



REFERENDA

TITLE:	BYE LAW SIX
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APPROVED:	STUDENT COUNCIL (01/11/23)

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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 Executive Committee, the Trustees, or Student Council 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 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 Student Code of Conduct, the Good Relations Policy, the published Referendum Rules and the Political Expression Framework, and the Union will reserve the right to report students to the University authorities for serious breaches of these policies.

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 have powers of recommendation which 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 Any full member who has reason to believe that there was any irregularity of any kind regarding the conduct of the Referendum, shall have the right to lodge a Referendum petition with the Returning Officer within seventy two hours of the alleged irregularity.
- 5.3 A Referendum petition shall contain all details regarding the alleged irregularity and shall be signed by at least one person who is willing to substantiate the statements.
- 5.4 The Chair shall convene a Special Meeting of the Student Council to consider the petition. A decision of the Student Council in relation to a Referendum petition shall consider the following:
 - 5.4.1 Whether the alleged irregularity has, or may have occurred;
 - 5.4.2 If the alleged irregularity is such, as could have materially affected the result of the Referendum.
 - 5.4.3 Subject to the outcome of their considerations in 5.2 Student Council may declare the Referendum valid or invalid.