

## **Byelaw C: Policy Inquiry**

### **1. Purpose**

This Byelaw has been established to provide further details regarding the operation of Policy Inquiries, under Article 8 of the Constitution.

It sets out key principles and major requirements, but it also gives the Officer Group and Student Executives the power to develop local rules and regulations as they deem appropriate.

### **2. General Regulations**

A Policy Inquiry is a formal process commissioned by the Union to investigate a specific issue and propose Policy, Plans and actions having involved students in investigation and deliberation.

A Policy Inquiry can be called by:

- i. A simple majority of a Student Executive
- ii. A simple majority of the Officer Group
- iii. The President, on receipt of a verified petition of 500 student members
- iv. A resolution of the Board (or delegated subcommittee)

### **3. Key Principles**

The structure and terms of reference for each Policy Inquiry will be determined by the Officer Group or appropriate Student Executive (including timeframes), but should usually include work within each of the following areas:

- i. Education and information: using research and insight to help student members fully understand the issue under consideration
- ii. Identification of solutions: ascertaining the full range of options that might be pursued, including working with student members to generate new ideas for consideration
- iii. Evaluation of options: an open discussion of student members regarding how these options should be judged
- iv. Decision-making: an interactive process that should involve discussion, debate and deliberation, and ultimately a vote

A Policy Inquiry should be designed to seek consensus, involve students affected by the issue directly, and promote behaviour rooted in the principles of reciprocity, mutual respect, and the common good.

A Policy Inquiry may recommend Policy, Contemporary Resolutions, Plans, recommendations to the Board and constitutional changes as appropriate.