

1708 A better election

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Union notes:

1. That the 2015 Union Elections ('Leadership Race') had numerous rule changes, and unclear rulings throughout
2. That less than a third of candidates were women, when more than half of the student population are women, with just four women officers elected.
3. That many candidates were unduly stressed by the events of results night, with some experiencing extreme anxiety.
4. That there was little support offered throughout the week, and none available on results night.

Union believes:

1. That any student should be able to run in the elections
2. That no student should feel unable to run owing to personal circumstance
3. That the Union of UEA Students has a duty to protect candidates during elections, and should strive to support candidates to the best of its ability.
4. That the Union should not seek to create a spectacle with students' or candidates' emotions.

Union resolves:

1. To mandate the Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer to ensure there is sufficient welfare provision and support for candidates throughout the election process, especially results night.
2. To mandate the Women's Officer to run a 'she should stand' campaign (or similar) in the run up to elections.
3. To mandate the Campaigns and Democracy Officer to ensure that election rules are made sufficiently clear before, and not altered during the election periods, to ensure that hustings are suitably advertised, to ensure candidates welfare is considered when deciding upon the results process, and to ensure candidates are informed in advance of this process.