


YES OR **NO**
TO **NIUS** 

Why are UPSU having a Referendum?

“The UPSU Trustee Board voted to trigger this referendum after discussions about our affiliation with NUS at the last three Board meetings.

We requested financial information from the Senior Management Team of UPSU and after reviewing the documents supplied to us, we concluded that disaffiliating from NUS be cost-neutral for us as a Union and that we should therefore ask the student body what their opinion is.

The Trustee Board holds varying views, however we are all aware of political arguments for and against remaining affiliated with NUS, and since UPSU has not held a referendum on our NUS affiliation before, we felt that it was necessary to ask our members of their views on this important decision.”

Lowri Jones – Chair of UPSU Board of Trustees

Referendum Process?

Referenda is used to make a decision on a single issue, it gives all full members of the union the opportunity to vote on this matter.

The issue is asked in the form of a question, with students voting Yes or No in response.

The Referendum By-law states that a minimum of 3% of the student population needs to vote for the result to be binding. If this figure is not reached, the issue in question may not be addressed again for two years. However, the Board of Trustees may decide the following;

- to accept the decision of the majority votes cast
- to decide on the issue by a majority vote of Trustees
- agree to call a further referendum at a specified future date.

Referendum Process?

Action	Date
UPSU receive notice from the Board of Trustees	Monday 30 th April
Open Meeting	Wednesday 2 nd May, 14:00
Deadline for campaign Lead information to Student Voice	Friday 4 th May, 12:00 midday
Campaign Training	Friday 4 th May, 15:00
Voting Opens, on upsu.com	Tuesday 9 th May, 12:00 midday
Voting Closes	Monday 14 th May, 12:00 midday

The minimum number of votes required in this referendum is **649**

Running a Yes or No Campaign?

- There may be one Yes and one No campaign, each having a maximum budget of £30.
- The Union will refund up to £30 for each campaign, upon production of receipts.
- The Student Voice Team will provide training and support for students wanting to run a Yes or No Campaign.
- Each campaign will need to provide the Student Voice team with the names of two students who will act as Leader and Deputy for the campaign.
- Only students of the University of Plymouth are allowed to campaign

What is NUS and how does it impact UPSU?

NUS are a confederation of around 600 HE and FE students' unions, each paying an affiliation fee in return for various services.

There are a range of complex benefits and costs that impact UPSU due to our affiliation to NUS. We would save on affiliation fees, some costs of training and be able to secure more beneficial commercial deals, however we will lose some benefits such as Union support, conferences, retrospective discounts and commission from NUS cards.

A broad overview follows, however it is very difficult to ascertain the exact financial implication of the affiliation, however the Senior Management Team believe that it will be broadly cost neutral.

What is NUS and how does it impact UPSU?

In 2016/17 UPSU paid £51,848.50 in affiliation to the NUS. In 2017/18 the affiliation will be £57,282.83 and this will rise to £60,000 the year after. In addition to this, UPSU spends approximately a further £40,000 on other activities such as training, conferences, meetings and associated travel as well as awards such as Green Impact.

In 2016/17 UPSU sold 7,524 cards, generating £45,500 for the Union. Sales have dropped by 27% this year due to increased competition and loss of key discounts on the card. We are on target for generating a £33,000 surplus from card sales this year, but unless new discounts are brought into the card offer we predict that the decline in sales and loss of income will continue.

What is NUS and how does it impact UPSU?

In 2017/18 UPSU received £35,855 from NUS in retrospective discounts. Our retail turnover provides us significant buying power to negotiate effective deals to achieve a cost neutral position in the future.

Any questions or comments?