

# St Cuthbert's Society JCR

## Article 1 Referendum Rules



### 1. Calling a Referendum

- 1.1. A referendum may be called upon:
  - 1) A motion being seconded by 49 Full Members passed in a General Meeting, or
  - 2) A 75% vote by the JCR Executive Committee.
- 1.2. A referendum may also be called by the board of trustees on usual voting procedure. The board of trustees is not bound by the JCR standing orders and as such the following procedure refers only to the ordinary JCR membership.
- 1.3. Any Executive Officer must recuse themselves from the vote on the motion for referendum in the event of a conflict of interest, i.e any monetary, social, or other benefit they may personally receive from the vote which does not apply to other JCR members or the charity in a wider context.

### 2. Process for Referendums

- 2.1. The full process for referendums is as follows:
  - 1) The proposer for a referendum must find 49 seconders, unless they wish to pass the proposal at an Executive Committee meeting rather than a General Meeting;
  - 2) The fully seconded proposal must be sent to the board of trustees by the proposer, generally through the student trustees;
  - 3) Options passed by the trustees must pass either by a 75% JCR Executive Committee vote or be passed at a General JCR Meeting;
  - 4) The motion for referendum may be amended at the General Meeting by a simple majority vote. If the motion is passed by the Executive Committee, it shall be taken to the next General Meeting to allow opportunities for amendment;
  - 5) If there are no amendments the original motion shall proceed;
  - 6) If the motion is amended, it must be reviewed again by the board of trustees;
  - 7) If the amended motion is passed by the board of trustees or if the motion proceeds in its original form, a case must be prepared for each option passed;
  - 8) An Extraordinary General Meeting must be called;
  - 9) The options decided on by the previous process must be debated at the Extraordinary General Meeting;

- 10) Voting must be opened from midnight on the day of the Extraordinary General Meeting;
  - 11) Voting must be closed after a period of 64 hours;
  - 12) A period of appeals of 72 hours must be held; and
  - 13) The period of appeals must be closed and the result confirmed and declared.
- 2.2. All options for referendums must first be passed through the board of trustees, who may accept, reject, or amend the options. Trustees should veto only out of concern for legality or serious concern regarding the operation or benefit of the given options. Student trustees should make efforts to understand and represent the thoughts of the JCR membership when contributing to these decisions.
- 2.2.1. Trustees are expected to respond to referendum requests within one week of the request being sent. They may request one further week for research.
  - 2.2.2. Any member wishing to propose a referendum must find 49 seconders before presenting the options to the board of trustees through the student trustees.
  - 2.2.3. The options should be presented to the trustees in the form of a motion. Members may also prepare a case for argument of no longer than two A4 pages. For guidance on how to write the motion members should refer to the JCR Chair.
- 2.3. Should a referendum proposal be passed by both the board of trustees and a General Meeting or an Executive Committee meeting following any amendments, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called to debate the proposal.
- 2.3.1. The Extraordinary General Meeting should be called no later than three weeks after the passing of the motion, excluding the procedure for amendments. Should the motion be passed at the end of term, the Extraordinary General Meeting must be held within the first two weeks of the following term.
- 2.4. If the options for referendum splits the JCR Executive, each side of the Executive in conjunction with the proposer of the motion shall be responsible for producing a speech of no longer than 10 minutes and a document to state their case.
- 2.4.1. If the options for referendum do not split the JCR Executive, the Chair shall be responsible for the production of a speech and case for argument for both options. The Chair may consult with whomever they wish to complete these cases, and may select any JCR member to speak on behalf of the prepared case at the Extraordinary General Meeting. Usually the Chair will select one member of the Executive to present their preferred option and present the other themselves.
- 2.5. In recognition of the fact that referendums are likely to be votes that will have a long-term effect on the direction of the JCR, aside from the JCR Chair there

is no officer of the JCR that is expected to observe complete public and private impartiality. Nonetheless, the President and other officers may choose to do so. All members of Governance Committee excluding the Chair, President and Vice-President may vote but may not publicly advertise their opinions. President and Vice-President may both vote and publicly advertise their opinions.

- 2.6. All forms of campaigning for referendums are permitted along the same rules as for Method I elections, unless otherwise specified.
- 2.7. Voting rules and periods are the same as for Method I elections, excluding the 72 hour appeals period.
- 2.8. Referendum results are considered to be final and binding and may only be overridden in extraordinary circumstances.