 7.3.6 Where a candidate has reached the quota on the first count, they shall be highlighted on the system as 'Candidate to Elect'
- 7.3.7 If no candidate has reached the quota on the first count, the candidate/s with the lowest votes shall be eliminated by the system and their surplus votes shall be transferred.
- 7.3.8 Official results shall be posted by the Returning Officer immediately after the count is finished.
- 7.3.9 Notice of the results and details of the counts shall be posted by the Returning Officer within one academic day of the end of the count.
- 7.3.10 A Candidate has the right to request a recount no later than 12 hours after the results of the election have been declared by the Returning Officer.
- 7.3.11 The Returning Officer shall decide if the request for a recount is admissible. In the event that he/she deems that the request for a recount shall be denied, his/her decision shall be final.
- 7.3.12 The Returning Officer shall inform, in writing, all candidates for the officership subject to the recount, that a recount has been called.
- 7.3.13 A recount shall take place within two College days of the request by the Candidate.

7.4 Procedure for a Paper Ballot

Where the Returning Officer has requested that a vote *for* either an MISU Election, By-Election or Referendum is to take place through paper ballot, the following shall apply;

- 7.4.1 Voting shall last for at least ten consecutive hours
- 7.4.2 A polling station shall be open on both the Limerick and Thurles campuses.
- 7.4.3 All members of the Union may vote on production of a current valid Student I.D card, save for those utilising the Long Distance Voting.
- 7.4.4 Polling shall be by secret ballot in sealed ballot boxes, excluding those utilising the Long Distance Voting.
- 7.4.5 A ballot paper shall be issued to a voter only after his/her name has been checked with the register or s/he has been identified by other means to be a full member of MISU.
- 7.4.6 Each ballot paper shall be stamped by the Electoral Committee immediately prior to it being given to a voter.
- 7.4.7 Candidates shall appear on the ballot paper in alphabetical order (surname) under the title of the officership they are running for.
- 7.4.8 The ballot paper shall bear a picture of each candidate.
- 7.4.9 Votes in MISU Elections and By-Elections shall be cast in accordance with the Single

Transferable Vote (STV) System.

- 7.4.10 No candidate or their agents may canvass within the polling station.
- 7.4.11 It is also an offence to distribute or display publicity material or display publicity within the polling station on the day of the election.

7.5 Procedure for Counting of a Paper Ballot

- 7.5.1 Counting of votes shall begin no earlier than 90 minutes after the closing of the polling stations, in an area designated by the Returning Officer.
- 7.5.2 Candidates or their agents are allowed to observe counting of votes but are not permitted to interfere and may be asked to leave by the Returning Officer, if their presence is deemed to be disruptive.
- 7.5.3 Officerships to be filled, will be counted in the reverse order as to how they are listed in the MISU Constitution.
- 7.5.4 Official results shall be posted by the Returning Officer immediately after the count is finished.
- 7.5.5 The Returning officer shall have the final decision on the ruling of spoiled votes.
- 7.5.6 A candidate who requests a recount must do so in writing to the Returning Officer no later than 12 hours after the results of the election have been declared by the Returning Officer.
- 7.5.7 The Returning Officer shall deem if the request for a recount is admissible. In the event that he/she deems that the request for a recount shall be denied, his/her decision shall be final.
- 7.5.8 The Returning Officer shall inform, in writing, all candidates for the officership that a recount has been called.
- 7.5.9 Any recount shall take place within one academic day of the request by the candidate, and ballots shall be held securely until such time as the recount begins.
- 7.5.10 Notice of results and details of the counts shall be posted within one academic day of the end of the count.

7.6 Procedure for a Long Distance Voting

This procedure is to be followed where a paper ballot is taking place

- 7.6.1 Long distance voting shall be allowed in elections and referenda and shall be granted to any member of the Students' Union.
- 7.6.2 To be valid, a Long Distance Vote must be cast via the student's college email account.
- 7.6.3 The student must abide by the following procedures:
 - 7.6.3.1 The student must inform the Returning Officer via their college email, at least 1 college days before the beginning of voting, that they wish to vote by email.
 - 7.6.3.2 The student shall give up their right to a secret ballot, knowing the Returning Officer

and Electoral Committee will have access to their voting details.

- 7.6.3.3 In the email to the Returning Officer the student shall include the following information
Student card number, course being studied.
- 7.6.4 The Returning Officer, after satisfying themselves on the validity of the request, will despatch relevant election material by email, an authorised ballot paper, copies of each candidate's manifesto, these regulations and the final date on which the ballot should be returned.
- 7.6.5 The voter should return the completed ballot paper to the Returning Officer's official e-mail address by close of voting on polling day .
- 7.6.6 If the voter has not received a ballot paper or any other correspondence from the Returning Officer by noon on the day before the election, they shall contact the Returning Officer or the Students' Union. No appeal, for whatever reason, will be recognised after this period of time.
- 7.6.7 The Returning Officer will compile a list of the valid requests made for long distance voting, the time of receipt of incoming long distance votes shall be recorded by the Returning Officer or her/his nominee.
- 7.6.8 Long distance votes shall be counted in the usual way in accordance with the election regulations. The Returning Officer shall mix the long distance ballot papers with the other ballot papers from the ballot boxes.
- 7.6.9 It is the duty of the Returning Officer to advertise the availability of Long Distance Voting.
- 7.6.10 If a student wishes to vote via post, s/he must notify the Returning Officer of their intention in advance of the election/referendum. The granting of this request shall be at the sole discretion of the Returning Officer. If the request is granted, the Returning Officer shall have the final say as to the postal voting procedures to utilise.