

## **M.1617-11 Motion to update Standing Orders 8001 and 8002 relating to Elections and Referenda**

### **HUU Notes:**

1. That SO 8001 and 8002 outline details for HUU Elections and Referenda respectively.
2. That SO 8001 and 8002 have not been updated in 2 and 7 years respectively.
3. That the process for referenda is also outlined in the Bye-Laws (Section 9) and the Memorandum & Articles of Association (Section 14) both of which supersede anything detailed in the Standing Orders.
4. That the Returning Officer Team publishes Rules & Regulations for each election and referendum containing all the necessary details.
5. That HUU is disaffiliated from the National Union of Students as of 1 January 2017 and can no longer use the NUS elections support service.
6. That a RON (Re-Open Nominations) campaign occurred during the spring elections 2016 due to two full-time Officer positions being uncontested.

### **HUU Believes:**

1. That Standing Orders should set a framework for elections and referenda. However, the details should be determined in the Rules & Regulations to allow them to be adapted to changing circumstances and reviewed on a regular basis.
2. That the Standing Orders for Elections and Referenda should be consistent with the Bye-Laws and not contradict each other.
3. That the Standing Orders for Elections and Referenda should reflect current practice.
4. That following HUU's disaffiliation from NUS, the Chief Returning Officer should be a member of staff from another Students' Union to ensure a fair appeals process for complaints.
5. That campaigns for RON (Re-Open Nominations) cannot be prohibited by the Returning Officer Team as it does not have the means to do so given RON is not a real candidate.

6. That whether slates (a group of candidates campaigning together) are allowed or not should be detailed in the Rules & Regulations and not in the Standing Orders so it can be reviewed on a regular basis<sup>1</sup>.

**HUU Resolves:**

1. That SO 8001 and SO 8002 are amended as appended with immediate effect.

**Proposer:** Si Hernandez (VP Scarborough)

**Seconded:** Matt Thorneycroft (VP Education)

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<sup>1</sup> According to the [2015 NUS Elections report](#), 72% of participating Students' Unions allow slates.

STANDING ORDERS GOVERNING  
ELECTIONS

1. Context

These Standing Orders shall be read in conjunction with the Constitution, Bye Laws and the relevant Standing Orders of Hull University Union and the Returning Officer Rules, and shall be interpreted accordingly. In these Standing Orders:

- a. "HUU" means Hull University Union;
- b. "clear days" excludes University holidays; Bank Holidays; Saturdays and Sundays.

2. General

HUU will elect its major Union Officers by election.

This may be by cross-campus ballot (all registered students have a vote) or restricted/limited ballot (only students of a certain group or who define as a certain group have a right to vote).

3. Notice of Elections

HUU will publish details of any elections it intends to hold at least 7 clear days before the intended close of nominations.

4. Eligibility & Nominations

In all cross-campus elections all registered students have the right to stand as a candidate.

In restricted/limited elections only registered students who are from the relevant group or self-define as the group have the right to stand as a candidate.

All nominations for all elections will be submitted via the HUU website. If a student requires assistance in completing a nomination form this will be offered as long as the deadline for nominations has not passed.

Nominations will not be accepted after the deadline has passed.

5. Voting

Voting will be done through the HUU website.

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

Unless otherwise stated in the notice of elections, all voting will be conducted according to the Single Transferable Voting system.

All results will be published on the HUU website.

## 6. Returning Officers

HUU will appoint a Returning Officer team to oversee elections 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 HUU staff or ~~NUS~~-staff members from other Students' Unions.

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

## 7. Complaints

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

Only candidates can make complaints about the conduct of elections or candidates.

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

## 8. Campaigning

All campaigning must be positive.

~~Campaigning for a slate (a group of candidates campaigning together) is not allowed.~~

~~Campaigning to Re-Open Nominations is not allowed.~~

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

## 9. Neutrality

All HUU employees and volunteers must remain neutral throughout the election period whilst performing their duties.

~~President, Membership Services Operations Manager, Governance and Democracy Intern~~

Approved by Union Executive Committee: 09/12/14

Approved by Union Council: 15/12/14

Approved by UEC:

Approved by UC:

# SO 8002

## STANDING ORDERS GOVERNING A REFERENDUM

1. **Interpretation**  
These Standing Orders shall be read in conjunction with the Constitution, 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 HUU Constitution;
  - (b) to overturn a successful motion of no confidence in a ~~Studentabbatical~~ 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 15-50 full members and approved by the Governance Zone; and~~
  - (e) for direct action against the University.
3. **Confidence in a Sabbatical-Student Officer**  
A Full Member may request that a motion of no confidence in a ~~Studentabbatical~~ 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 HUU Constitution**  
A Full Member may request that a proposal to amend the HUU Constitution 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). ~~The election of the Returning Officer, and arrangements for polling and the count, shall be in accordance with S.O. 8001.~~
6. **Campaigning Weeks on Policy to go to Referendum**

**Commented [T1]:****The M&AA state:**

A Referendum may be called on any issue by:  
14.1.1 a resolution of the Trustees;  
14.1.2 a majority vote of the Student Council; or  
14.1.3 a Secure Petition signed by at least 50 Members.

**The Bye-Laws state:**

Referenda may be called as detailed in the Articles. Referenda shall be required to consider a proposal to:  
(a) amend the HUU Constitution  
(b) overturn a successful motion of no confidence in a Sabbatical Officer by the Council  
(c) overturn policy approved by a Union General Meeting and/or the Council;  
(subject to the authority of the Board of Trustees as detailed in the Articles)  
(d) approve any direct action against the University.

Referenda called to approve policy in paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) will take place ~~over 5 days in Week 8 of Semester 1 and Week 7 of Semester 2~~ 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 ~~Full Time Equivalent~~ students at the University of Hull for referenda called in paragraph 2 (a).

The quorum shall be 5% of ~~Full Time Equivalent~~ 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 Constitution).

Spoiled/rejected votes will not be included in determining the threshold for the votes to pass.

9. **Voting**

Voting will be done through the HUU 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 HUU website.

**10. Returning Officers**

HUU 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 HUU 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**

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

**13. Neutrality**

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

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**Commented [T2]:** Bringing it in line with SO Elections

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PT/JH

Passed at UEC: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009  
Passed at Union Council: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Passed at UEC:  
Passed at UC: