

NUS Referendum Campaigning

The NUS Referendum will take place during the week commencing 22nd May, and there will be two campaign teams – one for YES (to remain in NUS) one for NO (to leave NUS).

The role of the Union

There is no current Union policy on membership of the NUS, other than to facilitate this referendum. Therefore the Union as an organisation remains neutral on this issue. Union resources including media, signage, staff resource will not be used to promote either side of the campaign. It will, however, be used to publicise the vote itself and spread the yes and no campaign information.

The role of the NUS

The democracy committee have already agreed that this should be a debate held between Surrey students. Therefore, NUS officers will be requested not to campaign on campus or participate in debates. It should be noted that a number of students hold NUS Extra cards and as a result receive communication from NUS, that is a relationship between individual students and NUS that is beyond the control of the election team. Should the Yes campaign receive materials from NUS they have been asked to enter an appropriate value on their budget form using Surrey Print prices as a guide.

The role of Sabbatical Officers

All sabbatical officers have student status and are full members, they are therefore free to campaign and participate in elections. Sabbaticals are free to campaign as office holders, in the same way that they are during ordinary elections – this means that can campaign as office holders as well as individuals. The distinction between the ‘Union’ and the ‘sabbaticals’ is one of resource, therefore they should not campaign during working hours when they are paid as staff members.

The role of elected officers

All elected officers are students, and are therefore free to campaign in this referendum. As the officers are elected based on opinion – and this is a referendum of opinion, rather than personal gain; officers are free to campaign as office holders as mentioned previously. Elected officers are free to feature in this campaign clearly associated with their position.

Other considerations

Both campaigns are free to use the trademarked Union logo, as the referendum concerns the Union as an organisation – however they cannot portray the Union as an organisation supporting their campaign. The Union has no power to police non-surrey students, or former Surrey students statements or activities on the internet regarding this referendum, however they will be respectfully asked to refrain from campaigning on campus.