

University of Cumbria Students' Union

Bye-Law 9: Referendums

1. Calling a Referendum

- 1.1 A referendum may be called on any issue by:
 - 1.1.1 a resolution of the Trustees;
 - 1.1.2 a resolution of Executive Committee;
 - 1.1.3 a majority vote of the Student Council; or
 - 1.1.4 a Secure Petition signed or agreed to by at least 100 Members, in accordance with the Constitution.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Any call for a referendum must include the question to be put to the Members.
- 1.4 The Board of Trustees, or its nominee, may make alternation to a proposed referendum question for the purpose of making the question:
 - 1.4.1 Balanced and not tending towards one response; or
 - 1.4.2 Comply with the requirements of the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Union.
- 1.5 Referendums may be called for all Members or a Members based on a Main Campus Location as defined by the Board of Trustees, namely:
 - 1.5.1 Ambleside
 - 1.5.2 Brampton Road
 - 1.5.3 Fusehill Street
 - 1.5.4 Lancaster
 - 1.5.5 London

2. Conduct of the Referendum

- 2.1 A Notice of the referendum shall be issued at least 14 days before the referendum vote is to held. The notice shall detail the question, date and time of polling, how Members can cast their vote, and the regulations governing the administration of the referendum and any associated campaigning activity.
- 2.2 The administration of the referendum and campaigning activity will be governed in accordance with Bye-Law 6: Elections.

3. Approval of Policy at All Member Referendums

- 3.1 A resolution may only be passed by Referendum if:
 - 3.1.1 at least 5% of Members cast a vote in the Referendum and a simple majority of the votes cast are in favour of the resolution;
 - 3.1.2 at least 5% of Members based on each main campus location (as defined in clause 1.5) cast a vote in the Referendum and a simple majority of the votes cast are in favour of the resolution.
- 3.2 Members may set Policy by All Member Referendums. Policy set by Referendums may overturn Policy set by the Student Council but not Policy set by the Members in general meeting.

4. Results of All Member Referendums

- 4.1 If a resolution is passed by an All Member Referendum it becomes Union Policy as defined in Bye-Law 8: Ideas & Policy.
- 4.2 If a resolution in an All Member Referendum fails to secure a quorum across the whole student population, or within one or more campus locations, the Executive Committee may choose to re-run the referendum at the next appropriate opportunity
- 4.3 If a resolution in an All Member Referendum reaches quorum, secures a simple majority of all the votes cast, but fails due to a lack of a simple majority in a favour at one or more campus locations the Executive Committee may:
 - 4.3.1 Investigate the reasons for non-approval at those campus location;
 - 4.3.2 Refer the resolution to Student Council for consideration;
 - 4.3.3 Amend the resolution and call a Campus-Specific Referendum at the next appropriate opportunity;
 - 4.3.4 Take limited action in support of the resolution solely on those campus locations that approved the resolution in the original All Member Referendum.
- 4.4 If a resolution in an All Member Referendum reaches quorum, fails to secure a simple majority of all the votes cast, but secures a simple majority in a favour at one or more campus locations the Executive Committee may:
 - 4.4.1 Investigate the reasons for non-approval at those campus location;
 - 4.4.2 Refer the resolution to Student Council for consideration;
 - 4.4.3 Amend the resolution and call a Campus-Specific Referendum at the next appropriate opportunity;
 - 4.4.4 Take limited action in support of the resolution solely on those campus locations that approved the resolution in the original All Member Referendum.

4.5 If a resolution in an All Member Referendum reaches quorum, fails to secure a simple majority of all the votes cast, and fails to secure a simple majority across all campus locations the resolution falls.

4.6 Resolutions which fall (as described in clause 4.6) may not be re-opened for another 12 months.

5. Approval of Policy at Campus-Specific Referendums

5.1 A resolution may only be passed by Referendum if at least 5% of Members based on the campus cast a vote in the Referendum and a simple majority of the votes cast are in favour of the resolution;

5.2 Members may set Policy by Campus-Specific Referendums. Policy set by Referendums may overturn Policy set by the Student Council but not Policy set by the Members in general meeting. Policy set by Campus-Specific Referendums should usually only directly affect the experience of students studying at the relevant campus location.

6. Results of Campus-Specific Referendums

6.1 If a resolution is passed by a Campus-Specific Referendum it becomes Union Policy as defined in Bye-Law 8: Ideas & Policy.

6.2 If a resolution in a Campus-Specific Referendum fails to secure a quorum the Executive Committee may choose to re-run the referendum at the next appropriate opportunity

6.3 If a resolution in a Campus-Specific Referendum reaches quorum, but fails to secure a simple majority of all the votes cast the resolution falls.

6.4 Resolutions which fall (as described in clause 6.3) may not be re-opened for another 12 months.