

Deeming, Kate

From: Deeming, Kate
Sent: 21 February 2010 17:58
To: LLOYD P.H.
Subject: RE: NUS Referendum

Paul
Happy to have a word but this may need from my point of view to be late Tuesday morning pl as I am tied up on Monday and Tuesday mornings in UEC (9-12).

I have confirmed with Carolyn that, assuming you are in conformity with the DSU Constitution and DSU's own relevant regulations in this matter, it is her view also that the wording of the Code of Practice allows you to have votes on affiliations more than once a year. It would be helpful therefore if you could have checked these documents in order that you can provide this reassurance or otherwise before we have our phone call/meeting.

MT
Bw
Kate

From: LLOYD P.H. [mailto:p.h.lloyd@durham.ac.uk]
Sent: Fri 2/19/2010 9:57 AM
To: Deeming, Kate
Subject: FW: NUS Referendum

Kate,
For your information.
The Chair of Union Council is pushing for a referendum at the earliest possible moment, but as Sarah's comments suggest, we think this may show a bias towards disaffiliation.
It might be worth us having a conversation on Monday about it, just to make sure that DSU and the University are speaking with one voice over this.

Best wishes
Paul

*Paul Lloyd, General Manager
Durham Students' Union,*

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From: ELLIOTT S.
Sent: 18 February 2010 15:43
To: YEO C.; DSU-DEMOCRACY D.S.; DSU-EWO D.S.; DSU-SOCIETIES D.S.; DSU-PRESIDENT D.S.; LLOYD P.H.
Subject: RE: NUS Referendum

Hi Callum,

I can't say yes or no at this time until I have had everything from the University. We are having to look at the HE Act, Code of Practice, Constitution and Articles of Association, and the documentation submitted at the last referendum, there is a lot of paperwork to wade through.

We will run the referendum, but only when I have had clear and coherent guidance from GSU and I am satisfied that the information supplied by DSU is current. I don't want the membership or NUS to have any grounds for complaint. I also think that one day's notice to NUS for the date of the referendum would be seen as DSU acting with bias towards supporting a disaffiliation vote (as was the case in Sunderland when they disaffiliated), we must remain impartial, it is the membership's decision and both camps must be given enough notice to prepare campaign teams. I am sure that the democracy committee needs time to arrange a vote campaign and to make sure that both parties can attend debates for the referendum, I am concerned (with my welfare hat on) that people are already overworked, with the Sabbatical, Trustee and College elections as well as attempting to fulfil their current DSU, College and academic commitments.

The documentation prepared for the original disaffiliation referendum is also out of date and will need review and where appropriate updating, which takes time.

Sarah

Sarah Elliott Welfare Services Manager Durham Students' Union Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham, DH1 3AN sarah.elliott@durham.ac.uk 0191 334 1775

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From: YEO C.
Sent: Thu 2/18/2010 1:16 AM
To: ELLIOTT S.
Subject: Re: NUS Referendum

Ok, let's look set to have it on Tuesday then? I have to push for this as soon as possible Sarah, is there any way to check it with anyone else? I really want to make sure people don't feel it's just been halted by the paperwork that only one person can look through because of more paperwork! I'm sorry about this.

Have a good break.

Callum.

On 17 Feb 2010, at 19:58, "ELLIOTT S." <sarah.elliott@durham.ac.uk> wrote:

Dear all,

After careful consideration of the warranted concerns I have received today, I have taken the decision that we need to hold off the referendum for a short time to gather more information and take further guidance on the matter. I am currently awaiting advice from the University, which, unfortunately will not be received at the earliest on Monday of next week. I wish to ensure that the parties concerned do not have any cause for complaint to the electoral commission and that DSU's position remains unbiased.

I am on annual leave tomorrow and Friday, however I will be answering emails until 4pm tomorrow. Alternatively you can contact me on Monday upon my return to DSU.

Apologies that this is the last thing you wish to hear, I just want to make sure that we are not breaching any of our governing documents before conducting a second referendum.

Sarah

Sarah Elliott Membership Services Manager Durham Students' Union Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham, DH1 3AN sarah.elliott@durham.ac.uk 0191 334 1775

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