

## **Referendums**

The Referendum is the highest decision making body in the Union and is used to decide on issues that it is felt that all of the student membership must have a say on and not just the elected representatives. Only one issue at a time will be voted on, although the use of referendums is rare, they are important when it comes to the major decisions of the Union.

### **1 Polling student opinions**

- 1.2 A Referendum of Students' opinions can be held on any issue, if the Student Parliament resolves by a two-thirds majority to call a Referendum. The Union Executive Committee must also call a Referendum if handed a petition containing the name, course, student number and signature of at least 250 students who are full members.

### **2 Calling a Referendum**

- 2.1 The VP Activities and Communications will publicise that a referendum has been called for and details of the reasons why within three (3) working days of receipt of notice.
- 2.2 The Union Returning Officer will be responsible for the good conduct and administration of the Referendum.
- 2.3 The Returning Officer shall be responsible for determining the wording of the question on the Referendum ballot paper, subject to open meeting of full members or invited guests within seven (7) working days from receipt of notice.

### **3 Voting**

- 3.1 Polling shall begin three (3) working days after the open meeting.
- 3.2 The Referendum shall be supervised by the Returning Officer with voting open for five (5) working days.
- 3.3 The Dates and times for voting shall be publicised by the Returning Officer.

## **4**            **Complaints**

- 4.1            Complaints about the conduct of individuals during the Referendum shall be dealt with through the Union's Disciplinary Procedure.
- 4.2            The Returning Officer shall have the power to withdraw publicity allowances if they have evidence that publicity rules are being breached.

## **5**            **Results**

- 5.1            The Returning Officer will be responsible for declaring the result of the referendum once they are satisfied that the Referendum has been conducted properly.
- 5.2            The result of a Referendum will take precedence over any existing policy on the same issue. The issue may not be reopened in any democratic forum of the Union for a period of not less than twelve (12) months.
- 5.3            The result will be binding on all members of the Union