

06 – Elections

Warwick SU is student led. Its leaders are students and these are chosen by a democratic process by its student members. This Bye-Law sets out how this process will occur.

See also: Bye-Law 1 Members, Bye-Law 3 Elected Leaders and Bye-Law 4 Union Meetings

The **Returning Officer** shall lead interpretation of this Bye-Law except when one is not in position when it shall be the **Democracy and Development Officer**.

- 600 A Returning Officer will be appointed annually and ratified by the Board of Trustees. The Returning Officer's decision is final.
- 601 One or more Deputy Returning Officers may also be appointed and approved by the Board of Trustees. A Deputy Returning Officer may fulfil any of the responsibilities of the Returning Officer as required.
- 602 Responsibility for all decision making on candidate complaints and regulatory questions rests with the Returning Officer who may consult with the Deputy Returning Officer/s and SU staff as they require.
- 603 The responsibility of the delivery of SU elections rests with the Returning Officer with the support of the Democracy and Development Officer, SU staff and the Democracy Exec.
- 604 In the event that the Democracy and Development Officer is a candidate or has declared a conflict-of-interest that would make them unable to deliver their duties, Student Council will appoint an appropriate replacement. An appropriate replacement would ideally be a Sabbatical Officer with no conflict of interest. The Democracy and Development Officer should declare the possibility of them being unable to fulfil their duties at the start of each term where an election is held.
- 605 The Democracy and Development Officer will give notice of an election period at least seven days before the opening of nominations and follow the public timings for both the Autumn and Spring Elections.
- 606 The Democracy and Development Officer may appoint Democracy Assistants to help the promotion of SU elections, when deemed necessary. No Democracy Assistant may be a candidate or a part of a candidate's campaign team. All Democracy Assistants must agree to an Impartiality and Confidentiality Agreement.

Eligibility and nomination

- 607 The Returning Officer shall publicise rules for nomination and eligibility for each position determined each year and must include the following:
- a) a person will only be eligible to stand for a position if they meet the criteria to hold the position at the time of nominations and, with the exception of Sabbatical Officers, for the duration of their potential year in office.
 - b) An individual may not hold more than one position on the Student Council or more than one SU Officer position.
- 608 Candidates will be responsible for familiarising themselves with and following the Elections rules.

Voting in Elections

- 609 Voting in all SU wide Elections will take place through whichever process the Returning Officer believes will reach the most students and will be the most secure and reflects good governance for the Union.

- 610 The ballot will include the name of the relevant positions, followed by: The name of all candidates including Re Open Nominations (R.O.N) who shall be considered a candidate. All SU Elections will be conducted by the Single Transferable Vote (STV) and the Returning Officer will publicise the method of voting in advance.
- 611 Full members of the SU will have one vote in each election for which they are entitled to vote and voting will be by secret ballot.
- 612 The Returning Officer may facilitate postal or proxy votes at their discretion.

Quorum

- 613 At the beginning of each election period the Democracy and Development Officer will obtain from the University Registrar the number of students registered at the University and the number of students who have chosen to opt out from the Union.
- 614 Quorum shall be
- a) For Sabbatical Officers, 10% of Full Members
 - b) For Student Executive Committee Members, the number of candidates for the position plus one
 - c) For Liberation Officers, the number of candidates for the position plus one
 - d) For International Students' Officers, the number of candidates for the position plus one
 - e) For Part-time and Mature Students' Officer, the number of candidates for the position plus one
 - f) For Chair and Deputy Chair of Council, 50% of a 'Super Council' comprised of all full voting members of the Student Executive Committees and Student Council.
 - g) For University Representatives (not including Faculty Representatives) the number of candidates for the position plus one
 - h) For NUS Conference Delegates, the number of candidates for the position
 - i) For Student and External Trustees, 50% of Student Council Members
 - j) For all other positions, 5% of eligible voters

The count

- 615 The running of the count will be at the discretion of the Returning Officer and will be held as soon as practically possible after the close of voting.
- 616 Admission to and participation in the count will be at the discretion of the Returning Officer.
- 617 The Returning Officer will rule on the eligibility of votes. A vote of abstention will count towards reaching quorum, but will be treated as an invalid vote for the purpose of the count. If a ballot form lists a first preference of No Further Preference that will be considered a vote of abstention for that election.
- 618 After the provisional results have been announced and before the objections deadline, any candidate may ask for and observe a recount of any election.
- 619 If an election is declared null and void, or the position was unfilled, for any reason, vacancies will be filled either by a By-Election or by Co-Option.