

Constitutional Changes for Fair Referenda and Clear Motions

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The JCR Notes That:

1. A lack of clarity and rigour in Procedural Motions has meant that members of the JCR have been upset by the specifics of motions they may have voted for.
2. The lack of a written document means that a Procedural/Emergency motion cannot be referenced or referred back to without consulting minutes that may, for efficiency's sake, not perfectly reflect precise wording.

The JCR Believes That:

1. When there exists ambiguity in a motion, or the practical details are not specified, intent or post-motion clarification is the only basis on which to judge implementation, which does not accurately reflect the democratic process.
2. Referenda should be unbiased, and while actively campaigning for a referendum one has proposed is valid, the questions and possible answers should be as neutral as possible.

The JCR Resolves To: Hold a referendum with the question "Should the following changes be implemented?":

1. In Article 55, add the following paragraph:

“(iii) Ordinary Motions calling for a Referendum shall specify the exact text of the question, and the possible voting options. The question must be neutral in tone, and must not contain any additional detail, be it factual or persuasive. Any such Motion without a question specified or with one that does not conform to these criteria shall be void, and a Referendum shall not be held. If answers are not specified, they shall default to “Yes”, “No”, and “Abstain”. ”

2. In Article 58, remove paragraph (iv)

3. In Article 61 paragraph (i) add the following subparagraph:

“(4) Procedural Motions proposing to add an Emergency Motion to the agenda must be accompanied by a full written document containing the proposed Emergency Motion, complete with a Proposer and Seconder. (5) Procedural Motions to amend a proposed Motion shall not be voted on before the exact written text of the proposed amendment (i.e. the proposed changes from the current version of the Motion) is submitted to the Secretary and made available to all Members present at the Meeting. If the amendment is passed, the “This JCR resolves to...” part of the newly amended version of the original Motion shall be drafted in writing (according to the amendment just passed) and made available to all Members present at the Meeting before a vote is held on the newly amended Motion. ”