STUDENT GROUP ELECTIONS
THE RULES

gsu

ELECTIONS

greenwich students' union

KENT UNION
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CHRIST CHURCH STUDENTS' UNION

2022 LEADER ELECTION RULES

Greenwich Students' Union (GSU) elections aim to be free, fair, and accessible to everyone and therefore it is the responsibility of the Elections Team to ensure the smooth running of elections. This document aims to outline the rules, guidelines, and processes to make that happen.

The election rules are held and owned by the Democracy team at GSU and are created to ensure where the election is as free and fair as possible. The rules will be explained to every candidate at mandatory rules training and can be discussed further with the election team by request. GSU reserve the right to add additional rules.

The Deputy Returning officers are Mark Heffernan and Sophie Harrison, and the Returning Officer is NUS.

Candidates must:
- Always abide by all current SU Policy and Values, University Rules, Government Guidance and the Law.
- Be always responsible for the conduct of their campaigners, during the Election process.
- Complete the mandatory candidate training online. Those who have not, will not be permitted to run.
- Not undertake campaigns activity that other candidates could not reasonably do.
- Not infringe a student's right to vote confidentially and freely, or influence students whilst they are voting.
- Not run on a platform with any other candidates. Group Campaigning (Slates) are not permitted.
- Not utilise resources available to them through paid positions at the Union or University unavailable to other candidates from the point of the candidate list being published.
- Not use their own electronic devices to obtain votes from others, this is strictly prohibited.
- Not exceed the caps on spending (£20 for GSU Officers). In these elections the spend cap is £0.

Other rules:
- Union, and University Staff must remain apolitical in all SU elections.
- Student staff, while on shift, cannot campaign for themselves or others. As staff members for that time, they are impartial, also an unfair advantage to be paid and be campaigning in our spaces.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

- Please be mindful that campaigning in person should be respectful of social distancing where possible and considerate of students' requests for space.

- This election will conducted without physical materials or budget.

- Candidates must not campaign in lectures/online classes without permission from the Lecturer and must not cause disruption to teaching.

- Please email elections@greenwich.ac.uk if you have any questions

- Upon a tie results GSU will conduct a coin toss to determine the result

GUIDE TO ENDORSING

- **Endorsing as an Individual**

As a member, you can endorse as many candidates as you like. However, each candidate must be endorsed individually, this means a single post encouraging voters to support more than one candidate is prohibited. However, a succession of promotions is okay if the ordering of preference is not promoted. If in doubt, ask a member of the elections team.

- **Endorsing as a Student Group**

Endorsements are not allowed endorsements from Sports or Societies clubs as a body or collective, but members within the group may individually decide to endorse or support candidates.

- **SU student staff member**

You can endorse and campaign for candidates in elections but not while you are on shift, wearing staff uniform or using platforms given to you as a part of your role. This includes GSU Officers and Student Staff.

ELIGIBILITY

Thera are certain criterion which members must fulfil before being eligible to run or vote in the student leader elections. These are outlined below. If you have any questions around eligibility please contact elections@greenwich.ac.uk

Candidates can run for multiple positions and students may vote for as many roles as they are eligible to.

You can only hold one role within each Student Group.

NOMINATING

Student Groups:
To run for a Student Group committee position, candidates must:
- Have full student status for the year 2022/23
- Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union or Kent Students' Union
- Be a member of the respective student group
- Not be on a placement, year abroad, exchange program or apprenticeship for the elected academic year.

School Network Officer:
To run for a School Network Officer position, candidates must:
- Have full student status for the year 2022/23
- Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union
- Be a student within the respective school they are applying to be an executive of.
- Not be on a placement, year abroad, exchange program or apprenticeship for the elected academic year.

Programme Reps:
To run for a Programme Rep, candidates must:
- Have full student status for the year 2022/23
- Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union
- Be a student on the respective programme and year of study they are applying for
- Not be on a placement, year abroad, exchange program or apprenticeship for the elected academic year.

Associate members:
- Associate members of GSU cannot run in the student leader elections.

Exceptions
Exceptions to the eligibility may be given by the Deputy Returning Officers.

If you have any questions or difficulties nominating or voting please email elections@gre.ac.uk

VOTING

Student Groups:
To vote for a Student Group committee position, students must:
- Have full student status for the year 2021/22
- Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union or Kent Students' Union
- Only members of the student group will be able to vote in the elections.

School Network Officer:
To vote for a School Network Officer students must:

- Have full student status for the year 2021/22
- Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union
- Students can only vote for candidates in the school to which their programme of study belongs to.

Programme Reps:
To vote for a Programme Rep position, students must:
- Have full student status for the year 2021/22
- Be a full member of Greenwich Students' Union
- Only students from the programme of the programme representative role and year of study are eligible to vote for the respective role.

Associate members:
- Associate members of GSU cannot vote in the student leader elections.

COMPLAINTS

The Elections Team will strive to deal with complaints informally in the first instance.

Complaints form:
forms.office.com/r/exc09uKPBV

- All formal complaints about candidates must be reported using the complaints form which is submitted to the Deputy Returning Officer

- Any complaints about candidate conduct should be submitted within 24 hours of the alleged incident. The complaints deadline is three hours after the elections close.

- To appeal any complaint, candidates must do so in writing to the Returning Officer via elections@gre.ac.uk. Appeals must be submitted within 24 hours of notification of the complaint, or by the appeals deadline. The appeals deadline is four days after the elections close.

- The Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer will decide on the penalty (if any) of any candidate complaint. This can range from a verbal warning to disqualification from the Election. The Returning Officer is responsible for the final interpretation of these rules and the final decision.

- No candidate may challenge the result of the Election once the count has started.

- The Deputy Returning Officer reserves the right to consider complaints that are made maliciously, or to purposefully disrupt a candidate's campaign. The Deputy Returning Officer may take disciplinary action accordingly.