

DCU

STUDENTS'

UNION



eVoting System

Project leaders

Steve Conlon, Returning Office, DCUSU
Dr. Mark Glynn, Teaching Enhancement Unit, DCU



Project genesis

The concept of an eVoting system was first started in 2011 when the Students' Union began to investigate electronic voting systems for use in general election and referenda. A system was contracted but ran into data protection issues, compatibility issues with existing DCU infrastructure and incurred an annual charge. The electronic voting system was subsequently abandoned.

In 2014 the idea was resurrected for the re-run of the 2014 affiliation referendum to the Union of Students in Ireland. This was a simple YES/NO question that was created in a module titled 'SU' and all students were enrolled in this. A second referendum was held in week 12 via Loop on the topic of the Labyrinth.

It was then decided that electronic voting was to be advanced to a general election scenario.

Project development

Investigation of external Gmail compatible Systems

Nov 2014

Meeting between DCUSU, ISS and Dr. Mark Glynn on external options

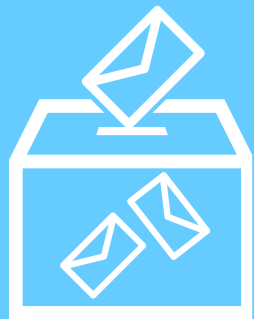
Dec 2014

Rejection of external systems. Project brief drawn for Loop Programmer

Jan 2015

Extensive Coding and testing of Bespoke eVoting module for Loop

Feb 2015



- ▶ 24 hour polling available, all you need is Loop access
- ▶ Facilitate Alternative Vote
- ▶ Secure, vote could not be changed or viewed once cast
- ▶ Total anonymity for voter
- ▶ Constituency logic driven - Faculty vote for faculty convenor
- ▶ Instant result, with breakdown of counts, no spoilt votes

System benefits

Vote2015
March 9-11

Engagement results

2989
HIGHEST VALID
POLL

TURNOUT
19%
INCREASE
ON LAST YEAR

ERASMUS
STUDY-ABROAD
ABLE TO VOTE
FOR FIRST TIME

NURSING
STUDENTS
OFF CAMPUS
ABLE TO VOTE

EVENING
STUDENTS
ABLE TO VOTE

Sustainability results



191KG
OF CARBON
SAVED

33,000 A4 pages

38500
BALLOT
PAPERS
SAVED

150

HOURS OF MAN POWER SAVED
PREVIOUSLY SPENT ON
POLLING STATIONS & BALLOT COUNT

Future upgrades

- ▶ Extension to facilitate Class Rep nominations and elections
- ▶ University can use to run staff ballots; academic council etc
- ▶ SIPTU can use for elections and other member ballots if they wish
- ▶ DCUSU nomination of candidates will be online going forward
- ▶ Class Rep Council chamber voting system to be introduced next year
- ▶ eCanvass - a virtual space for voters to interact with candidates
 - ▶ Short videos on candidate positions
 - ▶ Responsive architecture
 - ▶ Manifestos, social media pages