# Bye-Law 3 Election Procedures – Proposed Changes

## Introduction

This element of the document should be considered as a support document alongside the final draft presented documents for the associated bye-laws. Each section outlines changes to sections within the applicable bye-law, outlining the existing element on the left with the new proposed amendment on the right.

## Bye-Law Three – Election Procedures

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| **Existing Element** | **Proposed Element** |
| 1.1 The Returning Officer shall act in accordance with the Rules and Regulations contained within the Articles of Association, Standing Orders and Appendices. | 1.1 The Returning Officer shall act in accordance with the Rules and Regulations contained within the Articles of Association, Standing Orders and Appendices. It shall be the duty of the Returning Officer and their deputies to ensure that these regulations are complied with by all candidates and others taking part in elections. |
| 1.3 With the exception of Student Officer elections, a senior staff member will act as the Returning Officer, or appoint an appropriate replacement. | 1.3 With the exception of Student Officer elections, a senior staff member will act as the Returning Officer, or appoint an appropriate replacement. |
| 1.5 It shall be the duty of the Returning Officer and their deputies to ensure that these regulations are complied with by all candidates and others taking part in elections. The Governance and Policy Coordinator shall report to the Returning Officer or their deputies any relevant information on conduct of candidates, the poll or practical issues as they arise. | To be removed, all items to rise by one point. |
| Section Five: Use of Equipment or Premises | Section Five: UUSU Resources |
| New Item | 5.1 Throughout the period of elections, UUSU staff will remain neutral and will not be asked to compromise their position. (Subsequent items to be renumbered) |
| New Item | 5.2 Student Officers will not be permitted to use UUSU resources or facilities, both physical or digital to endorse any personal campaign or other candidate. |
| 5.2 Use of the following is prohibited by a candidate unless authorised specifically in writing by the Returning Officer:  i. Any Student Union vehicle; ii. Tannoy system/s; iii. Lighting, sound or loud hailing equipment; iv. Student Union electronic/computer equipment. | 5.2 Use of any UUSU assets is prohibited unless prior authorisation has been granted. |
| 6.1 Candidates Question Time shall be held for Student Officer elections. | 6.1 Candidates Question Time shall be held for all Student Officer elections and be mandatory for the role of President. |
| 6.4 The format of the question time sessions shall be at the discretion of the Returning Officer, in consultation with the Deputy Returning Officer(s). The format must be prepared and agreed in good time to give candidates sufficient notice. | 6.4 The format of the question time sessions shall be at the discretion of the Deputy Returning Officer(s). |
| 7.1 The Students Union will provide information of candidates nominated in accessible areas in each campus from the close of nominations until the close of poll. | 7.1 The Students’ Union will provide information of candidates nominated in accessible areas in each campus from the release of candidates until the close of poll. |
| 7.2 Candidates will be advised that ‘hard selling’ or seeking to manipulate the conduct of the poll by proxy voting, forcing students to vote or any other behaviour that is deemed by the Returning Officer or their deputies to be engaging in foul play will face disqualification from the election. This also applies to social media behaviour. | 7.2 Candidates and their team are accountable under the election rules and code of conduct and are advised that seeking to manipulate the conduct of the poll by proxy voting, forcing students to vote or any other behaviour that is deemed by the Returning Officer or their deputies to be engaging in foul play will face disqualification from the election. This also applies to social media behaviour. |
| New Item | Section Eight: Eligibility  8.1 Any full member of the Students’ Union who are deemed by the University as being an active student is eligible for nomination, to propose candidates and to vote in elections, provided that they are a member of the constituency for which that election is being held. Members of the Student Executive who are seeking to contest the election will be provided with adequate login details to facilitate nominations and voting. The Returning Officer shall be the final arbiter for eligibility disputes. |
| New Item | Section Nine: The Method of Voting  9.1 The Students’ Union will arrange for electronic voting for all appropriate elections and such arrangements shall be in line with the general provisions of this Bye-law. |
| 8.1 Voting in elections shall be by secret ballot and under alternative transferable vote (ATV) system (when only one candidate is to be elected) OR the single transferable vote (STV) system (when more than one candidate is to be elected).  When a voter is completing their paper ballot of online vote, they must:  a) Place a figure “1” or an “X” opposite the name of the candidate of their first preference;  b) In addition, place the figure “2” and “3” or “2”, “3” and “4”, and so on opposite the names of other candidates in the order of their preference.  When voters are completing this through an online election, there will be a drop down box that will prompt the voter of the preference they can vote, as described above. | 9.2 Voting in elections shall be by secret ballot and under alternative transferable vote (ATV) system (when only one candidate is to be elected) OR the single transferable vote (STV) system (when more than one candidate is to be elected). |
| New Item | Section Ten: Count  10.1 The counting of votes shall follow the process outlined in Schedule 1, Sections 47-56 of the Local Elections (NI) Order 1985. |
| New Item | 10.2 Results of elections shall be communicated to candidates at the earliest opportunity and made available to members within 24 hours. |
| New Item | Section Eleven: General |
| 10.9 Successful candidates shall be required to sign a Contract of Employment which will be provided by the Director of HR and Campus Operations of UUSU before taking up Office. | 11.9 Successful candidates shall be required to sign a Contract of Employment which will be provided by an appropriate representative of UUSU before taking up Office. |
| 10.10 An elected Student Officer must commence the duties and responsibilities set out in their Contract of Employment within two weeks of the start date as listed in the Articles of Association of the UUSU. Failure to comply with this Regulation, without the prior written approval of the Trustee Board will result in the election being declared void, and a new election for the post being called at the beginning of the Autumn semester | 11.10 An elected Student Officer must commence the duties and responsibilities set out in their Contract of Employment within two weeks of the start date as listed in the Articles of Association of the UUSU. Failure to comply with this Regulation, without the prior written approval of the Trustee Board will result in the election being declared void, and a new election for the post being called at the discretion of the Elections Team. |