

This Union Notes:

1. That 8.1% of the student body at Derby have disclosed a disability
2. That 59% of that 8.1% demographic are disclosing dyslexia as their main disability
3. The sharp increase in the number of students participating in the University of Derby Students' Union elections after the introduction of online voting
4. The fact that we are still seeing a low turnout of part time students in our elections, particularly as candidates

This Union Believes:

1. That dyslexia is not the only disability to affect a student's ability to write by hand
2. That dyslexia, dyspraxia and many other disabilities can affect a student's ability to speak in public
3. That a large demographic of our student body are part time or e-learning students
4. Those part time or e-learning students cannot always make it to a University campus or site to attend election hustings whether they are members of the electorate or candidates themselves
5. That we must do more to engage our part time and e-learning students in our democratic processes in order to further defend and extend their rights

This Union Further Believes:

1. That in the 21st century the creative use of technology can create opportunities for engagement for a wide variety of our students
2. To mandate the President or his/her nominee to record a Q&A session to be available for viewing online during the main elections
3. To investigate the creation and operation of an electronic nomination system by the 2010 main election
4. To mandate the President to make available the option for candidates to participate in the live Q&A sessions via a video recording, recorded by the Students' Union in advance of the elections, and thus increasing the potential participation of part time students amongst others who have non flexible commitments outside of their university studies
5. To mandate the President to ensure that those candidates who make video recordings are both asked the same questions and are given the same amount as all the other candidates running for the same position and to generally ensure that candidates participating in Q&A sessions via video recording are in no way disadvantaged by doing so

This Union Resolves:

1. To investigate the possibility of making an electronic hustings system interactive

Policy Number:
2009/10-02

Policy Title:
E-lection

Zone:
Democracy and
Representation

Policy Proposer:
Richard Harris,
Disabled Students
Officer

Policy Seconder:
Paul Gardner,
Disabled Students
Campaign

Date Passed:
1/12/2009
Union Council

