Students to vote on referendum

By Alf Geller

Four referenda will be on the Undergraduate Association (UA) ballot tomorrow, concerning (1) returning of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading's proposals, (2) greater accountability of student representatives on faculty committees to students at large, (3) optional special committee meetings to students, and (4) distributing questionnaires on policies which affect students.

The first resolution recommends that "the recent recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Grading be rejected." The committee proposed placing grading distributions for each course on transcripts, instituting Letters of Commentation for not more than five percent of the students in each class, and redefining prades.

Many of the students who authored the signatures for the referenda view these proposals as Orwellian newspeak for imposing increased pressure, more complication, and grade definition.

The second resolution calls for a "new framework ... to make student representation on faculty committees more account- able to the student body at large ..." While 99 percent of the students were against the drop date proposal according to the poll conducted last term by the Student Committee on Educational Policy, the three students on the Committee on Educational Policy favored interest of the proposals. In the same poll, two thirds of the students opposed to placing grade dis- tributions on transcripts. The grading committee's proposals, however, were approved unanimously— even after a student was appointed.

Victory or defeat students now know exactly what a committee is discussing until the formulation of the proposal is a fait accompli. Many students maintain that students should have an active role in the deliberations. One way of obtaining this information is to require the student representatives to provide it; another is to open to students all faculty com- mittee meetings at which policies affecting students are discussed.

The fourth resolution provides (Please turn to page 3)