

Bye-Law 2 Referendums

1. General

A referendum is a ballot in which all Members of the Union are entitled to cast a vote.

2. Calling a Referendum

2.1 A referendum may be called on any issue in accordance with the Articles of Association by:

- (i) A resolution of the Trustees;
- (ii) A majority vote of the Student Council;
- (iii) A majority vote in a Company Law General Meeting or an Annual Members' Meeting;
or
- (iv) A Secure Petition signed by at least 250 Members.

2.2 A motion of no confidence in a Trustee can only be triggered by a Secure Petition of no confidence signed by at least 250 Members in accordance with the Articles of Association.

2.3 Any call for a referendum must include the question to be put to the Members. Any question put to referendum must require only a simple 'Yes' or 'No' answer.

2.4 The Union will provide guidance which must be followed on how to conduct a Secure Petition for the purpose of calling a referendum. The Secure Petition must be presented to the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

2.5 The Board of Trustees, or its nominee, may make alterations to a proposed referendum question for the purpose of making the question:

- (i) Balanced and not tending towards one response; or
- (ii) Comply with the requirements of the Articles of Association and Bye-Laws of the Union.

2.6 Policy set by referendum will overturn policy set by Student Council and in an Annual Members Meeting, but not that set in a Company Law General Meeting.

2.7 The Board of Trustees can override policy or decision made by referendum in accordance with 40.3 of the Articles of Association.

3. Conduct of a Referendum

The Returning Officer and/or Deputy Returning Officer, as appointed in accordance with the Elections Bye-Law, shall be charged with organising a referendum if called.

3.1 A referendum will be deemed called at the point when it is approved by the Trustees, Student Council, a Company Law General Meeting or an Annual Members Meeting or at the point the Chair of the Board of Trustees receives a secure petition signed by at least 250 Members.

- 3.2 The Returning Officer and/or Deputy Returning Officer shall be responsible for the good conduct and co-ordination of the administration of the Referendum.
- 3.3 All referendums shall take place online.
- 3.4 Following the referendum being called the following timetable of activities must be followed:
 - 3.4.1 The Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer shall set a date for the vote to take place, during term time, which shall be no sooner than 12 working days and no later than 25 working days after the Referendum is called.
 - 3.4.2 The referendum question shall be published at least 10 working days before the vote begins, along with the argument for and against the question put to Referendum.
 - 3.4.3 A period of voting shall be at least 48 hours and should be conducted in accordance with the general rules covering voting and the count in the Elections Bye-Law.
 - 3.4.4 A resolution may only be passed by Referendum if at least 500 Members cast a vote in the Referendum and a majority of the votes cast are in favour of the resolution.

4. **Campaigning**

A campaign for the 'Yes' or 'No' argument of the question put to Referendum shall be consistent with the regulations outlined for campaigning in the Elections Bye-Law. The Returning Officer and/or Deputy Returning Officer are responsible for their interpretation.

- 4.1 The Union will provide equal resources to the 'Yes' and the 'No' campaign, which will be distributed fairly within each campaign.