

## 1. Interpretation

- 1.1 These Regulations are written with the intent of ensuring free and fair elections at the Guild of Students.
- 1.2 These Regulations are in conjunction with Byelaw 8 (Elections) of the Guild of Students. Please refer to this Byelaw in addition to these regulations.
- 1.3 The Returning Officer of the Guild of Students shall have the final say over the interpretation of these Regulations.
- 1.4 These Election Regulations shall apply to all Guild of Students elections.
- 1.5 In addition to these Regulations, all other Guild of Students governing documents, University Legislation, and all Laws of the Land shall apply.

## 2. Notice and Nominations

- 2.1 All nominees must be Full Members of the Guild of Students. In some elections further restrictions apply (as stated in these regulations).
- 2.2 Full Members may not stand for two positions on the same committee.
- 2.3 The procedure for return of nominations is outlined in Byelaw 8, Section 4.
  - 2.3.1 In Residents' Associations elections, only Full Members who are resident in a specific University accommodation may stand in the election for that University accommodation.
  - 2.3.2 In Officer Team elections, Full Members may only stand in elections for liberation positions who self-define as belonging to that liberation group.
  - 2.3.3 In Officer Team elections, it is expected that only Full Members from relevant representation groups may stand for representation positions e.g. a home student may stand for Home Students' Officer.
  - 2.3.4 In Assessment Group Elections, all Full Members may stand for the Open Place positions.
  - 2.3.5 In Assessment Group Elections, Full Members may only stand in elections for liberation positions who self-define as belonging to that liberation group.
  - 2.3.6 In Assessment Group Elections, it is expected that only Full Members who are Postgraduate Students may stand for the position reserved for Postgraduates.
  - 2.3.7 In NUS Delegate Elections for National Conference, the Guild of Students shall ensure annual delegations will consist of at least 50% self-defining women (rounded down) in accordance with the 'Fair Representation' NUS motion.
  - 2.3.8 In NUS Delegate Election for all other NUS liberation and representation conferences, Full Members may only stand in elections for positions in which they self-define as belonging to that group.
  - 2.3.9 If no nominations are received for a position by the close of nominations, nominations may be reopened for that position.
- 2.4 Re-open Nominations (R.O.N.) shall be a candidate in every election. R.O.N. shall not be depicted in any Guild promotional material as a person or character.

## 3. Supporters

- 3.1 The Returning Officer or Nominee shall have the absolute discretion in determining a supporter of a candidate.

- 3.2 All supporters must be Full Members of the Guild of Students. No Full-Time Guild Officer shall support a candidate.
- 3.3 If a Student Group or Part-Time Guild Officer wishes to endorse a candidate in an election, they and the candidate must adhere to the Guild's endorsement guidelines
- 3.4 No candidate shall seek support from a body external to the Guild of Students or the University of Birmingham.
- 3.5 Slates are permitted in single seat elections.
- 3.6 Candidates may be held responsible for fellow slate members and campaigners.
- 3.7 Slates are not permitted in multi-member elections.

## 4. Publicity

- 4.1 All candidates in all elections should submit a manifesto outlining why they are standing, their election wishes, pledges and any other relevant information. These should be submitted by close of nominations for that election.
- 4.2 Candidates must adhere to Guild and University regulations when displaying election publicity
- 4.3 Candidates can only cover, move or alter their own publicity.
- 4.4 Candidates shall be responsible for removing all of their own publicity.
  - 4.4.1 Publicity may not be attached to trees or buildings without the permission of the owner, or in contravention of UoB regulations

## 5. Budget

- 5.1 A budget will be provided by the Guild to every candidate. The budget amount for individual elections shall be clearly stated in candidate training.
- 5.2 Candidates cannot spend more than the budget given to them by the Guild of Students.
- 5.3 Candidates are required to have completed spending their budget and submitted receipts for all personal expenditure claims 1 day prior to the close of voting.
- 5.4 The Guild of Students shall make all candidate campaign budgets available for public scrutiny.

## 6. Campaigning

- 6.1 No candidate or supporter shall attempt to influence voters whilst they are voting.

## 7. Elections Training, Hustings and Candidate Meeting

- 7.1 Every candidate is expected to attend Elections Training and Hustings. If they are unable to attend then they must send apologies for their absence at least 1 hour before the event and make alternative arrangements with the Guild of Students.
- 7.2 Nominees
  - Candidates may appoint nominees to attend Hustings. Nominees must be Full Members and shall make a speech.
- 7.3 If, in the opinion of the Chairperson, a speaker is deliberately breaching or flaunting the Regulations, the Chairperson shall have the authority to remove the speaker from that round of speeches, the remainder of the Hustings, and, on subsequent approval by the Returning Officer, from all further Hustings.

## 8. Voting

- 8.1 Wherever possible, voting shall be online (e-voting).
- 8.2 Where E-voting is not possible in cross-campus elections, or where the E-voting system becomes inoperable, a paper ballot shall be conducted in accordance with the Guild of Students' Paper Ballot Procedure.
- 8.3 Restrictions on which Full Members may vote shall apply in the following elections. All other elections shall be cross campus and open to all Full Members.
  - Residents' Associations – only Full Members living in a University accommodation may vote in the election for that accommodation.
- 8.4 In elections for Liberation Officers, liberation Assessment Group Members and NUS Liberation Conference Delegates it is expected that only Full Members who self-define as belonging to the particular demographic that the position represents shall vote in that election.
  - 8.4.1. For the removal of doubt, non-binary students are eligible to vote in the election of the Women's Officer.
- 8.5 In elections for Representation Officers, Assessment Group Members (Postgraduate Student) and NUS Representation Conference Delegates it is expected that only Full Members who belong to that specific group shall vote in that election e.g. home students vote in the Home Students' Officer Election.

## 9. Results

- 9.1 All results shall remain provisional until the Returning Officer is satisfied with the conduct of the election and following the closure of any complaints.

## 10. Enforcement of Regulations

### 10.1 The Returning Officer

- 10.1.1 The Returning Officer shall be the Registrar and Secretary of the University of Birmingham
- 10.1.2. The Returning Officer may delegate the management of complaints, appeals, and other appropriate business to a nominee (or nominees).
- 10.1.3. For the purpose of all Guild Elections during 2016/17, the following Returning Officer structure shall be in place:
  - Complaints about a candidate having possibly broken these regulations shall be determined by the Representation & Resources Officer 2016/17 as nominee for the Returning Officer; and
  - Appeals against decisions made by the Representation & Resources Officer 2016/17 shall be determined by a representative from National Union of Students (NUS) as nominee for the Returning Officer; save that
  - Appeals against decisions made by the Representation & Resources Officer 2016/17 which, in the reasonable opinion of the representative from National

Union of Students (NUS), relate to material issues affecting whether or not the election was free and fair shall be referred for determination by the Registrar and Secretary as appropriate

10.1.4. In the case where the Representation & Resources Officer declares a conflict of interest, or wishes to run in an election, their responsibilities as Nominee shall be delegated to another member of the Full-Time Officer Team.

10.1.5. The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the good conduct and administration of the elections and shall have final interpretation of the Election Regulations and Bye-Law 8. However, the nominee(s) shall be responsible for the day to day good conduct and administration of the elections.

10.2 All complaints about a candidate having possibly broken these regulations shall be subject to the Guild of Students' Election Complaints Procedure.

10.3 If a candidate is found to have broken these regulations, as deemed by the Returning Officer or Nominee, the candidate may be removed from the election.

10.4 Candidates in breach of these regulations may also be subject to Guild, and/or University discipline procedures, and/or legal proceedings.

10.5 Candidates shall be held responsible for their own actions in elections and the actions of their supporters, which are proven to the reasonable belief of the Nominee or Returning Officer as appropriate.

## 11. By-Elections and Co-Option

11.1 If a post becomes vacant following the close of an election, a by-election may be run during the next election period.

11.2 If a position remains unfilled following both an ordinary election and a by-election, the position may be filled by co-option.

11.3 A vacant position may also be filled by co-option if it is deemed to be a time-sensitive role following a request submitted to Returning Officer (or nominee).

11.4 Co-option may only be used for Guild Committees, Residents' Associations Committees and Assessment Group

11.5 Co-option may not be used for Guild Officer Group, NUS Delegates or Appointments Panel.

11.6 The process of co-option shall be as follows:

11.6.1 The relevant chair responsible for the position should approve the use of co-option, issue a notice of co-option, inviting members to stand for the position.

11.6.2 Candidates shall be invited to the next relevant committee meeting to give a speech and answer questions.

11.6.3 The relevant committee shall then vote to co-opt their new member.

11.6.4 Any co-option must be agreed by simple majority.

11.6.5 A co-opted member will remain in position until the next full election for that position