

Vote Yes:

LUSU is despised by so many students. It is weak, powerless and ineffective. It's also out of step too often with the students it is meant to represent or paralysed by indecision. It must have methods of establishing decisive mandates and acting on them. LUSU must change.

The Changes in 4 lines:

- 1. Elected Student Trustees**
- 2. Establish Union Assembly**
- 3. Lower Referendum Threshold to 5% and a majority in favour**
- 4. Easier Trustee Removal**

3 years ago, the Trustee board voted to sell of the Sugarhouse. They didn't ask a single student, hold one consultation or make a single announcement. Instead it was leaked.

Subsequently, students voted in the first quorate AGM for years to keep the Sugarhouse, to democratise the Students' Union, to declare a climate emergency and much more besides. Students then voted again in a referendum by 94% to keep the sugarhouse, and 90% for a majority elected Trustee Board.

The message was clear, and students prevailed.

But here we are 30 months after this AGM and LUSU remains the same undemocratic embarrassment that it always was.

The SU must build consent for its continued existence. The officers and trustees must be held accountable for their decisions and actions – not just through anonymous online posting or written reports that are never published but in public for all to see. Students need to feel that they can influence and shape the direction of the Executive leadership. This is why we need an Assembly model for our democracy. Most Unions have them. Because unless you are a Liberation and Campaigns Officer, one of two JCR Presidents or one of two Academic Reps, there is no way for a student to hold a position of power or responsibility in their Union. This is a farce in a Union that claims to be democratic.

An Executive cannot hold themselves to account. Andy Schofield doesn't hold himself to account, nor should he. LUSU's current governance makes provisions for "Scrutiny Officers". But almost no-one wants to take on that responsibility; the work is too much and the impact is too low. For public office holders, accountability should be public. Assembly should be able to censure officers and bind them to policy directions, but more importantly, should inform their everyday decision-making.

More than accountability, students need control. To say that the people don't want to merely be consulted, but to be in power.

The most fundamental change is that we believe student trustees should be elected. Many of you will remember the arrogance of those that voted to sell the sugarhouse. It's simply not fair that students control only 6/14 seats on the Board of Trustees. That students have a majority interest and majority blame with minority control. No Longer. The magnitude of this change cannot be understated and will dwarf all others.

Additionally, we want the process of removing Trustees and Full-Time Officers to be easier. They should feel like they are under pressure to perform well for their constituents, and they should be

removed if they lack the confidence of the students. This is especially important in our Union's democracy, as it's one thing to guess at someone's competence and character in an election but seeing them in action is the true test – and failing that test should result in removal if the transgressions are egregious enough.

There are other changes that this referendum proposes too. We want to see a reformed campaigns system for supporting student-led campaigns, to see better student oversight of the elections process, and a lower referendum threshold. Please, if you can, take the time to go through the documentation alongside this referendum because it's important that our democracy is one we can all agree on.

Your vote matters in this referendum – we must hit 10% turnout, and we must get a 2/3rds majority. Without that, the changes simply won't happen. But with a mandate from you, they cannot be held up any longer.

These aren't just vague policy resolutions, but legally checked and scrutinised changes to LUSU's constitution. They won't fix it entirely, but it will level the playing field, and open the organisation up to ordinary students.

Vote Yes to finish the job we started over 2 years ago when we saved Sugar.

Vote Yes for democracy.

Vote Yes.