

Concerning Enabling Acts

This Union Notes

- That under Article 9.10 of the Core Constitution any business submitted through Union Council to referendum must be debated at an open meeting where Ordinary members may suggest amendments **as per the bye-law**.
- That Article 8.4 of the Core Constitution gives Union Council the power to **make amendments to the** Bye-laws.
- That a motion to referenda may be amended as per Article 1.2.1 of the Constitution Bye-laws, such that it is no longer considered illegal or containing unproven factual accuracies, **or contravening other working agreements** such as the Freedom of Expression agreement.
- That the bye-laws may be modified at UC **to include new policies** that amendments to motions to referenda may be made according to.
- That such policies at present may be drawn up **without going to referenda**.
- That the system of Bye-law modification allows for the Union Council to **alter the content of bye-laws** which it uses to screen the motions for referenda for acceptability.

This Union Believes

- That the process of referendum is an important one.
- That the current system undermines the powers of a referendum as it allows the Union Council to insert within the policies referenced in Article 1.2.1 of the Bye-laws **a clause** causing the Union Council Referendum Meeting to find referenda motions that oppose this clause and/or others offensive and/or harmful.
- That this action would create a self-justifying clause that cannot be removed through referendum.
- That this loophole empowers Union Council to exert undemocratic indirect control over the referendum process.
- That enabling acts are undemocratic and the Constitution should prevent their formation.

This Union resolves

To amend the following in point 48.1.2 of the Articles of Governance to include the additional wording AS FOLLOWS:

"Bye-Law 3.5 concerning the Leeds Student newspaper and criteria for eligibility as set out in Bye-Law 1 can only be changed by Referenda"

If motion 3 does not pass insert the following as point 8.4 of the core constitution AS FOLLOWS:

“The criteria for eligibility as set out in Bye-Law 1 can only be changed by Referendum”

Motion Proposed by

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Motion Seconded by

Name: Katherine Murphy, Student number: 200196901