

SO8002

STANDING ORDER GOVERNING A REFERENDUM

1. Interpretation

These Standing Orders shall be read in conjunction with the Articles, Bye Laws and the relevant Standing Orders of Hull University Union and the Returning Officer Rules and shall be interpreted accordingly. "Clear days" excludes University holidays; Bank Holidays; Saturdays and Sundays.

2. Introduction

A referendum may only be called in the following circumstances to consider a proposal:

- a) to amend the Articles;
- b) to overturn a successful motion of no confidence in a Student Officer by Union Council;
- c) to approve new policy recommended by a Union General Meeting;
- d) to approve new policy submitted and signed by at least 50 full members;
- e) for direct action against the University.

3. Confidence in a Student Officer

A Full Member may request that a motion of no confidence in a Student Officer, be overturned by a secret ballot in which all Full Members are entitled to vote, provided that the request is lodged with the President or Chief Executive no later than 5 clear days after the Union Council at which the motion was passed.

4. Amendment to the Hull University Union Articles

A Full Member may request that a proposal to amend the Articles be put to a secret ballot in which all Full Members are entitled to vote provided that:

- a) The amendment has been approved for referendum at a General Meeting.
- b) The issue has not been the subject of a referendum in the same academic year.
- c) The result shall not be taken as indicative if quorum is not attained.

5. Conduct of a Referendum

The President shall arrange for the referendum to take place not later than 10 clear days after receipt of the request, except in the case of making policy (see paragraph 6).

6. Campaigning Weeks on Policy to go to Referendum

Referenda called to approve policy in paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) will take place as required. Members will be allowed to campaign for/against the policy throughout the referenda. The President shall ensure notice of the policies to be put to referenda are advertised 5 clear days before the start of voting.

7. Quorum

The quorum shall be 10% of students at the University of Hull for referenda called in paragraph 2 (a).

The quorum shall be 5% of students at the University of Hull for referenda called in paragraph 2 (b) and (e).

Spoiled/rejected votes will count towards the quorum.]

8. The referendum shall pass with a majority of over 50% in favour, with the exception of 2(a) which shall need 2/3rds majority (see Articles). Spoiled/rejected votes will not be included in determining the threshold for the votes to pass.

9. Voting



Voting will be done through the Hull University Union website.

If a student requires assistance voting it will be offered as long as voting is still open.

All results will be published on the Hull University Union website.

10. Returning Officers

Hull University Union will appoint a Returning Officer team to oversee referenda and ensure that they are run fairly and transparently.

The Returning Officer team may include a Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officers.

The Returning Officer team may be made up of permanent members of Hull University Union staff or staff members from other Students' Unions.

The Returning Officer team will publish a set of rules at the point the referendum is announced. The Returning Officer team has complete discretion over the actions they take if candidates are found to have broken these rules.

11. Complaints

All complaints regarding the conduct of the referendum must be made to a member of the Returning Officer team in writing.

The decisions of Assistant Returning Officers can be appealed to the Returning Officer.

The decision of the Returning Officer is final.

12. Campaigning

All campaigning must be positive.

All campaigning must be in accordance with the rules published by the Returning Officer team.

13. Neutrality

All Hull University Union employees and volunteers must remain neutral throughout the referendum period whilst performing their duties.

PT/JH

Passed at UEC: 1st December 2009
Passed at Union Council: 14th December 2009

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