

# Policy Proposal:

Date:  
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Proposer/s:  
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## **Current Policy/Situation**

*What happens at the moment?*

Standing Order 3 covers the process of the elections, outlining what candidates can expect at each stage of the process and what is expected of them.

## **New Proposal**

*What is your new proposal? This must include the exact wording that you would like in the Standing Orders?*

This outlines each section of the Elections section (Standing Order 3) that is being adjusted, and an explanation for the change.

### **3.3. Eligibility**

3.3.5. If elected all candidates must be able to start full time by 1 July.

3.3.6. Any student whose module would finish after 1 July, or who will be continuing their studies after completion of their time in role, would be expected to take a break from study if elected.

These 2 points are being added to make it explicit that students running for elections are expected to start, full time, by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and are expected to organise a break from study themselves if continuing after completion of the role. This is to avoid circumstances where elected candidates are unable to start working by the start date which has been seen to impact work towards their aims.

### **3.4. Returning Officer**

3.4.1. A Returning Officer and a Deputy Returning Officer shall be appointed annually by the Union Trustee Board.

~~3.4.5. The Returning Officer shall establish an election complaints procedure and have sole authority to determine any complaint and any resulting action required. Such determinations shall not be subject to challenge in any meeting of the Union unless the action of the Returning Officer is proven to be negligent or fraudulent.~~

3.4.1 has been added to show accountability for the appointment of the Returning and Deputy Returning Officers.

3.4.5 has been removed as the process is established by the Union rather than the Returning Officer, and is covered in the complaints section (3.11).

### **3.6. Nominations**

3.6.4 . By taking part in the elections, all candidates agree to accept the election rules and abide by these **Standing Orders**, the Union's Articles and Candidates' Guide.

This section has added in about complying with the Standing Orders to make it clear that this is an expectation of candidates.

### **3.10. The Count and Declaration of the Results**

3.10.8. In the event of a tie a coin toss would be used to determine the result, in line with best practice. Each candidate involved may request up to one (1) recount each.

This point has been added in to cover what would happen in the event of a tie in the count.

### **3.11. Complaints and Appeals**

3.11.2. All complaints must be made in writing, using the complaints form, with the complainant stating their full name and student number.

3.11.5. Any appeal against the decision of the Deputy Returning Officer shall be made to the Returning Officer, via a form submitted to the Deputy Returning Officer, within two clear days of that decision being communicated to the complainant. The decision of the Returning Officer shall be final with no further right of appeal.

3.11.6. Complaints and appeal forms shall be shared with candidates and made available to all students via the Union website.

This section has been updated to make the complaints and appeals process clearer and specify that the forms will be available to all students.

### **3.12. Disqualification of candidates**

3.12.1. Candidates can be disqualified for the following reasons including but not limited to:

3.12.1.1. Failing to complete the Ratification process, either by attending the meeting or by completing the quiz by the deadline set by the Elections Officials.

3.12.1.2. Failing to provide a completed candidate expense form at the close of voting, or spending above the maximum specified amount.

3.12.1.3. Failing to comply with the campaign rules provided.

3.12.1.4. Voter fraud, including coercion and intimidation.

This section has been updated to reflect that this is not an exhaustive list of potential reasons for candidates to be disqualified, adds clarity that candidates are expected to comply with all rules, not just the campaign rules, and includes spending above the campaign budget and voter fraud as examples that could result in disqualification.

### **Rationale for the change**

*What are the pros and cons of the change? How will any cons be managed/mitigated?*

The proposal is aimed at making it clearer for the candidates to know what is expected of them and clarifying aspects of the process.

**What consideration or consultation have you taken prior to submitting this proposal?** *All proposals go the exec team to be confirmed, so having insufficient consultation/consideration could mean the proposal is rejected.*

This proposal is being submitted following the Student Voice Review that was undertaken in the last academic year, and the most recent elections period where it was noticed that the Standing Order contained areas that needed strengthening and clarifying for candidates.

**Have you considered any impact of the new proposal on any of the protected characteristics as listed in the Equality Act 2010?** *What are the impacts and how will any negative impacts be managed/mitigated? For more information on the protected characteristics please see [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)*

**Appendices** *if necessary.*