



Byelaw 2: Elections & Referendums

1. Elections

1.1. Cross campus elections will be held for all elected officers of the Union.

1.2. The Returning Officer

1.2.1. The Board of Trustees will appoint the Returning Officer annually.

1.2.2. The Returning Officer must not be a member of the Union or have held any office within the Union's structures in the 5 years prior to appointment.

1.2.3. The Returning Officer will appoint the Deputy Returning Officer, who shall be a Union staff member.

1.2.4. The Returning Officer shall have the final authority to rule on matters of organisation and regulations in relation to the election, in accordance with the Constitution and this Byelaw.

1.2.4.1. While the Returning Officer has final authority within the Union over any issues in relation to the election, all members retain the right of ultimate appeal to the University Secretary under the Education Act (1994), however, no appeal or complaint can be made to the University Secretary without having first exhausted the Union's procedures.

1.2.5. Following any election the Returning Officer shall produce a report for the Board of Trustees on the conduct of the election.

1.3. Voting

1.3.1. Voting shall be arranged to ensure the highest possible level of participation of the membership.

1.3.2. Voting may take place either through paper ballots or online voting as determined by the Returning Officer.

1.3.3. Voting in any election will be open for a minimum of 2 working days during term time and a maximum of 5 working days during term time.



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- 1.3.4. All student members of the Union will be eligible to vote in elections.
- 1.3.5. Voting shall be cast using:
 - 1.3.5.1. the Alternative Voting (AV) System in single winner elections.
 - 1.3.5.2. the Single Transferable Voting (STV) System in the case of multi-winner elections.
- 1.3.6. Re-Open Nominations shall always be a candidate in elections.
- 1.3.7. Where a paper ballot is conducted, candidates (or their nominee) shall be permitted to observe the count of the relevant election.
- 1.3.8. The results of elections shall be made available to all members of the Union as soon as is reasonably possible following the verification of the results by the Returning Officer

1.4. Election Regulations

- 1.4.1. These regulations will apply to all elections covered by this Byelaw.

1.4.2. Nominations

- 1.4.2.1. Nomination for all positions shall be advertised and be open for a minimum of one week.
- 1.4.2.2. For a nomination to be valid it must include the students' full name, student number, date of birth, and email address.
- 1.4.2.3. Students may only nominate themselves for positions for which they are eligible to stand.

1.4.3. Eligibility

- 1.4.3.1. The eligibility requirements of each position will be defined within their role description as determined by the Board of Trustees.

1.4.4. Campaign Rules

- 1.4.4.1. The Board of Trustees will agree further rules in addition to the core provisions of this Byelaw to ensure an effective free and fair election.
- 1.4.4.2. The Campaign Rules will be published to all candidates in advance of campaigning opening as part of a mandatory candidate briefing.



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1.4.4.3. The Campaign Rules will be made available to all members via the Union website.

1.4.5. Election Complaints Procedure

1.4.5.1. The Board of Trustees will agree an appropriate Election Complaints Procedure which will be reviewed annually.

1.4.5.2. The Elections Complaints Procedure will be published to all candidates in advance of campaigning opening as part of a mandatory candidate briefing.

1.4.5.3. The Election Complaints Procedure will be made available to all members via the Union website.

2. Referendums

2.1. Referendums may be called on any issue through the processes describe within the Constitution (14 – Referendums).

2.2. Voting

2.2.1. Voting in referendums shall be arranged to ensure the highest possible level of participation of the membership.

2.2.2. Voting may take place either through paper ballots or online voting as determined by the Returning Officer.

2.2.3. Voting in any election will be open for a minimum of 2 working days during term time and a maximum of 5 working days during term time.

2.2.4. All student members of the Union will be eligible to vote in elections.

2.2.5. Voting shall be cast using:

2.2.5.1. First Past the Post (Simply Majority) in Single-Choice referendums

2.2.5.2. Single Transferable Vote in Multi-Choice referendums

2.2.6. Where a paper ballot is conducted, campaign leads (or their nominee) shall be permitted to observe the count of the relevant election.



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2.2.7. The results of referendums shall be made available to all members of the Union as soon as is reasonably possible following the verification of the results by the Returning Officer

2.3. The Returning Officer

2.3.1. The Board of Trustees will appoint the Returning Officer annually.

2.3.2. The Returning Officer must not be a member of the Union or held any office within the Union's structures in the 5 years prior to appointment.

2.3.3. The Returning Officer will appoint the Deputy Returning Officer.

2.3.4. The Returning Officer shall have the final authority to rule on matters of organisation and regulations in relation to the referendum, in accordance with the Constitution and this Byelaw.

2.3.4.1. While the Returning Officer has final authority within the Union over any issues in relation to the referendum, all members retain the right of ultimate appeal to the University Secretary under the Education Act (1994), however, no appeal or complaint can be made to the University Secretary without having first exhausted the Union's procedures.

2.3.5. Following any referendum the Returning Officer shall produce a report for the Board of Trustees on the conduct of the referendum.

2.4. Referendum Regulations

2.4.1. Nominations

2.4.1.1. When a referendum is called the proposer of the motion shall, in the first instance, be deemed as the campaign lead for the appropriate campaign.

2.4.1.2. The Union will advertise the opportunity to all members to nominate themselves as campaign leads for the remaining campaigns.

2.4.2. Campaign Rules



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2.4.2.1. The Board of Trustees will agree further rules in addition to the core provisions of this Byelaw to ensure an effective free and fair vote.

2.4.2.2. The Campaign Rules will be published to all campaigns in advance of campaigning opening as part of a mandatory candidate briefing.

2.4.2.3. The Campaign Rules will be made available to all members via the Union website.

2.4.3. Referendum Complaints Procedure

2.4.3.1. The Board of Trustees will agree an appropriate Referendum Complaints Procedure which will be reviewed annually.

2.4.3.2. The Referendum Complaints Procedure will be published to all campaigns in advance of campaigning opening as part of a mandatory campaign briefing.

2.4.3.3. The Referendum Complaints Procedure will be made available to all members via the Union website.