

## **All Student Vote By-Law – October 2016**

These rules are laid down to ensure that the Union's All Student Votes are run fairly and democratically. We ask that all campaign teams and individuals involved in campaigning respect the spirit of this document and All Student Votes in general.

Campaign teams should be aware that if the Returning Officer receives complaints that this is not the case they will take action. Campaign teams should ensure that all campaigners understand and follow these rules at all times.

Any queries regarding these rules should be addressed to the Returning Officer or the Deputy Returning Officer, via [democracy@unionsouthampton.org](mailto:democracy@unionsouthampton.org) .

### **1. Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer**

1.1. The Returning Officer (RO) will be the Union President and the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) will be the Vice President Democracy & Creative Industries.

### **2. Campaigning**

2.1. Campaigners must not intimidate, bribe, harass or bully voters, especially at the point of actually voting. This includes attempts to influence a student's vote whilst they are voting on a personal computer, mobile device or laptop.

2.2. There must be no active campaigning within sight of any polling station.

2.3. Campaigners must not make negative references to individual campaigners.

2.4. Physical campaigning may not start until after the All Student Vote briefing, which is due to be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 18:00. No publicity for any campaign may be put up before this time.

2.5. It is prohibited to use the names or images of Union staff members or University staff members in campaigning.

2.6. You are encouraged to use social media as a way of communicating your campaign messages.

2.7. Any social media groups you create must include the DRO as an admin.

2.8. The only use of mass messaging which is allowed is to email mailing lists or groups where all members have agreed to receive All Student Vote information.

### **3. Publicity**

- 3.1. Any campaigning material for distribution must be approved by the RO or the DRO.
- 3.2. There will be a maximum limit of 20 campaign posters per campaign allowed within Union buildings. Posters within Union buildings can only be placed on specific noticeboards, identified within the candidate briefing.
- 3.3. Due to the potential for 10 separate campaigns, the Union will not fund campaign materials.
- 3.4. All physical campaign material relating to the All Student Votes should be removed within 24 hours of the announcement of results.
- 3.5. Any campaign material placed within University buildings must be agreed with the appropriate University staff in advance.

### **4. The Media**

- 4.1. Any reference to the All Student Votes in Union Media outlets during campaigning and voting periods must be balanced.

### **5. Voting**

- 5.1. Voting will open at 12:00 on Monday 17 October 2016 and close at 16.00 on Tuesday 18 October 2016.

### **6. The Count and Announcement of Results**

- 6.1. The Count will take place within one hour after the close of poll on Tuesday 18 October 2016.
- 6.2. A question asked by an All Student Vote may only be decided if at least 10% of the Full Members vote.
- 6.3. The announcement of the results will be given via Union communications and media outlets as soon as is reasonably practicable after the Count.

### **7. Breaches of the Rules and Complaints**

- 7.1. All campaigners are required to abide by the letter and spirit of the All Student Vote rules and procedures.
- 7.2. The RO will investigate all complaints or breaches which are drawn to their attention.
- 7.3. Democracy Zone Committee may be asked to be the first arbiter of such complaints or breaches.