Referenda Procedures 2014

A referendum is a direct vote in which the undergraduate student body is asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal. Referenda will be classified according to the same distinctions as Senate legislation. Referenda are not binding legislation and therefore do not result in immediate policy changes or enactment, but instead signify to both the Student Government Association and the University that the referenda speaks to an issue of importance to the student body that should promptly be addressed in accordance with the specifications of the referenda.

The sponsor of the referenda must complete the Referenda Submission Form, which includes the sponsor of the legislation, sponsor contact information, question to be posed and text of the legislation. After approval by the Executive Board, sponsors must submit 750 signatures of undergraduate students affirming the relevance of posing the question. The Senate will then examine and approve the question for feasibility, adherence to University policies, and fairness in wording. All appeals of the decision after being heard by the Executive Board and the Senate are referred to Operational Appeals Board.

January 17  Referenda Submission Form available at https://orgsync.com/25105/forms/96955.

Referenda Submission Forms are due February 19th at midnight. Electronic signatures will be gathered through this tool up until the due date. Physical signatures may also be collected on forms provided to the sponsor. No formal campaign tools are permitted prior to March 21st. This includes, but is not limited to, Facebook events, pages, and groups, blogs, websites, and mass messaging (with the exception of contact to the members of student organizations with from the organization’s leadership). Social media status updates are permitted.

Referenda questions may be considered for feasibility, adherence to University policies, and fairness in wording by the Executive Board and Senate at any point prior to or after completion of the Referenda Submission Form Signature Attachment.

February 19  Referenda Submission Form due

February 20  Executive board addresses the question and notifies sponsor by midnight

February 21  Signature Collection begins

March 11  Referenda Signatures due to the President by 6pm.

March 13  Permitted referenda campaigning begins

Any costs incurred are the responsibility of the sponsor and will not be reimbursed. Any defamatory or otherwise misleading campaign materials may be ordered removed. All advertising must be in compliance with University policy. Failure to comply may nullify the results of the referenda question.

March 25 - March 31  Referenda vote on myNEU ballot (concurrent with SGA direct elections).

April 1  Elections and referenda results announced

For more information:  Nick Naraghi  Amanda Donati
                        Student Body President  Chair, Elections Committee
                        n.naraghi@neu.edu  donati.am@husky.neu.edu