Conference 101:

The 'Get to Know Conference' guide brought to you by UJS!

What is Conference?

1. UJS is the peer-led and representative voice of Jewish students. For this to be the case, Jewish students must be able to change how UJS works and what UJS does. The main way they can do this is by creating policy at UJS Conference. Conference is the sovereign decision-making body of UJS, with the power to do basically anything. It used to be a standalone event, with low attendance, before it was combined with UJS Convention in 2021. This means it's now far more representative.
2. The main part of UJS Conference is discussing motions, which any student can submit. All you need is a proposer (you!) and a seconder. Once a motion is passed, it becomes policy and binds what UJS can do for three years.

Terminology

Motion: A suggestion of something to become Policy of UJS, before it has been discussed and voted on at Conference. Motions can be **any length, but they** must include: a proposer; a seconder; what the idea is; and how they want it to happen.

Policy: If a motion is passed at Conference, (or by the National Executive Committee later), it becomes UJS Policy. Policy lasts for three years.

Baskets: Each motion is sorted into one of six baskets, titled:

- Community
- Your Union
- Combatting Antisemitism
- External Affairs
- Jewish Enrichment & Inclusion
- Programming & Development

There is also a basket titled "Constitutional Amendments" which gets a specific allocated time slot at the start of Conference.

Chairs: Chairs lead Conference. The Chair is the UJS Vice President Campaigns.

Steering Committee: The bridge between delegates and Chairs. They are responsible for answering questions, collecting procedural motions, and ensuring that delegates are being respectful participants of Conference.

Priority Ballot: A priority ballot is how we decide the order that motions are debated at Conference. At Convention, delegates will be able to vote on the order in which the baskets will be discussed. In advance of Convention, elected representatives within UJS will vote on the order in which motions within each basket will be voted on.

Procedural Motions: Procedural Motions are opportunities for delegates to change the structure of Conference. In order for a procedural motion to be debated, there needs to be 30 delegates who support this happening. (more on this later)

At Convention

1. Delegates will be able to vote in the priority ballot to decide the order that the baskets will be voted upon.
2. Three motion booklets will be available on the Help Desk for delegates to look through.
3. If any delegate has questions regarding Conference, find a member of the Campaigns Team (Ruben, Jess, Benji, Levona)

Conference

Conference takes place the whole of Sunday.

As per UJS policy, when everyone enters the Conference floor, UJS must play the song 'Yerushalayim' by Miami Boys Choir.

Delegates should speak to the Steering Committee if they have any questions during Conference.

Conference Structure

Conference opens with a short speech from the Chair explaining the structure of the day. This includes:

1. Scrutiny
2. Motion debates
3. Results of the UJS Presidential Election!

Scrutiny

- This section is chaired by a member of National Council
- The President of UJS shares a yearly report. This is followed by a Q&A session where delegates can raise a question to the President, CEO, or Vice President Campaigns
- This section should take approximately 20 minutes

Motion Debates

Motion debates are split into 5 sections

1. Affiliations **10 minutes**
2. Constitutional amendments **20 minutes**
3. Guillotine 1 (Baskets ranked 1 and 4) **50 minutes**
4. Guillotine 2 (Baskets ranked 2 and 5) **50 minutes**
5. Guillotine 3 (Baskets ranked 3 and 6) **50 minutes**

- The priority ballot dictates the ordering of baskets for Conference
- Each guillotine is broken down into one of the top baskets voted on, and one of the bottom baskets voted on
- The chair will order motions by discussing 2 motions from one of the top ranked baskets, followed by 1 motion from one of the bottom ranked baskets. This is then repeated until the end of the guillotine
- Each guillotine lasts 50 minutes (unless a procedural motion changes this – again more on procedural motions later)
- Any motion that is not debated on will be taken to the National Executive Committee (UJS Sabs and National Council) to be voted on at a later date
- **IF A DELEGATE LEAVES THE CONFERENCE FLOOR DURING A MOTION, THEY CANNOT RETURN UNTIL THAT MOTION HAS BEEN VOTED ON**

1. Affiliations

- As per UJS policy, delegates must be able to vote on the affiliations UJS has to other organisations
- The UJS President will spend 2 minutes going through UJS affiliations
- The floor then vote on all the affiliations

- If the motion fails, the floor need to vote on every affiliation individually

2. Constitutional Amendments

- This guillotine lasts 20 minutes, and each vote needs a 2/3rd majority to pass
- Any constitutional amendment that does not get debated, does not go to the National Executive Committee

3. Guillotine 1-3

- This is where the bulk of motions get debated.
- Needs 50% of votes to pass
- Procedural motions can be used
- The proposer of the motion speaks for the motion
- Any member of the floor is invited to speak against the motion
- Another round of speeches can be granted by the Chair or if procedural motion E is passed

Procedural motions (the table of all the procedural motions is at the end of this document)

- A student who wishes to put forward a procedural motion needs to go to the Steering Committee to put one forward
- A delegate can only put forward one procedural motion per guillotine
- In order for a procedural motion to be put forward successfully, 30 delegate cards need to be raised
- If 30 delegate cards are raised, then the procedural motion is discussed
- It is important to note that those speaking for or against the procedural motion must only talk about the importance of the procedural motion. They cannot use it to debate the UJS motion which they are trying to alter as a result of the procedural motion

Procedural Motion K

- This is arguably the most confusing Procedural motion, and often, the delegate who has put it forward doesn't really understand it either

- This procedural motion takes the longest time and requires many different parts for it to go through
- This is that the motion should be taken in parts. This can be done through positive parts or negative parts

Example 1: Positive Parts

- This might mean that a delegate is worried a motion won't pass but thinks one section of the motion is really important to pass.
- Therefore, procedural motion K (positive parts) would allow delegates to only vote on that specific part of the motion.
- If that vote passes, then that part of the motion will become UJS policy regardless of whether the original motion passes or not. If that vote fails, that part could still become policy if the original motion still passes.

Example 2: Negative Parts

- This might mean that a delegate thinks a motion is really good, but there is one part of the motion they think is really bad.
- Therefore, procedural motion K (negative parts) would allow delegates to vote on that specific part of the motion and get it removed.
- If that vote passes, then that part of the motion will be removed from UJS policy
- HOWEVER, here is where it gets a bit confusing.
- If the vote to remove that specific part fails, then that specific part becomes UJS policy regardless of the outcome of the vote on the original motion.

Procedural Motion	Title	Description
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 vote be by secret ballot**	Raise this if you want voting to be done secretly rather than by show of hands.
D	**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.
E	**That another round of speeches be granted.**	Raise this if you think we should hear another speech for and against the motion before voting.
F	**That the meeting be adjourned or closed**	Raise this if you want to stop Conference.
G	**That the guillotine be extended**	Raise this if you would like to spend more time discussing the current basket than allotted (be aware this might take away from other baskets.)
H	**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.
I	**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.
J	**That the order of motions be changed.**	Raise this if you would like to move a motion up or down the order of debate.
K	**That the motion be taken in 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.
L	**That the question, as specified, not be remitted to another body or person**	Raise this if you would not like motions in this basket to be sent to National Executive Council, to be debated there.