

Extraordinary Council
5-6pm Tuesday 29th January 2016
Moser Theatre (Wadham)

Briefing Note

At 7th Week Council, delegates voted to call an Extraordinary Council in 8th week on the subject of the NUS National Ballot, where OUSU can record one vote. This is your chance to decide whether we should vote **YES** or **NO** to the following question. We can also choose **not to record a vote**.

Should NUS conduct and publish a risk assessment and equality impact assessment before finalising the National Student Survey (NSS) boycott / sabotage action?

WHAT'S A NATIONAL BALLOT?

A National Ballot asks each Student Union which is affiliated to NUS to vote on what is effectively NUS Policy outside of a National Conference. Its result is binding insofar as it has the same status as other NUS Policy. It cannot overturn Policy decided upon at National Conference.

OUSU's vote must be agreed through our democratic processes. If we don't get quorum at this Extraordinary Council, **we will not to record a vote in the ballot**.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

This is the first National Ballot in NUS history. It was called by a group of Higher Education institutions on the basis of concern that the NUS policy to boycott or sabotage the NSS might disadvantage smaller institutions, devalue degrees or damage relationships between student unions and institutions. The opposing argument, however, calls attention to the delay that a risk assessment would cause, the likely cost to NUS, and the consultation already carried out.

OUSU is already mandated to boycott or sabotage the NSS, because the results of the NSS will be used to feed into the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). In other words, a positive rating on the NSS by a third year student could result in higher fees for incoming students. **Our local boycott or sabotage will not be affected by whatever we decide here; instead, the decision to vote for or against a risk assessment will affect the wider national campaign to boycott or sabotage.**

The normal rules of voting in Council apply, which means three votes to each common room, and votes for campaigns and PTE. The meeting will **only** cover the issue of the National Ballot. We will debate the question and then vote on a **YES/NO/ABSTAIN** basis.

5:30-6.30PM MOSER THEATRE (WADHAM)
WINE/TREATS/DEMOCRACY