



YORK ST JOHN STUDENTS' UNION

BYELAW (3) ELECTIONS & REFERENDA

A Byelaw setting out the general regulations for elections and referenda.

Byelaw (3) Elections & Referenda

1. Officers

Returning Officer

- 1.1. For elections to Sabbatical Office, Part-time Office, or the Student Council, or for any referendum, a Returning Officer shall be appointed, who shall not be a Trustee, Officer, Member, or employee of the Students' Union or the University.
- 1.2. The Returning Officer shall be appointed by the Trustee Board for the duration of the academic year.
- 1.3. The duties of the Returning Officer shall include
 - a. deciding on any matter relating to the conduct of candidates during elections, including the power to penalise or exclude candidates in respect of any breach of election regulations;
 - b. postponing or nullifying the result of an election in respect of irregularity; and,
 - c. ensuring that elections are conducted in accordance with the Byelaws and any additional regulations set by the Trustee Board.

Deputy Returning Officers

- 1.4. The Returning Officer may nominate one or more Deputy Returning Officers who may act on behalf of the Returning Officer (except to verify elections), subject to consent, whose appointment shall be confirmed by the Trustee Board.

Counting Officers

- 1.5. The Trustee Board may appoint one or more Counting Officers, who shall assist the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer in counting and verifying the results of elections.

2. Elections

Regulations

- 2.1. The Trustee Board may create regulations for the conduct and procedure of elections.

Voting System

- 2.2. Elections shall be conducted using the Single Transferable Vote system, [as defined by the Electoral Reform Society](#).
- 2.3. Elections may be held electronically or physically, subject to any regulations made by the Trustee Board.

Eligibility

- 2.4. Candidates for elections must be Student Members of the Students' Union and meet any other restriction criteria imposed in the Byelaws.
- 2.5. Any Student Member of the Students' Union shall be entitled to vote in the election.

Timetable

- 2.6. The Trustee Board may decide on a timetable for elections, which shall specify
 - a. the date of notice of elections, not being fewer than 28 days from the opening of nominations;

- b. the dates of the nominations period, opening not fewer than 28 days before the end of the voting period and being open for 14 days;
- c. the dates of the voting period, being not fewer than three days and not more than five days.

2.7. The Trustee Board may extend the nomination period by up to three working days.

Re-open Nominations

2.8. All elections shall provide for the opportunity to vote for the option to re-open nominations in preference to one or more candidates.

Endorsements

2.9. No committee or other body of the Students' Union may endorse any candidate for election in any written, published, or oral form whilst acting in any official capacity, which shall include nomination forms.

Verification

2.10. Following the close of the voting period, the Returning Officer shall verify the results of the election and certify the winner.

2.11. The results of the election shall not be announced until verification from the Returning Officer has been received.

2.12. A Returning Officer's report shall be submitted to the next Trustee Board meeting following any election.

3. Referenda

Regulations

3.1. The Trustee Board may create regulations for the conduct and procedure of referenda, and other regulations are contained in the [Articles of Association](#).

Proposals

3.2. The Student Council may propose a referendum subject in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Article 17 of the Articles of Association.

3.3. The question on the referendum shall be accompanied by statements supporting and opposing all options on the referendum, and the Returning Officer shall actively seek statements to accompany the referendum.

3.4. Prior to the referendum, the Sabbatical Officers shall organise at least one meeting of Student Members to discuss the referendum question.

Voting System

3.5. Elections may be held electronically or physically, subject to any regulations made by the Trustee Board.

3.6. The text of the referendum shall accompany any ballots and be displayed in the Students' Union.

Eligibility

3.7. Any Student Member of the Students' Union shall be entitled to vote in the referendum.

Timetable

- 3.8. The Trustee Board may decide on a timetable for referenda, which shall specify
- a. the date of notice of the referendum, not being fewer than 28 days from the opening of the voting period;
 - b. the dates of the voting period, being not fewer than three days and not more than five days.

Verification

- 3.9. Following the close of the voting period, the Returning Officer shall verify the results of the referendum and certify the outcome.
- 3.10. The results of the referendum shall not be announced until verification from the Returning Officer has been received.
- 3.11. A Returning Officer's report shall be submitted to the next Trustee Board meeting following any referendum.