

# Polity Elections To Be Held Tomorrow

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procedures in their college for violations of the student conduct code, which occur within their college."

• Do you wish to add a paragraph F which shall read

"To set the business hours of any business which are located in the college."

• Do you wish to add a paragraph G which shall read "To form committees to

evaluate and review the performance of the Residential and Managerial Assistants, and Residence Hall and Quad Directors."

• Do you wish to add paragraph C which shall read

"No referendum shall be run concerning the specific 'earmarking' of Student activity fees."

• Do you wish to add the following third paragraph to the Constitution. "This organization endorses the principle of equal opportunity and believes that every member of this organization shall have the same equal protection of the laws as guaranteed by the United States Constitution. No member of this organization shall, on the grounds of race, sex, sexual preference, creed, age, color, national origin or handicap, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of this organization."

• Prior to the Fall 1980 semester, each semester was 15 weeks long. Beginning with the Fall 1980 semester, semesters were shortened to 13 weeks. Do you prefer the shorter or the longer semester?

• Currently the grading system at Stony Brook is a 5 point scale: A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0, F=0.0. The SUSB Senate approved a motion to institute a +/- grading system beginning with the Fall 1981 semester. The +/- system would be an 11 point scale. A=4.0, A+=3.67, B+=3.33, B=3.00, B+=2.67, C+=2.33, C=2.00, C+=1.67, D+=1.33, D=1.00, F=0.0. Which grading system do you prefer?

— Laura Craven

## Students To Vote on Grading

By Lisa Ann Goldsmith

Another referendum on the ballot will ask students their opinions on a new system of grading, including pluses and minuses, that will be instituted for the Fall 1981 semester.

According to Arnold Strassenberg, acting dean of Undergraduate Studies, the new system will consist of the grades, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D and F. There will be no A+ or D- grades allowed, as they do not show up on the computer. Strassenberg, said the new system will allow professors a fairer way of judging a student's academic performance. Strassenberg, who is a senator on the SUSB Senate, was one of the majority of the voting members to advocate this system.

The Senate, which is composed of students, both undergraduate and graduate, librarians (who are non-teaching professionals), faculty, professors and staff, has autonomy in decision-making.

Strassenberg said that the only problem that they might encounter would stem from a lack of understanding of the system by students. "Students might feel that this system was diabolically devised... it is neurotic of students to feel that the system might be used in the wrong way with more minuses being given than pluses," he said.

"It is very difficult for me to give a 'C' to someone who has done above average work, but which does not merit a 'B,'" Strassenberg said. He added that the new system really does not change the way professors look at grades in general. Professors still have a choice whether to use the pluses and minuses, but Strassenberg said that "... that has always been true, so long as the grade reflects the pronounced standards of what those grades signify." He added that it is an improvement that now, professors do not have to struggle with decisions and are less worried about making poor ones.

## 'Referenda Referendum'

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New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and Athletics increased the amounts they were to be funded by Polity by placing a referendum on the ballot with a specific amount. According to Sophomore Representative Ron Serpico, a proponent of the amendment, NYPIRG and Athletics earmarked \$135,000 for themselves, 18 percent of the total funds available to Polity.

Serpico said that earmarking funds threatens the existence of smaller clubs, who cannot obtain enough signatures—25 percent of the undergraduate student body is needed—to place a referendum on the ballot. Serpico also argued that earmarking funds bypasses the ordinary budgeting process, and an organization might be earmarked more money than is available.

Opponents of the "referenda referendum," as it has been dubbed, argue that limiting students' input into spending money is undemocratic. Hand College Senator Lewis Liebler, in a letter to the editor in Statesman last week, said that students should decide how their money is spent, as opposed to the small number of students on the Polity Council and Senate. In another letter last week, Jeanne Williamson of NYPIRG, agreed, adding that the amendment would be "an example we will have lost—a loss we cannot afford."

## Calendar Referendum Included

By Christine Castaldi

Among the referenda the students will have the opportunity to vote on tomorrow will be one to either approve or disapprove of the current 13 week semester, as opposed to the former 15 week semester. The results of the referendum will advise the University on how students feel about the shortened semesters.

The calendar, which was drafted by an ad hoc committee of students, faculty and administrators last year at the request of former acting University President Richard Schmidt, was approved by the SUSB Senate. The Senate is a body composed of students, and non-teaching professionals which consults with the University

President.

When asked about their opinion of the calendar, faculty members and students had similar feelings.

According to Biology Professor Elof Carlson, "the shortened semester has created more problems than I thought it would have. It is easy for a professor to give a 90 minute lecture, but it is difficult for students to sit through it. The shortened semesters also do not give students enough time to prepare for their exams, and unfortunately, Carlson said, the conscientious students must suffer."

Assistant English Professor Diane Fortuna said, "I like the hour lecture, however the shortened semester is not good

for the students. The fall semester is too crammed, especially after the Thanksgiving break."

The present academic calendar is supposed to be in effect for the next two years, and at the end of 1982 its success will be evaluated.

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