

BYE-LAW | THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

Last updated: 11th June 2015

Affiliation

1. The Students' Union will affiliate to the National Union of Students ("NUS"), and pay the required affiliation fee, unless and until it is decided by a referendum (held in accordance with the Bye-Law on Referenda) to disaffiliate.
2. A referendum will be held at least every third year to determine whether the Students' Union should affiliate to NUS for the next three years, which will be held regardless of whether or not the Students' Union is at that time affiliated to NUS.
3. For the avoidance of doubt, an early referendum on the affiliation of the Union to NUS may be triggered in accordance with the Bye-Law on Affiliations at any time.

Delegations

4. The Students' Union will send delegates to all democratic conferences held annually by NUS in accordance with the rules and allocations prescribed by NUS from time to time. A democratic conference is any conference held by NUS that either determines policy of NUS (or a part of NUS) or elects any Officer or other representative position.
5. All delegates shall be elected in accordance with the Bye-Law on Elections, provided that this is in accordance with any restrictions on candidates or the electorate prescribed by NUS.
6. In the event that (following due process for elections) there is no elected delegate for any relevant conference within two weeks of the official deadline for registration, then the position will be filled by a vote of the Senate.
7. The General Secretary shall be a delegate to the NUS National Conference by virtue of their position and shall for administrative purposes be the delegation leader. The position of delegation leader shall not confer any status on the General Secretary except as set out in the NUS rules relating to the National Conference.
8. The International Students Officer shall by virtue of their position be the delegate to the International Students Conference, unless they indicate in writing to the Union that they do not wish to attend the Conference, in which case an election for this position shall be held.
9. The Women's Officer (but not the Women Students Officers) shall by virtue of their position be a delegate to the Women's Conference, unless they indicate in writing to the Union that they do not wish to attend the Conference.
10. The LGBTQ Students Officers shall by virtue of their positions be delegates to the NUS LGBT Conference, unless they indicate in writing to the Union that they do not wish to attend the Conference.

Submission of policy

11. No policy may be submitted for adoption at any NUS Conference that is not in accordance with the policies of the Students' Union.
12. The final determination as to the form and content of any policy submitted to a NUS Conference shall be decided as follows:
 - a. In the case of NUS National Conference or any regional conference, by the NUS Committee;
 - b. In the case of all other conferences, by the delegates to that conference.

Delegate mandates and accountability

13. When attending any democratic conference, delegates must support and vote in accordance with the policies of the Students' Union. If delegates disagree with the Students' Union's stance on any issue in the context of a NUS policy debate they must abstain from the vote.
14. It shall be the responsibility of the General Secretary to ensure that all delegates are informed of the Students' Union's policies in the context of the policy proposals for debate at all conferences, including conferences for which the General Secretary is not a delegate.
15. Delegates must vote for elected candidates in accordance with the outcome of the primary election (see below). If there is no applicable result from the primary election, delegates shall be free to elect any of the available candidates for Officers or other representative positions as they see fit.
16. All delegations must provide a report to the NUS Committee (and in the case of NUS National Conference, to the Senate) about the conference they attended.

Primary election

17. The Students' Union shall hold a primary election on the candidates for the full-time elected Officers at the NUS National Conference, and other positions elected at that conference at the discretion of the NUS Committee.
18. The primary election will take place between the close of nominations for those positions and one week before the date of the National Conference, on a date to be agreed between the NUS Committee and the Deputy Returning Officer (the person defined in the Bye-Law on Elections).
19. Every student eligible to vote in the election of the Executive Officers shall be eligible to vote in the primary election.
20. All other aspects of the primary election shall be governed by regulations set out by the Deputy Returning Officer, and the election shall be supervised by the Returning Officer.