

Students' Union

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SUARTS Bye-Laws | Elections

This explains some of the rules around elections at SUARTS. They are further detailed in the Guidance Document on Elections and Referenda.

General Regulations for Voting Ballot

1. No member shall have more than one vote
2. Voting shall be by secret ballot using the single transferable vote (STV) system as described by the Electoral Reform Society of Great Britain & Northern Ireland and shall include re-open nominations as a candidate.
3. Should re-open nominations be the elected candidate, then the post in question shall remain vacant until a by-election is held.
4. The Returning Officer will be appointed by the Trustee Board with approval from the University for the period of any election, for the purpose of administering the election regulations. The Returning Officer shall be reported to the Student Council.
5. The Deputy Returning Officer will be appointed by the Returning Officer for the period of the election to support the Returning Officer in his/her duties.
6. The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the conduct of all matters regarding the elections and shall issue a Guidance Document on Campaign Rules after consulting with Student Council. The Returning Officer can not be a candidate themselves.

Elected Positions

7. The following posts shall be elected by cross-campus ballot:
 - 7.1. Officer Trustees
 - 7.2. College Officers
 - 7.3. Liberation Officers
 - 7.4. Other Part-Time Officers
 - 7.5. Delegates to National Union of Students (NUS) National Conferences.
 - 7.6. Student Trustees
8. Only eligible voters should vote in elections they are entitled to, including students studying at one particular college can not vote for a College Officer in another College and only students defining into that liberation group should vote for the officer in that election
9. Delegates to all other National Union of Students (NUS) conferences shall be elected in accordance with the rules of that election.

Timing of Elections

10. Elections shall be held at times which are intended to enable the largest possible number of members to vote.
11. Formal notice of all elections shall be given from the start of each academic year.
12. Detailed notice of elections shall be given a minimum of seven working days before nominations open.
13. A candidates' meeting must be held following the closure of nominations at a time specified by the Returning Officer or their deputy.

Nominations

14. Nomination papers must be available as soon as nominations open and available for submission online unless the Returning Officer has authorised a paper based method.
15. The Returning Officer will then check and compile these at the close of nominations.
16. Each completed nomination paper must include the full name and student number, where issued, of those nominated.
17. Nominations can be challenged on the basis the individual wasn't a student or was not submitted within the proper process. The Returning Officer will determine if a nomination should be accepted.

Publicity

18. All campaigning publicity must meet the requirements of the Guidance Document on Election Campaigning Regulations, as approved by the Returning Officer in consultation with the Student Council
19. All candidates/nominees in an Election shall receive a publicity budget as detailed within the Guidance Document

Conduct

20. Candidates/Nominees must conduct themselves in line with the Guidance Document on Election Campaigning Regulations.
21. Candidates /nominees breaching these regulations will be subject to the disciplinary procedures outlined in the appropriate Guidance Document.
22. Campaigning may begin after the time and date set by the Returning Officer
23. Complaints regarding candidates conduct must be submitted to the Returning Officer no later than the close of polling.
24. Complaints will be dealt with as outlined in the Guidance Document on Elections Campaigning Regulations or elsewhere in these rules.
25. The Returning Officer may take any disciplinary action including permanent withdrawal of a candidate that they believe to be reasonable.

Counting

26. The timing of the count shall be approved by the Student Council and the Returning Officer prior to the start of polling.
27. Each candidate in any election/ will be permitted to nominate one individual to monitor the count on their behalf.
28. Complaints about the count must be made in writing to The Returning Officer no later than 1 working day after the announcement of the result.
29. The results of all Union elections shall be certified by The Returning Officer or their deputy.

Bye-Law Conditions

30. This Bye-Law is in addition, but pursuant, to the Union's Memorandum & Articles of Association.
31. Words and phrases used in this Bye-Law have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Union's Memorandum & Articles of Association.
32. This Bye-Law was last updated and approved in October 2015