



# REFERENDA

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>BYE LAW SIX</b>
<b>OWNER:</b>	<b>MARK FRANCOS (GPC)</b>
<b>APPROVED:</b>	<b>STUDENT COUNCIL (26/11/25)</b>

## Document History:

- 26/11/19 - Council approved updates
- 28/10/20 - Council approved updates
- 02/11/22 - Council approved updates
- 01/11/23 - Council approved updates
- 16/11/25 - Council approved updates

This Bye-Law should be read in conjunction with Appendix 4 on referenda.

## SECTION ONE: REFERENDA

- 1.1 A decision taken by referendum will take precedence over policy approved at Student Council or All Student Meeting.
- 1.2 A Referendum may be held on any proposal where the Student Council or Trustees deem it necessary, or upon receipt by the President of a request bearing the signatures and student numbers of 1% of the student members at the time as advised by the University of which the outcome of the decision would affect.

## SECTION TWO: PROCEDURE FOR HOLDING A REFERENDUM

- 2.1 A Referendum shall be on a proposal decided by the Trustees, Student Council, or a resolution supported by 1% of the Union's membership. If more than one proposal is submitted, the procedure in Clause 2.2 of this Bye-law must be adhered to with regard to each separate proposal.
- 2.2 The date and time of a Referendum held under the relevant Bye-law may be decided by the Student Executive Committee or the Student Council in consultation with staffing commitments and the academic calendar.
- 2.3 Student Council shall appoint a member of UUSU staff as the Returning Officer for referenda who shall have delegated powers to uphold the regulations agreed by that body.
- 2.4 Only full members of the Union will be entitled to vote.
- 2.5 The Returning Officer will arrange for online voting and will inform students of the procedure involved with this.
- 2.6 Student Council shall have the power to make rules and (or) regulations governing individual referenda which, during the period from when a date for the referendum is agreed until the declaration of a result, shall have the same binding authority as a Bye Law.
- 2.7 Dependent on the nature of the referenda, i.e if the question being put has a Yes/No response, the campaign for each respective position shall appoint a point of contact who shall be a registered student at Ulster University. That individual will be responsible for disseminating regulations agreed by Council and communications issued by the Returning Officer.
- 2.8 The conduct under which referenda are held shall be governed by, the published Referendum Rules and associated bye-laws.

### SECTION THREE: DECISION BY REFERENDUM

- 3.1 A decision taken by a Referendum and voted upon by at least 3% of the Union Membership shall be mandatory and binding on the Union or anybody to which it is directed, provided that those votes in favour number 50%+ 1 of the total number of votes cast.
- 3.2 In the case of a Referendum on Affiliation to NUS/USI a simple majority of 50% plus one of a quorate Referendum will be required to reject this affiliation.
- 3.3 A motion or proposal to alter or rescind a decision of the Union Membership shall not be considered in the six months following the date from which the decision was passed.
- 3.4 The President shall give a ruling if a dispute arises in relation to Clause 3.3 of this Bye-law. Such a Presidential ruling can only be overturned by a decision of a quorate meeting of the Student Council.
- 3.5 A decision taken by a Referendum and voted upon by less than 3% of the Union Membership shall be deemed null and void.

### SECTION FOUR: REPORTING FUNCTION

- 4.1 A Union Body, Committee, Officer or other specified person which has carried out a mandate or recommendation of the Union Membership shall report to the next Student Council meeting.

### SECTION FIVE: A REFERENDUM RESULT

- 5.1 The Returning Officer or their deputy(s) shall publish the result of any Referendum submitted under Clause 1.2 of this Bye-law not later than one clear day (excluding Saturday and Sunday) after the Referendum has been held.
- 5.2 The deadline for complaints being made, regarding the conduct of a referendum (other than the conduct of the count), must be made in writing to the Returning Officer no later than three hours after voting closes.
- 5.3 Any complaints regarding the conduct of the count must be made in writing to the Returning Officer no later than 17:00 on the day after the announcement of the result.
- 5.4 In the event of any dispute in relation to the validity of the vote or the conduct of the referendum the Returning Officer's decision is final and cannot be over-ruled within the bounds of the Articles of Association, Standing Orders and Appendices. If requested by Student Council, the Returning Officer shall submit a report for their consideration, setting out the grounds of complaint, and their reason for either upholding or rejecting it.

- 5.5 The Student Council shall be entitled to review whether the Returning Officer has complied with the Regulations. If the Student Council find by 50% +1 that the Returning Officer had complied with the Regulations, the Student Council will not interfere with the Returning Officers decision.
- 5.6 If the Student Council find that there has been non-compliance with the Regulations by the Returning Officer, the Student Council may in its discretion vote by 50% +1 to stipulate that a new referendum shall be held.