

THE FEDERATION FOR ULSTER LOCAL STUDIES LIMITED

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

GENERAL MEETING

IN THE CARDINAL O FIAICH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

ON SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER 2007

The Executive Council recommends the following amendments to the Federation's Articles of Association. The substantive changes are in italics.

Copies of the current Articles are available on the Federation's website
<http://www.fuls.org.uk/articles with amendments.pdf> and at the General Meeting.

The main changes to the Articles relate to -

- Defining the various types of membership
- Changing the date of the AGM from May/June to October/November
- Having a standard date and formula for nominations of Officers and Executive Committee members
- Providing for the election of Officers and Executive Committee members at the AGM
- Providing for the electronic transmission of Federation documents and AGM materials where possible
- Making provision for the removal from office of non attending committee members
- Making it easier for members to suggest changes at the AGM

Article 5; amend to read

“Any individual, society or institution that is in sympathy with the objects of the Federation may apply in writing to the Executive Committee for membership of the Federation. *The different categories of membership shall be –*

[a] Society members, representing voluntary organisations within the province in Ulster that are in agreement with the objects of the Federation as defined in the Memorandum of Association

[b] Individual members, representing persons in sympathy with the objects of the Federation

[c] Associate members, representing educational, cultural and social organisations that are in sympathy with the objects of the Federation”

Article 7; amend to read

“The Annual General Meeting of the Federation shall be held not earlier than 31 October and not later than 30 November of each year when the Report of the Secretary, the Accounts, Balance Sheets and the Report of the Treasurer will be considered, the Chairman, Vice chairman and Treasurer elected as necessary, vacancies on the Executive Committee filled and the Auditor appointed; also any other business decided by the Executive Committee to be necessary may be transacted. Any member may send to the Secretary notice in writing of any motion to be brought before the AGM at least 14 days before the AGM and such notice of motion shall be notified to members at least 7 days prior to the AGM. In the absence of such

notice, no business, other than the foregoing shall be considered unless with the specific approval of the Chairman.”

Article 31; amend to read

“No person other than an officer retiring at the Annual General Meeting shall, unless recommended by the Executive Committee for appointment, be eligible for election as an officer at an Annual General Meeting unless a written nomination has been received by the Secretary not later than *14 days before the date fixed for the AGM*, signed by a member duly qualified to attend and vote at the meeting for which such notice is given of his or its intention to propose such person for election to the office concerned and also notice in writing signed by that person of his willingness to be elected.”

Article 37: delete and renumber subsequent articles

Article 38: Amend to read

“Nomination of candidates for election to the Executive Committee as ordinary Executive Committee members shall *be made by notice in writing signed by two officers of the Society in which they are members, or of other member Societies.* Each such notice shall be accompanied by *a statement* in writing from each candidate of his willingness to be elected and such proof as the Executive Committee may require of his eligibility.

The number of nominations for election to the Executive Committee made by an ordinary member shall not exceed two.”

Article 39: Amend to read -

- 39.1 *If, after the nomination of candidates for election as ordinary Executive Committee members, there are vacancies to be filled, those nominated shall at the Annual General Meeting be declared elected to the Executive Committee as ordinary Executive Committee Members*
- 39.2 *If more candidates for election as ordinary Executive Committee Members are nominated than the number of vacancies to be filled, then an election or elections shall be conducted to fill such vacancies by voting papers as hereinafter provided.*
- 39.3 *If fewer candidates for election as ordinary Executive Committee Members are nominated than the number of vacancies to be filled, the Chairman may accept nominations from the floor of the Annual General Meeting. Only people eligible to vote, present at the meeting and who indicate that they are willing to serve on the Executive Committee, shall be eligible for nomination. Such nominations must be moved and seconded by persons eligible to vote and present at the meeting. Where more nominations are received than required to fill the vacancies unfilled by the provisions of Article 39.1, an election by voting papers shall be conducted.”*

Article 40: amend to read -

“An election by voting papers for ordinary Executive Committee members shall be conducted in *such form and in accordance with such instructions as the Executive Committee shall direct*”

Article 41: amend to read –

“The co-opted members of the Executive Committee shall retire on the termination of each Annual General Meeting of the Federation but shall be eligible for re-appointment *at a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee.*”

Article 45: amend to read –

“The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Executive Committee may be fixed by the Executive Committee and unless so fixed at any other number shall be five. A meeting of the Executive Committee at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all powers and discretions for the time being exercisable by the Executive Committee, provided that no meeting for the Executive Committee or of any sub-Committee of the Executive Committee shall be competent to transact business unless the majority of Executive Committee present are ordinary members. *Members of the Executive committee who miss three consecutive meetings may be asked to reconsider their position on the executive.*”

Article 55: amend to read –

“A copy of every balance sheet (including every document required by law to be annexed thereto) which is to be laid before the Federation in general meeting, together with a copy of the auditor's report, shall *be available to members on request not less than 14 days before the date of the meeting.*”

Article 59: amend to read –**NOTICES AND DOCUMENTS**

“Any notice or document required to be sent or provided to any member under these Articles may be given

- (a) electronically by means of electronic messaging or through a website*
- (b) personally, or*
- (c) by post at the address supplied to the Federation.*

Where the notice or document is sent by electronic messaging service it shall be deemed to be effected by being addressed to the messaging address supplied to the Federation by the member. Where the notice or document is given on a website service shall be deemed to be effected by providing, by electronic messaging or by post, the address of the website and the notice or document's location thereon. Where a notice or document is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting a letter containing the notice, and to have been effected in the case of a notice of a meeting at the expiration of twenty-four hours after the letter containing the same is posted, and in any other case at the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.”