

# Bye-Law 2

## Referenda

To be read in conjunction with RUSU Memorandum and Articles of Association (the constitution) and its Bye-Laws

### Definition of a Referendum

A Referendum is a ballot in which all Student Members of the Union are entitled to cast a vote. The process shall be as follows:

### Calling a Referendum

The President shall be responsible for organising a Referendum when instructed by:

- a resolution of the Trustees
- a majority vote of the Student Fora; or
- by a Secure Petition signed by at least 400 Student Members

### Conduct of the Referendum

All Student Members shall be eligible to vote.

A resolution may only be passed by Referendum if at least 1,000 of the members cast a vote in the Referendum and a simple majority of the votes cast are in favour of the resolution.

RUSU is not obliged to act upon a vote that has a turnout of less than 1,000 students eligible to vote. However, the vote may be taken into account when formulating policies.

### Notice and Timing of Referenda Period

The RUSU President/Returning Officer or their deputy will publicise that a referendum has been called for and details of the reason why within 10 working days of receipt of notice.

The Referendum shall be arranged in accordance with the following timetable, the exact dates of which to be determined by the RUSU President/Returning Officer or their deputy:

- Publish the proposal, date(s) for the referendum and date of a meeting, open to all Student Members, to explain and debate the issues, which shall be held no later than the commencement of polling.

Each side may be given a publicity allowance paid for by RUSU of an equal amount, to be determined by the RUSU Management Committee

- Begin accepting alternative proposals to a published deadline. Any alternative proposal shall be directly related to the original proposal.
- Cease accepting alternative proposals. The final decision as to whether to accept any alternative proposals shall lie with those who called the referendum.
- If the issue is to be contested the meeting shall nominate two agents who will be responsible for running the “Yes” vote campaign and the “No” vote campaign.
- Publish the proposal/alternative proposal if there is one and the question to be asked and further advertise dates of polling

RUSU Election rules will apply.

## Voting

Polling will normally be electronic using the current RUSU online elections provider.

The RUSU President/Returning Officer or their deputy shall publicise the times and duration of polling.

## Results

The RUSU President/Returning Officer or their deputy shall be responsible for declaring the result of the referendum once they are satisfied that the referendum has been conducted properly.

The result of a referendum will take precedence over any existing policy on the same issue.

## Overriding a Referendum

The Board of Trustees may override any decision and Policy made by the Members in a Referendum in accordance with the RUSU Constitution (Section 31.3 Trustees' General Authority).