

J.15-18
A Motion To Accept The Rules of the 2015 NUS Referendum

This SRC Notes:

1. There is an NUS Referendum on the 19th and 20th of November, 2015.

This SRC Resolves:

1. To accept the rules for the referendum as approved by the Elections Committee.

Proposed:

The Elections Committee

Important dates & Info

Mass meetings to assemble election teams: 21st October

Campaigning Period Begins: Wednesday 11 November 17:00

Polling: Thursday 19 November 00:00 – Friday 20 November 17:00

NUS Referendum 2015: the rules

Online Voting

Contacting the Elections Team: saelect@st-andrews.ac.uk

The Elections Office will be open (tbc)

General Information

1. These rules govern the referendum and any associated campaigning and are subject to amendment by the Elections Committee at any time until voting ends.

Campaign Teams

2. Only Ordinary, Life and Honorary Life Members (henceforth 'members of the Association') of the Association may campaign in referenda.

3. The Elections Committee will organize mass meetings to elect one campaign spokesperson and one deputy for each campaign to represent the campaign.

4. The campaign team as a whole, and the campaign spokespeople individually, will be held responsible for the conduct of the campaigns.

5. The Senior Election Team reserves the right, on the advice of a campaign team, to bar any Member of the Association from joining a campaign team.

Budget

6. Each campaign will be granted a budget by the Association of £350.

7. All expenditure by the campaign must be from this budget and registered with the Elections Team with receipts and/or invoices.

8. Any contributions of any kind must be registered with the Elections Team and will be taken from the campaign budget at a rate decided by the Elections Team.

Question Time

9. The Elections Committee will organize a formal forum on the matter of the referendum, with specific standing orders decided by the Elections Committee.

10. The Elections Committee reserves the right to invite non-members of the Association to speak.

Debate

11. The Elections Committee will organize a formal debate between the lead spokesperson for each campaign team.

Campaigning

12. The campaigning period starts at 10AM on the 11th November.

13. Campaigning must be responsible and not harm the good reputation of the Association; to this end, the following list of activities are expressly banned:

a) Graffiti and flyposting.

b) Abuse of other campaign team members or any individual.

c) Blackmail, bribery and/or harassment.

d) Any other action the Elections Committee designates as misconduct.

14. The campaign spokespeople may be held responsible for the actions of the members of their campaign teams by the Elections Committee

15. Teams may only place one poster on the noticeboards of any one Hall of Residence, and may not flyer individual rooms in Halls of Residence.

16. Lectures and seminars may not be used for campaigning.

17. Campaign teams may hand one poster each in to the Library and to the Elections Team for display in the Library and Union.

20. Societies affiliated to the Students' Association may campaign in the referendum provided that:

a) they provide minutes of a general meeting explicitly authorizing such campaigning to the Elections Team, and:

b) they do not use Association-funded resources on such campaigning, and:

c) their Constitution permits them to spend their society funds, and use the society name, in such campaigning.

21. No campaign is permitted to give out free or discounted alcohol as a method of promotion.

22. No campaign member may use personal or work contacts to gain an unfair financial or personal advantage.

Publicity/Electronic Publicity

24. All publicity must be presented to the Elections Team for approval with invoices or receipts as proof of cost.

25. Publicity must comply with the rules above, and may not be libelous or obscene.

26. Use of any Students' Association or Athletic Union resources to help a campaign is prohibited.

27. Anything used to create printed publicity does not need to be declared separately as part of the budget.

28. Posters are limited to a maximum size of A3 and must include the date of the election and an encouragement to recycle.
29. Flyers must include the date of the election and an encouragement to recycle
30. Home-made banners will be deducted from budgets at a blanket price of £7.50 for a single sheet size and £15 for a double unless a receipt for a lower price is produced.
31. Free webhosting will not be counted against campaign team budgets; if money is claimed for professional webhosting or other costs accruing from a website, it will be charged against the campaign team budget.
32. Any Facebook pages, profiles, groups or events created by either campaign team must ensure at least one member of the Elections Committee is a member of the page, profile, group or event.
33. Society, School, or any other pre-existing mailing lists may not be used to harvest email addresses, phone numbers, or any other data for campaign purposes.
34. Pre-existing social media groups or websites may not be used for campaign purposes.
35. All costs of production or purchase of any edible goods (including materials to bake/cook edible goods) will be deducted from campaign team budgets
36. T-shirts will be deducted at a base rate of £3 per shirt unless an invoice is produced, though the Elections Team reserves the right to charge more against a campaign team budget for a t-shirt if it deems it necessary to do so.

Voting

37. Voting is by the plurality vote system and will be conducted online using the voter's student ID.

Results

39. Results will be subject to verification by a) a nominee of the Association Board and b) a nominee of the University Court that the process was fair. The referendum result shall not be considered final until such verification is received in writing.

Either campaign team may challenge the results if they believe the referendum was not free and fair. The procedure for doing so is outlined below.

Rule Breaking

40. The Elections Committee should be informed of any transgression of these rules within 48hrs of the transgression. Decisions on any such transgression will be made within 48hrs.
41. The campaign spokespeople will be held responsible for the actions of members of the campaign teams if the Elections Committee reasonably believe that they had actual knowledge of, could be reasonably expected to have known

about, or should have been able to prevent such actions.

42. The campaign spokespeople may request that the Elections Committee bans individual members of their campaign teams from campaigning based on their actions if such actions

a) were in transgression of these rules

b) were made without knowledge or approval of the campaign spokespeople

Such a ban will not be treated as prejudicial to the campaign team.

43. Any person has the right to appeal any decision made by the Election Team by putting their case in writing to the chair of the Student Association Board.

Appeals must be on the basis of:

a) bias or prejudice

b) information not known at the time of the original decision

c) procedural irregularity by the Elections Committee.

44. The final deadline for complaints about transgressions of these rules is two working days after the election result has been announced, in this case 5pm Tuesday 20th November.

45. The consequences of a breaching of the rules include but are not limited to written warnings, individual bans on campaigning, and disqualification.

46. Any decision of the Elections Committee is final, pending any appeals lodged.

Appeals

47. Any party wishing to appeal the results of the referendum must do so in writing within 72 hours of the referendum result being officially announced. Such appeals should be addressed to the Chair of the Association Board, sent c/o the Students' Association, Union Building, St. Mary's Place, KY16 9UZ or by email to union@st-andrews.ac.uk. Parties making an appeal must set out clearly and in full the reasons why they believe the result to be unsafe, with accompanying evidence if relevant. Appeals may be on procedural or substantial grounds or both, but must be of sufficient gravity to cast credible doubt on the outcome of the vote. Trivial or vexatious appeals may be dismissed.

The Chair of Board may consider the appeal themselves or appoint a delegate to do so, except that no person considering the appeal can have any involvement in the referendum as either a campaigner or a member of the Elections Committee. A delegate may be a member of the Board or of the University. The Chair or their delegate may, after considering the appeal, either a) uphold the appeal, in which case the referendum must be run again at a date to be decided by the Association Councils: or b) reject the appeal, in which case the referendum result shall be final.

Good luck!

Elections Committee,

Students' Association, St Mary's Place, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9UZ T: 01334 462 700 F: 01334 462 740
E: saelect@st-andrews.ac.uk *The University of St Andrews Students' Association is a Charity Registered in Scotland SC019883*