Decision of the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board

Reference Re: Bylaw 2400: A Bylaw Respecting the Plebiscites and Referenda of the Students’ Union

Members present: Vincent Tong, Sean Doherty, R. Aaron Low, Dean Dowle, Nels Ekelund, Katharine Nicolson (alternate Member).

Appellant: Alex Ragan, Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

Respondent: Chris Samuel, President, Students’ Union

Facts: Page 6 of the 31 January 2002 edition of The Gateway includes a one-quarter (1/4) page advertisement concerning two referenda questions and inviting interested parties to attend a meeting to register sides for referenda campaigning. The specific questions were not included in the advertisement. This fact was pointed out in the advertisement.

Authorities Cited: Section 8(a) of Bylaw 2400: A Bylaw Respecting the Plebiscites and Referenda of the Students’ Union reads:

“Starting at least two (2) weeks before the nomination day, the Chief Returning Officer will ensure that each edition of The Gateway has at least one (1) one-quarter (1/4) page advertisement specifying that a meeting of those interested in registering sides to be held on nomination day.”

Issue: Are there requirements under s.8(a) of Bylaw 2400: A Bylaw Respecting the Plebiscites and Referenda of the Students’ Union, which are not met by the advertisement placed by the CRO on page 6 of the 31 January 2002 issue of The Gateway?

Decision: No. Section 8(a)’s requirements have been fulfilled by the CRO. The advertisement on page 6 of the 31 January 2002 edition of the Gateway placed by the CRO meets the spatial, temporal and content requirements as set out in s.8(a).