

Bye-Law 6: Referenda



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Bye-Law 6: Referenda

1. General

- a. This bye-law outlines the process to be followed to call a referenda
- b. The Returning Officer of the Union shall adhere as best as possible to the guidance in this document, however they shall be empowered to take whatever appropriate steps are required to ensure voting is open and fair.

2. Referenda Purpose

- a. Referenda may be called for the following reasons:
 - i. To change the policy of the Union.
 - ii. To confirm a policy decision, where such a decision is deemed by Student Council to be of interest to the wider student body.
 - iii. To change the constitution of the Union in conjunction with the Board of Trustees.
 - iv. To pass a vote of no-confidence in an elected officer. If such vote passes with a simple majority the officer will have been deemed to have resigned with immediate effect.
- b. A referendum may not be called on any issue which has already been sent to a referendum for a period of 6 months.

3. Calling a Referendum

- a. A referendum may be called on any issue by:
 - i. A resolution of the Trustees
 - ii. A majority vote of the Student Council; or
 - iii. A secure petition signed by 3% of the membership or agreed to by at least 150 Student Members (subject to Articles [24.1] and [26.2.1])
- b. The Union may run more than one referendum simultaneously.

4. Setting the Question

- a. Each referendum must be proposed to the student body in the form of a closed question.
- b. The Union's depute returning officers will
 - i. Propose a question for each referendum for consideration by the Returning Officer
 - ii. Ensure that each proposed question is clear, easy to understand and is not seen to be guiding towards any answer in the referendum
- c. The Returning Officer must approve each referendum question and their decision is final.

5. Referenda Validity

- a. In order for a referendum to be valid, the following conditions must be met:
 - i. 3% of the membership take part in the vote
 - ii. Members are given at least two weeks' notice of the referendum.

6. Duration

- a. The Returning Officer will decide the polling duration for each referendum with the minimum polling duration being 24 hours.

7. Union Responsibilities

- a. The Union will produce impartial information for each referendum question and publish this at least five days before the referendum has taken place.
- b. The Union will provide support to students who seek to campaign for a particular answer in the referendum.

Approving Body	Student Council/Board of Trustees
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