



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: UJS CONFERENCE 2020

6th December 2020



Leading. Defending. Enriching Jewish life on Campus



www.ujs.org.uk/
020 7424 3288
info@ujs.org.uk

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What is Conference?

Conference is UJS's annual event where students put forward ideas in how to shape UJS priorities for the year. These ideas come in the form of 'motions' which are then debated and voted on at Conference. If the motions pass they become official UJS policy, which lasts for three years. Example motions from previous years have included: UJS running a 'period poverty' campaign, running a project focused on men's mental health and more accessible Kosher food.

You will receive a booklet of all the motions that will be debated. During the day you have multiple ways of getting involved. You can make a speech during the debate of the motions, you can put forward 'procedural motions' which influence the structure of Conference and you can vote for members of the National Council and your Board of Deputies Representatives.

Jargon Buster

Amendment - A change to existing wording or add additional points suggested by any delegate over a motion

Baskets - 3 categories used to organise all UJS motions and policy: CA (Campus), CO(Community) and UJ (UJS and J-Socs)

Conference floor - Where conference takes place

Constitution - A governing document that outlines how UJS operates. It covers: members, J-Socs, UJS democracy, the sabbatical team and many other areas that impact how UJS works. [Click here to view](#)

Chair - The person in charge running conference. Their role includes selecting speakers, timing debates and ruling on votes

Delegate - Voting individual at conference

Guillotine - Each motion has a limited amount of time to be discussed. When the time ends the 'guillotine' falls and the debate moves to a vote

Motion - A change in UJS policy, constitution or structure suggested to Conference to be debated

Parts - If there is a particular aspect of the motion you like or dislike, then you can 'part it' and isolate the debate to that word

Policy lapse - All policy in UJS lasts for three years, unless overturned. The policy passed in 2016 this year will lapse

Point of information - A question raised about the wording of the motion

Point of Order - A question raised over the running of the event

Priority ballot - At the start of conference delegates vote on which basket and which motions to debate first

Jargon Buster

Procedural motion - If you want to take a break from the usual procedure or conference, raise one of these with the Steering Committee (see previous page for full list)

Returning Officer - They oversee the running of all elections and announce the winner of the Presidential Election

Steering Committee - The body that ensures Conference is run according to the UJS Constitution

Vote of no confidence - If at any point you believe the Chair is unfit to remain in position then you can call for a vote of no confidence.

Motion Writing

What is a motion?

Motions are the tools you have to put forward your ideas of how to shape UJS and what sort of projects/campaigns UJS should be working on for the next 3 years. In the past these have ranged from mental health campaigns, combatting antisemitism on campus to ensuring J-Soc's are an inclusive environment for all students. If a motion passes, it becomes UJS policy and determines the direction of YOUR union.

The structure of the motions is split into two parts: What is the idea? and How do you want it to happen? This can be done using bullet points – the key is the briefer and clearer the better! Remember there will be lots of different motions and you want to make sure that your fellow peers can have an opportunity to read yours thoroughly and not skip over because it looks too long to read

What do I need to do when writing my motion?

Step 1: Think of something you want to change about UJS or what you want UJS to do. This can be the title of the motion. For example an idea is to ban roast chicken at every J-Soc/UJS event.

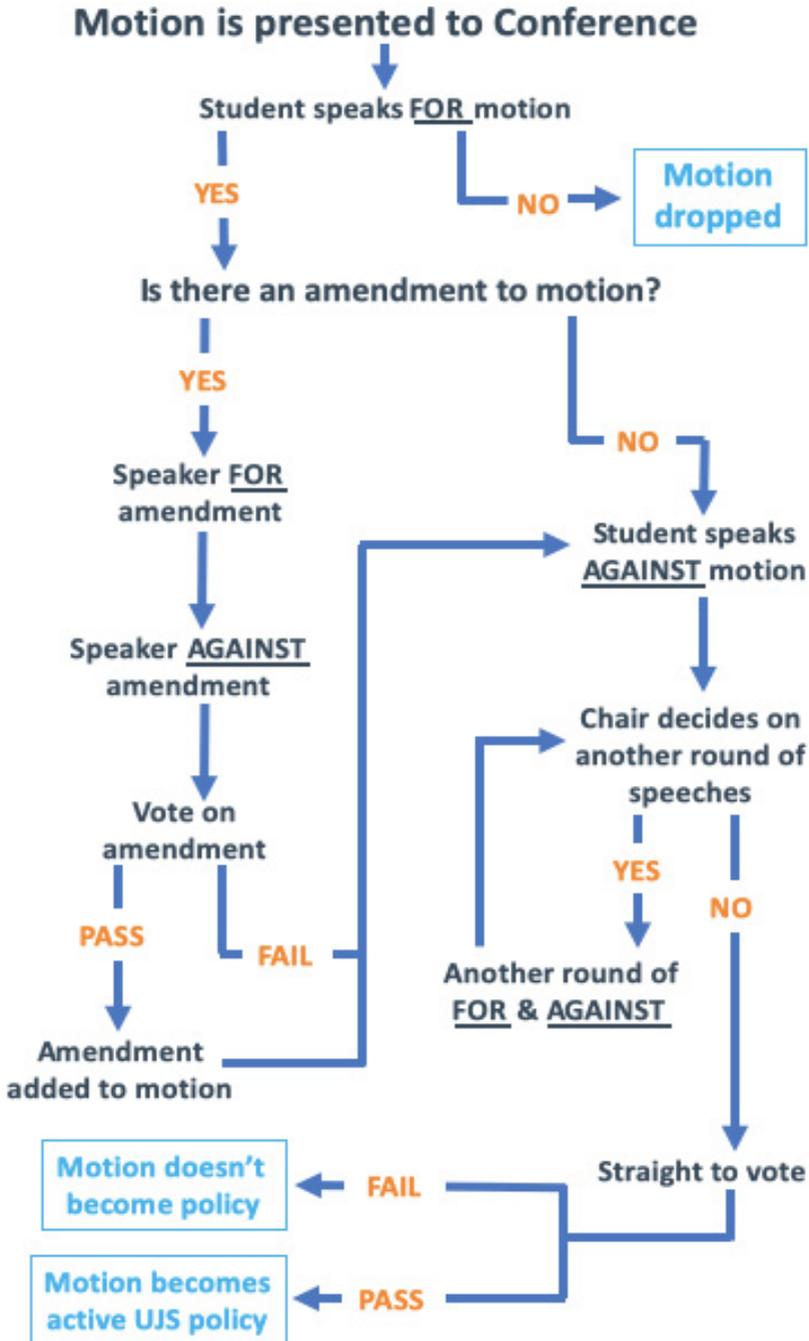
Step 2: You need to have two Jewish students; one who will propose and the other who will second your motion. This just means they support the motion, and potentially speak at conference on behalf of it. You can be the proposer or seconder!

Step 3: When writing what the idea is, make sure it is clear and to the point. Explain the idea and brief context of why this is important to do. For example: 'Banning roast chicken at every J-Soc/UJS event. It is important because it doesn't taste nice, it's never cooked properly and most Jewish students would prefer other food e.g. falafel and schnitzel'

Step 4: When thinking about how you want this motion to happen – ensure that there are clear objectives, where UJS can actively do something to put your idea into practice. For example,
'1) UJS will support J-Socs in finding other dinner food for J-Soc to use.
2)UJS will work with external organisations to ensure they do not provide roast chicken at events.'

Step 5: Check over! Make sure spelling is correct, factual information is correct!

How the Debate Works



How You Can Shape UJS Conference

At UJS Conference, all students have the right to participate in the debate.

Priority ballot

Due to the number of motions that are submitted to conference and time constraints, at the start of the day we vote on which basket and which motions to debate first. You'll receive one voting link where you will be asked to order the three baskets and the motions within each basket.

Motions

Speaking in favour of the motion is normally the right of the proposer in the first round of speeches, but they may choose to waive this to the seconder, another specific person or to the virtual conference floor (which means it's open to anyone.) Anyone can raise their virtual hand on zoom to indicate they would like to speak against a motion. The Chair will choose a speaker.

Amendments

If an amendment has been accepted by the proposer of the motion, it becomes part of the motion. If it is not accepted, it goes to debate.

Procedural Motions

Procedural motions

You can also ask the Steering Committee for the following procedural motions to further shape the debate. The chair will ask to see a certain number of virtual raised hands to hear the case for a procedural motion, and if enough people are in favour, we will debate your procedural motion.

A. That the Meeting has no confidence in the Chairperson. Raise this if you believe the Chair is prejudiced or otherwise ruling unfairly.

B. That the Chairperson's ruling be overturned. Raise this if you want to challenge a specific ruling of the Chair.

C. That a rule or regulation be suspended for a specified length of time for a specified reason. Raise this if you wish to stop procedural motions or a specific procedural motion being raised.

D. That another round of speeches be granted. Raise this if you think we should hear another speech for and against the motion before voting.

E. That the meeting be adjourned or closed. Raise this if you want to stop Conference.

F. That the guillotine be extended. Raise this if you would like to spend more time discussing the current basket than allocated (be aware this might take away from other baskets.)

G. That the question, as specified, be not put. Raise this if you think we shouldn't have a vote on the motion/amendment being discussed.

H. That the question, as specified, be now put. Raise this to put a halt to any more speeches on this motion / amendment and proceed straight to a vote.

I. That the order of motions be changed. Raise this if you would like to move a motion up or down the order of debate.

J. If you wish to take parts. If you disagree with part of a motion or really agree with one part of the motion, you can isolate this part and debate it. This is also known as negative and positive parts.

K. That the question, as specified, be remitted to another body or person. Raise this if you would like to send motions not discussed today to National Executive Council, to be debated there.

Giving Speeches

During UJS Conference there are many opportunities to make speeches for or against a motions. Motions will start by being offered to the Proposer and then the Secunder (people who submitted the motion). It is not compulsory to speak on the motion you submit and if this is the case the Chair will open it up to all voting delegates. Following the speech for the motion, there will be a speech against the motion which is offered to any voting delegate.

Different types of speeches:

- Motions (for and against)- 90 second speeches
- Summation (summary at the end of debate)- 30 second speeches
- Amendments (for and against)- 60 second speeches
- Parts (for and against)- 60 second speeches
- Procedural Motions (for and against)- 60 second speeches
- Policy Lapse (for and against)- 90 second speeches

What to think about when writing a speech?

Preparation: Choose your topic and the main points that your speech will cover. Know your audience and get to know what they are looking for. Define the purpose of the speech and properly organise it

Introduction

- Always begin explaining what your position is and what you will be talking about
- Depending on how much time you have, will shape if you go into more or less detail

Body

- Provide your main idea and include some supporting statements.
- Examples and further details (if needed)

Conclusion/ Closing statement

- Summarize the main points of the speech
- Call to action and what you want to happen

Top tips for giving a speech:

1. Posture and body language – stand up or sit up straight and be natural when using use your hands (remember you are on zoom so adjust accordingly!)
2. Vary your tone – be calm and engaging and show your emotion through your tone e.g. be passionate when essential to emphasise certain points/words
3. Be clear - under pressure you naturally speak faster, so make sure to slow down and speak clearly so everyone can understand

You Can Get Elected at Conference

As a democratically governed union, we are not only represented by the President - we also have a number of other roles that we elect each year at Conference. The National Council of UJS holds the President to account throughout the year, whilst the Board of Deputies Representatives are the voice of Jewish students on the Board of Deputies of British Jews. If you're interested in running for one of these roles at conference, you will need to email the steering committee at Info@ujjs.org.uk before conference or zoom message the steering committee on the day. You are highly advised to attend conference if running for a position. If you are unable to attend you must submit a speech to the steering committee in advance or nominate someone to read a speech on your behalf.

National Council (5 positions)

You will be responsible for holding the UJS President to account. This means ensuring they are fulfilling their representative mandate and enacting their manifesto, as well as make sure conference policy is upheld. You will meet with the President at least 3 times a year, and one of the five positions will also have the opportunity to be the student that sits on the Trustee Board of UJS. The Trustee Board meets every three months to discuss UJS strategy and finance through the year, and having a student voice in the room could not be more important. It really is the opportunity to make your voice heard about what you want on campus, and sitting on the Trustee Board will give you a unique understanding of how a national charitable organisation is run.

Board of Deputies Representatives (4 positions)

The Board of Deputies is the representative voice of British Jewry nationally. It comprises nearly 300 deputies directly elected by synagogues and communal organisations, from youth movements, to social welfare charities and regional councils. UJS is one of those organisations. The Board of Deputies is also the UK affiliate of the European Jewish Congress and World Jewish Congress. UJS are represented at the Board of Deputies by 12 deputies.

Our President and Campaigns Organiser hold 2 of these positions, and students hold the remaining 10. Students stay as delegates until they graduate.

Key Upcoming Dates

3 November 2020 • Conference Sign Ups Open

3 November 2020 • Conference Motions Open

16 November 2020 • Constitutional Amendments Open

22 November 2020 • Constitutional Amendments Close

25 November 2020 • Conference Motions Close

30 November 2020 • Conference Motions Published

30 November 2020 • Conference Motions Amendments Open

3 December 2020 • Conference Motions Amendments Close

3 December 2020 • Conference Sign Ups Close

6 December 2020 • UJS Conference

Code of Conduct

UJS is the voice of Jewish students. We champion peer leadership and representation, and Conference is front and centre of this.

At UJS Conference we enjoy forthright and frank conversations and debates, and we strongly encourage all participants to engage fully, speaking on motions and having their say to shape their union. It is vitally important that all participants approach the discussions and motions debates at UJS Conference with respect for all who are taking part. We encourage all attending to familiarise themselves with the UJS Code of Conduct (www.ujs.org.uk/code_of_conduct) and we would like to remind everyone at UJS Conference that:

- All participants must have their camera on. If this is not possible for a particular reason, please message the Steering committee at info@ujis.org.uk
- All participants should have their name, J-Soc and pronouns in their Zoom name.
- No inappropriate symbols, logos or images should be seen camera. This includes branding associated to organisations who have espoused views that are: Racist, homophobic, supportive or sympathetic of terrorism or terrorists, or otherwise discriminatory against a gender or protected characteristic, or of an extremist nature.
- Participants should seek to create an atmosphere where all feel comfortable to participate and speak. This means no booing, shouting, swearing, talking over one another, or mocking people.
- Speech and/or social media posts that contains vulgar, obscene or indecent language will not be tolerated.
- Speech and/or social media posts that are sexist, homophobic, hateful or racially offensive will not be tolerated.
- Trolling, attacking and personalising comments are all unacceptable.
- When disagreeing with someone, you should aim to focus on the points they are making and not their personal characteristics, background or affiliations.
- People should feel able to share their views without fear of being harassed either during Conference debates or with online posts during or after the event.
- No filming of the debates and discussions may be shared without the consent of all those seen or heard in the footage.
- Any online communications during or after the event may address the ideas and views being exchanged. However, they should not seek to 'name and shame' participants or attack people based on the views they have shared.

Should a delegate to Conference fail to uphold the standards of behaviour noted in the Code of Conduct, a three-step process will commence. Firstly, a verbal warning will be given to the delegate. Secondly, the delegate will be asked to temporarily leave the Conference floor. Thirdly, the delegate will be removed from Conference.