

As you will be aware, under the current constitution, everyone is elected to their post with u3a in Scotland for 1 year at a time. You can stand for a post on three consecutive years, and usually if someone chose to do that, no one opposed them, though they could have if they had wanted to. After those three years, no one can take up the same post for a subsequent year, though they can be elected to a different post.

Like many u3as, u3a in Scotland is struggling to fill committee posts, particularly those of office bearers. We have operated for the past nine months without a secretary and while we have managed by sharing out the duties, it is not an ideal situation.

The chairperson, the treasurer and one committee member, will all have to step down from their current posts in June 2024 as they will have completed 3 consecutive years. They could step sideways and stand for other posts but I believe that, two, at least, have indicated that they don't intend to do so.

We have already obtained consent from the Third Age Trust, to make slight amendments to our constitution, but if we leave this until the AGM, it could not take effect until after the meeting, therefore we propose to hold an SGM (Special General Meeting) as part of the Spring members Event which will be in March.

Proposals:

1. That office bearers and committee members (Trustees) are elected to the Executive Committee of u3a in Scotland for a period of up to three years;
2. In the event of no one coming forward to stand for an officer bearer position, if the current post holder is willing to continue, the membership may elect them to stand for a further year;
3. If there are ordinary committee member vacancies, then the members may also agree that anyone willing, may continue for a further year.

These are contingency plans and we hope that we will not have to use them and that members will come forward to offer their services to u3a in Scotland. Distance is no object as all committee meetings are held on Zoom.

The current vice-chair was co-opted to that post, in August 2022, elected in June 2023 and if the membership agrees to proposal 1, can be elected at the 2024 AGM for a further two years, unless she wishes to stand as chairperson, which she has indicated she does not intend to, though is entitled to change her mind.

One committee member was co-opted in 2022 and elected in 2023 and one was elected and joined the committee for the first time in 2023. Both of them can be elected for a further two years under proposal 1.