

Regulation 2
Election of Officers

A. General provisions

1. Only Full Members of the Union may participate or vote in any part of an election, though Life Members may act as returning officer.
2. All elections shall be determined by Single Transferable Vote with Quota System as defined by the Electoral Reform Society.
3. The candidate 'Re-Open Nominations' stands fully nominated for every post.

B. Eligibility to participate

4. All Full Members of the Union may stand and vote in an election unless otherwise prescribed.
5. No current Officer of the Union may propose or second a candidate in an election, though all other Full Members of the Union may propose or second a candidate in an election

C. Nominations and Timetable

6. All elections require nominations to be publicised a week in advance, placed on a public notice-board for at least a week, with the name, year and signature of the candidate, proposer and seconders.
7. Nomination papers shall include the name and contact details of the returning officer.
8. Elections for Officers of the Union granting membership of the Council or Executive Committee have additional requirements:
 - a) Notice and publicity for the election should produced five College days in advance of nomination papers being placed up,
 - b) Nomination papers should be up for ten College days, and
 - c) Twenty seconders are required with ten seconders normally required for other elections.
9. The election shall be held within ten College days of nomination papers coming down.
10. The Executive may by two-thirds majority suspend time limits in this part for particular elections, with a separate resolution required for each election.
11. Elections shall be by secret ballot by and from all full members of the respective Faculty Union.
12. Elections for Chairs and other officers of the Club and Society Committees shall be by and from the membership of the individual club or society.
13. Elections for club and society officers shall be at a general meeting of the club or society by and from all full members of the club or society.

D. Campaigning and Publicity

14. The returning officer is responsible for ensuring the election is publicised in advance of nominations.
15. All media or newsletters reports or comments must mention the names of all candidates standing for a post within the body of the report, in the case of elections, or attempt to produce a balanced debate on both sides of the argument in the case of referenda. In any case reports and comments should be fair and accurate.

Candidates' publicity

16. No candidates' campaign publicity may appear prior to the close of nominations.
17. The maximum amount that may be spent on an election or referendum campaign will be decided by the returning officer or elections committee and notified to the candidates at close of nominations.
18. No form of Union or College insignia shall appear on any candidate's publicity material.
19. Campaign publicity, including flyers, shall be removed from the line of sight and six metres of all ballot boxes or other voting terminals.
20. All campaign publicity must contain the dates of voting and weblink.

E. Hustings

21. There shall be hustings to which all candidates are invited to speak and answer questions.

22. The returning officer (or elections committee if there is one) shall determine the date and format of hustings, which shall be chaired by the returning officer or a nominee.

23. The chair of hustings shall ensure that each candidate is treated equally in the proceedings, and that questions are directly or indirectly relevant to the potential performance of the candidate in the post being elected.

F. New Election

24. The returning officer shall appoint a New Election campaign manager and allocate a budget (as permitted within budgetary policy) up to the same level as the other candidates.

25. In the event of

1. New Election winning, or

2. a decision to re-run the entire election including nominations, nominations shall be re-opened within ten College days and the election repeated.

26. In the event that New Election commits an unfair practise it may be additionally ordered that the election is re-run without recourse to new nominations within five College days of reaching such a conclusion.

G. Supervision of Elections

27. There shall be a Returning Officer for each election who shall be responsible for the fair and efficient conduct of that election.

28. The Returning Officer shall maintain neutrality at all times, and may not participate in the election in any manner except as Returning Officer.

Appointment of Returning Officer

29. The Returning Officer shall be the President or his/her nominee

Elections Committees

30. The returning officer shall convene and chair the elections committee, which shall meet during the course of the elections if needs be. The elections committee shall review all progress and decisions of the returning officer each meeting.

31. The elections committee shall consist of the returning officer and two other members of the Union, who are not standing for election

Observers

32. A candidate has the right to send an observer, or at the discretion of the returning officer be present himself at the count.

Delegation

33. The returning officer (or elections committee if there is one) may appoint deputies or assistants and allocate duties to them.

Restriction of rights

34. The Returning Officer, any deputies or assistants and members of an elections committee may not vote or participate in any part of the election except in furtherance of their duties.

35. People employed under the direction of the Returning Officer may not participate or influence the result of the election, apart from actually voting.

H. Objections and Unfair Practices

36. Objections should be dealt with at the earliest possible opportunity and every effort made by the returning officer or election committee to resolve the dispute.

37. Objections may be based on unfair practises by candidates or the unconstitutional running of the election by the returning officer.

Unfair practises

38. It is an unfair practise to

1. Infringe the Union Constitution, regulations or elections policy,

2. disobey instructions of the returning officer or elections committee
3. take unfair advantage of any publication or other publicity that is not contained within the allotted budget,
4. do permanent damage to any Union or College area as a consequence of a campaign,
5. make any attempt to influence the impartiality of the returning officer, elections committee or Union staff,
6. deliberately sabotage any campaign other than one's own,
7. infringe College rules,
8. intimidate any participant in the election,
9. overspend the allotted campaign budget, or not produce suitable receipts,
10. loiter within ten metres of any ballot box during voting, and to
11. tamper with any ballot box used in the election or submission of electronic votes.

39. An unfair practise may result in action being taken under the Disciplinary Policy of ICU as well as action within the terms of this regulation

Enforcement and remedies

40. In the event of an objection to any part of the election except the count, the count shall not begin until the objection has been resolved.

41. The returning officer (or the elections committee if there is one) shall be able to

- a) ratify the election,
- b) order the election to be re-run,
- c) disqualify a candidate, or
- d) disregard all the papers in a ballot box, or submission of electronic votes from a particular source (this decision is to be taken before the count commences).

42. The election shall be re-run if the election has been run unconstitutionally. If the breach occurred during nomination papers being up, the papers may be placed up again for between two and five College days after they would have normally been taken down. No new nominations shall be sought if the breach occurred after nomination papers were taken down.

43. If ballot boxes or submission of electronic votes were tampered with, the returning officer may disregard the entire ballot box, or submission of electronic votes, as long as the number of affected votes does not exceed one-fifth of all votes cast.

Appeals panel

44. In the event of an objection not being resolved by action of the returning officer or elections committee, the matter shall be referred to an appeals panel.

45. Appeals panel shall meet within five College days of being lodged.

46. In elections, the appeals panel shall be the Executive Committee, with further appeal to ICU Executive and then Council, whose decision is final.

47. The appeals panel or its appellate committee may exercise any rights vested in the returning officer or elections committee and review or amend any of their decisions.