



## **Byelaw 2**

### Referenda

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#### **1. Organisation of a Referendum**

- 1.1. The President should be responsible for organising a referendum when instructed:
  - 1.1.1. by a petition of 125 Members, in relation to the policy of the Students' Association, changes to the Students' Association's Constitution and Byelaws, the removal of Officers or other elected officials and the removal of specific duties from an Officer or other elected official;
  - 1.1.2. by a decision of the Students' Association's Council, in relation to the policy of the Students' Association, changes to the Students' Association's Constitution and Byelaws, the removal of Officers or other elected officials and the removal of specific duties from an Officer or other elected official in accordance with Byelaw 3. In the case of a referendum called to remove a Students' Association Officer or other elected official, or to remove specific duties from a Students' Association Officer or other elected official, the decision of Students Council shall require a two thirds majority of those present;
  - 1.1.3. by a decision of Student Executive Committee, in relation to a disagreement with Students' Association Council, in accordance with Clause 1.2 of Byelaw 3;
  - 1.1.4. by a decision of a Discipline Panel (convened under the procedures set out in the Employment Handbook) to recommend removal of an Officer or the removal of specific duties.
- 1.2. A referendum shall be held not sooner than 12 days and not later than 22 days following the decision of the Students' Association Council, or receipt of the petition, or at such other time as may be mutually agreed by the proposers of the referendum and the President.
- 1.3. The referendum shall be arranged in accordance with the following timetable (of days prior to the first day of voting):

- 1.3.1. 12 days: Publish the proposal and date(s) for the referendum, seeking any alternative or related proposals and statements for and against the proposals, within 5 days.
- 1.3.2. 7 days: Cease accepting alternative or related proposals.
- 1.3.3. 6 days: Publish the proposal, with any alternative or related proposals, and the arrangements for meetings required to debate it.
- 1.4. An alternative or related proposal shall be considered on receipt of a petition of 75 Members. It shall be worded so that it can stand alone from, or alongside, the original proposal.
- 1.5. In the case of any dispute regarding the wording of proposals, or if it deems necessary, Students' Association Council shall be empowered to revise the wording of proposals in order to ensure that those voting in referenda are presented with clear choices and decisions.

## **2. General Arrangements**

- 2.1. Any decision or petition for a referendum shall specify a single proposal or separate proposals each of which shall not exceed 250 words, except in the case of Constitution or Byelaw amendments.
- 2.2. In the case of proposed amendments to the Constitution or Byelaws the full wording of the amendments shall be clearly displayed adjacent to the Polling Station.
- 2.3. Students' Association Council shall determine the financial arrangements for publicising referenda. Such arrangements shall ensure that all referenda held within each academic year receive equal funding.
- 2.4. Prior to the Referendum, it shall be the responsibility of the President to organise at least one meeting, open to all Members, to debate the proposal.
- 2.5. A minimum of 10% of Members shall be required to cast votes in the referendum for the decision to be binding.
- 2.6. For a referendum to carry, there must be 75% majority in favour of the resolution
- 2.7. The Returning Officers shall actively seek statements for and against referenda proposals to assist those voting to consider the issues involved. If more than one statement is submitted, the Returning Officers shall decide upon which one is published or may prepare a new statement combining different statements.
- 2.8. The proposers and opponents of a referendum shall be entitled to produce a statement of not more than 250 words, and proposers and opponents of alternative or related proposals a statement of not more than 150 words, for publication in accordance with Byelaw 17.

## **3. Conduct of the Referendum**

- 3.1. The referendum shall be conducted by means of a ballot open to all Members.
- 3.2. Polling shall be held on at least one day for at least 8 hours held via the online electoral system.

3.3. The referendum shall be conducted in accordance with the general regulations covering cross-campus ballots, as laid down in the Byelaws.

4. National Union of Students

A referendum shall be held every 4 years to consider the affiliation of the Students' Association to the National Union of Students.