

Queen's Students' Union

Union General Meetings

Union General Meetings are All-Student Meetings and are commonly known as UGMs. Any student can call (and attend) a UGM - the second highest decision-making body in your Students' Union (second to Referendums, also known as All-Student Votes).

If you have a campaign that you want the student body to support, you can demand that a UGM is held, by either:

- Getting 200 Queen's students to sign a petition
- Getting 20 Queen's Students' Union Councillors to sign a petition
- Asking Queen's Students' Union Council to call a UGM

At the UGM your campaign will be discussed and voted upon.

If you want to call a UGM, contact the [Student Voice team](mailto:change@qub.ac.uk) (change@qub.ac.uk). They can advise you in confidence before you get started and help you make arrangements for the meeting.

A UGM can only discuss the issues that are detailed in the petition used to demand the meeting and must be convened during normal teaching weeks between the hours of 12.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. More details on UGMs can be found in the Students' Union Constitution (also known as The Rules). The most relevant parts of The Rules are included at the end of this document.

When you are collecting signatures, it is a good idea to collect more than the required number, in case a non-student signs the petition in error. That way you are more certain to collect 250 valid signatures.

QUEEN'S STUDENTS' UNION

PETITION TO CALL FOR A UNION GENERAL MEETING

I, as a Student Member of Queen's Students' Union, call for a Union General Meeting be called, at 2pm on Wednesday 11th May 2016, to consider the following proposal:

On April 12th 2016, Queen's University Belfast Senate passed the 'Size and Shape Review' which will fundamentally alter this institution and have negative consequences for the future of the education that it provides.

The Review was not done in consultation with students or staff, with the Students' Union, the UCU, or in any meaningful way with the people across campus that it will affect.

The 'Size and Shape Review' cuts both Single Honours Sociology and Single Honours Anthropology, which calls in to question the very future of these subjects. Further, the raising of A-Level entry tariffs, not only cuts student places and has negative consequences for widening participation, but also leaves other Courses perilously close to closure.

QUB is a public institution, providing an education in the public good, and this Union General Meeting affirms that it is not in the public interest to cut courses or student numbers.

This Union General Meeting (UGM) recognises that across the institution staff morale is low as a direct consequence of REF targets, redundancies, and School mergers. This is having, and will continue to have, a demonstrable impact on teaching quality and excellence, diverting financial and human resource in to hitting REF Targets, rather than delivering a first-class education.

This UGM recognises that QUB Senior Management are in favour of developing a Student Partnership, whereby students can critically and constructively engage in their education, becoming true collaborators, and creating the sort of education that this institution should be aiming to impart. However, the passage of the 'Size and Shape Review' without consultation is in direct contradiction to the institutional stance of students and staff as partners.

This UGM believes that the 'Size and Shape' and all of its out-workings must be halted in order to allow for consultation and for students to take their rightful place as partners in their education. This UGM stands in solidarity with staff across QUB, and believes they too should be given the opportunity to critically engage with any institutional review.

This UGM therefore mandates that the Students' Union call for the 'Size and Shape Review' to be suspended through all mechanisms of representation at its disposal, especially directly to QUB Senate. This UGM also demands that students are afforded their right to consultation and partnership in to any Review of the Size and Shape of this institution.

Proposer: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Seconder: Seán Fearon (40079053)

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST

**CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENTS' UNION
OF THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST**

Made by the Senate on the 23rd day of June 2015

Chapter One – The Union (Excerpt)

2. Union General Meetings and Referenda

- 2.1 Mandatory Policy for the Union may be determined by a Union General Meeting or by a Referendum in accordance with the procedures contained within the Rules.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST
STUDENTS' UNION CONSTITUTIONAL RULES

Rule 1 (EXCERPT)

**PROCEDURES FOR THE COUNCIL, UNION GENERAL MEETINGS, REFERENDA AND
REMOVAL OR RESIGNATION OF ELECTED UNION OFFICERS**

2. UNION GENERAL MEETING

- 2.1 Subject to Paragraph 2.3, Union General Meetings (UGMs) will be held to provide a forum at which any Student Member, subject to the provisions in this Rule, can propose motions and discuss Union policy and any matters affecting the Union or the interests of its members.
- 2.2 Procedure at UGMs shall be governed by the provisions of Rule 7.
- 2.3 UGMs shall be held when the Council deems it necessary, or upon the presentation to the Union President of a Petition bearing the signatures and student numbers of:
 - 2.3.1 20 members of the Council; or
 - 2.3.2 250 Student Members
- 2.4 A meeting convened under the above arrangements shall only discuss the item(s) put forward by the Council, or the item(s) stated on the submitted request.
- 2.5 The date and time of a meeting convened under the above arrangements may be decided by the Council, or may be as stated on the submitted request, provided that 72 hours (excluding Saturday and Sunday) are allowed following the receipt of the Petition.
- 2.6 UGMs shall only be convened during normal teaching weeks between the hours of 12.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m.
- 2.7 No UGM shall be held in a place where, and at a time when, Student Members are congregated for any other purpose than a UGM.
- 2.8 All UGMs shall normally be held within the confines of the Students' Union building.
- 2.9 The quorum of a UGM shall be 0.5% of the Student Membership.
- 2.10 Notices shall be posted, not less than 48 hours (excluding Saturday and Sunday) prior to a UGM, on authorised noticeboards announcing the date, place and time of the UGM, and the nature of the business that is scheduled to be considered.
- 2.11 Any Student Member may propose an amendment to any motion tabled for a UGM:
 - 2.11.1 By submitting the amendment in writing, duly seconded, to the Union President not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting; or
 - 2.11.2 Verbally during the meeting, when the motion in question is called for debate.
- 2.12 No-one may propose or second more than three motions at any UGM.
- 2.13 A decision relating to the policy of the Students' Union taken at a UGM and voted upon with the exception of the Constitution and its associated Rules:

- 2.13.1 By at least 10% of the Student Membership shall be mandatory and binding, if more than 50% of the above Students vote in favour of the policy.
- 2.14 A motion or proposal to alter or rescind a mandatory decision of the Student Membership shall not be considered within 12 months from the date of passing such a decision.
- 2.15 A mandatory decision of the Student Membership shall only be amended or overturned by a mandatory decision of the Student Membership.
- 2.16 A quorate UGM attended by less than 10% of the Student Membership shall have powers of recommendation which shall be advisory only.