



AMS How to Run a Referendum Guide

A referendum will be called by the president if council passes a resolution to hold a referendum or if a referendum by petition is signed by at least 1000 active members and delivered to the Vice-President Academic and University Affairs. The text of the referendum shall be drafted to ensure that the question is capable of being answered “yes” or “no.”

In order, for a referendum to be held at the same voting time as the AMS elections it must be submitted or passed no less than 10 days and no more than 30 days before voting begins. Therefore, any referendums must be submitted on or between February 1st and February 22nd to be held during the General AMS Elections from March 2nd-6th.

How to collect electronic signatures for your referendum petition – A Guide:

Email the VP Academic & University Affairs (vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca) with the subject line “Online referendum petition form request”.

Your email should include:

1. Your referendum question in its entirety
2. You (and/or the group you are affiliated with)
3. Contact information for you/the group you are affiliated with

You should get a response within the next 3 days with a link to a form for people to electronically sign a petition to have your referendum question on the ballot.

FAQs:

Q: How many signatures will I need for it to be placed on the ballot?

A: 1000

Q: How will I know how many people have signed my electronic petition?

A: You can email the VP Academic & University Affairs requesting to receive a signature count update. Please have the subject line “Online Petition Signature Update”, and include your question, the link to your form, your/your group’s name, and contact information in this request email. You should receive a response within 3 days with how many signatures you have collected.

Q: Can I collect signatures on paper?

A: Yes. Please refer to the AMS policy on petition privacy https://www.ams.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/I-10-Petition-Privacy-Policy_June_28_2017.pdf

Q: Will paper AND electronic signatures be accepted for one question?

A: Yes. Try to avoid repeat signatures – but the VP Academic & University Affairs will be verifying them regardless.

Q: Who can sign the petition?

A: Active UBC students who pay AMS fees – this includes graduate students, professional programs, and those within UBC’s affiliate colleges.

Any further questions can be directed to the VP Academic & University Affairs (vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca) and the Chief Electoral Officer (elections@ams.ubc.ca).