
2019 YUSU REFERENDUM RULES

*Should YUSU support a referendum
on the final deal of the UK's
departure from the European Union,
with an option to remain?*

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This document can be made available in large print upon request. If you require an alternative format, please contact the Returning Officer on returningofficer@yusu.org.

A) GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Returning Officer shall be Peter Robertson (Acting Chief Executive of NUS), whose appointment has been approved by the Union President as Chair of the Board of Trustees, in accordance with *By-law (7): Elections*.
2. The Deputy Returning Officer shall be Nick Glover (Student Voice & Insight Manager at YUSU), as appointed by the Returning Officer.
3. Full details of the powers and duties of the Returning Officer and their deputy can be found on the YUSU website under *By-law (7): Elections* and *By-law (8): Referenda*.
4. In the event of any conflict between these Referendum Rules and the by-laws, the by-laws shall always take precedence.

B) CAMPAIGN

5. There will be two Campaign Coordinators who shall be ultimately responsible for their side of the campaign, and are obligated to take into account the diversity of views amongst registered campaigners on their side.
6. Campaign Coordinators are responsible for creating a list of all students on their campaign team, which they must keep updated and share with the Returning Officer or their Deputy.
7. If there are any disputes within a Campaign team, they should approach the Deputy Returning Officer who will resolve them at their discretion.
8. The Campaign Coordinator for the 'Yes' side shall be whoever the proposer of the motion chooses to delegate it to.
9. The Campaign Coordinator for the 'No' side shall be whoever is nominated collectively from amongst the campaigners of the 'No' side, subject to approval by the Returning Officer or their deputy once the campaign briefing has taken place on 17th January 2019.

10. Campaign teams shall each have a fully reimbursable budget of £60, which the Campaign Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring their campaign does not exceed.
11. Campaign teams will be required to retain receipts of all items purchased for their campaign. Approximate values for items used in the campaign but not purchased by the candidates will be determined by the Returning Officer or their deputy.
12. Campaign Coordinators will be responsible for ensuring that all material used in their campaign is respectful of their fellow students and in full accordance with these rules, as determined by the Returning Officer or their Deputy.
13. Negative campaigning of a personal nature is prohibited. Candidates are expected to treat each other (and staff members) with respect and must not campaign negatively against other candidates. This includes but is not limited to, making false accusations about other candidates, impersonating other candidates/campaigners and campaigning against a candidate's character, rather than addressing their campaign points or arguments.
14. Campaign teams and their supporters may not tamper with, obscure or remove the campaign materials of the other campaign. Alleged breaches in campaigning rules must be reported to the Returning Officer or their Deputy.
15. Any member of the Union may join either campaign team. It is the responsibility of the Campaign Coordinators to ensure that their campaign team is welcoming, and the Returning Officer or their deputy shall ensure contact details of the Campaign Coordinators are available to members wishing to join a campaign.
16. Campaign teams may not begin campaigning before the conclusion of the debate on Wednesday 23rd January.
17. Members who hold a formal position in the Union (e.g. sabbatical or part-time officers, network or society committee members, academic reps, etc.) may join campaign teams, but may not use any official Union resources to campaign. This

includes, but is not limited to, social media accounts and society or network mailing lists.

18. Third parties are prohibited from supporting either campaign in any way. This restriction does **not** apply to student groups (societies, media groups, sports clubs) or college committees at the University of York.
19. Student groups or college committees may not contribute financially to campaigns.
20. It is the responsibility of the Campaign Coordinators to ensure that any group providing their campaign with support has made the decision to do so via its own internal democratic mechanisms.
21. Student groups or college committees that have chosen to support a campaign may use pre-existing mailing lists or social network groups for the purposes of campaigning.

C) SOCIAL MEDIA

22. Social networking pages, profiles or presences of any kind created for the purpose of this campaign must contain the following disclaimer:
 - a. “If you have any concerns about the contents of this page, please contact the Returning Officer on returningofficer@yusu.org.”
23. A link to social networking pages, profiles or presences of any kind created for the purpose of this campaign must be sent to the returningofficer@yusu.org prior to usage of the presence for campaigning.

D) DEBATE

24. There will be a debate on the referendum motion at 5pm on Wednesday 23rd January 2019 (Week 3).
25. The debate will be chaired by the Policy Coordinator..

26. The Coordinators for each side shall be responsible for selecting two members of their campaign team to speak at the debate.
27. Each member selected to speak at the debate will be given 2 minutes to make their statement.
28. The order of the debate will be as follows:
 - a. Opening statement from the Chair
 - b. First 'Yes' statement
 - c. First 'No' statement
 - d. Second 'Yes' statement
 - e. Second 'No' statement
 - f. Questions from the audience
 - g. Closing statements from each side
 - h. Closing statement from the Chair

E) VOTING

29. Voting will open following the conclusion of the debate and remain open until 5pm on Wednesday 30th January (Week 4).
30. Members of the Union will be able to vote at yusu.org/vote
31. Campaigners must not interfere in any way with a voter at the point of voting.
32. Campaigners must not provide voters with a voting platform (e.g. laptop, smartphone, tablet computer).

F) RESULT

33. In order for the motion to pass, voter turnout must pass a threshold of 5% of the student electorate. This year, that means a minimum quorum of 999 votes must be reached.

34. The result will be announced as soon as is reasonably possible, once all votes have been counted and any outstanding complaints resolved to the satisfaction of the Returning Officer.
35. The Returning Officer will certify the result.

G) COMPLAINTS

36. If a member of YUSU believes that either of the campaign teams in the Referendum has broken any of the rules listed in this document, they may make an official complaint.
37. Complaints regarding the conduct of any campaigner during the referendum can be made to the Returning Officer or their deputy.
38. Complaints must indicate which of these rules is alleged to have been broken and include evidence of the alleged rule-breaking.
39. Complaints will be considered against these rules and YUSU's by-laws; if the Returning Officer or their deputy deems there to have been a breach of either, they may take disciplinary action against the individual or the campaign, as outlined in the by-laws.
40. Except at the discretion of the Returning Officer or their deputy, complaints will not be considered unless they are submitted to returningofficer@yusu.org using the official complaints form, which will be available on the YUSU website, **before** the close of polling.
41. Disputes over rulings made by the Returning Officer or their deputy may be appealed to the trustee board, whose ruling shall be final. Appeals must be submitted in writing to president@yusu.org no later than three working days after the ruling has been made.