

**1780 Improving the rule-making process for Union Elections** passed 29  
October 15

Proposed by: L McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer)  
Seconded by: A Patel (Feminist Society)

**Union notes:**

- 1) That, at present, the mechanism for drawing up rules and regulations for Union Elections is split between different institutions;
- 2) That in the last round of elections, a number of long-standing regulations were removed, such as the provision for society committees to endorse candidates and for all expenses to be refunded;
- 3) That elections will be held some time before April 2016 for NUS National Conference delegates.

**Union believes:**

- 1) That election rules should be determined in a transparent and open manner by elected representatives of students;
- 2) That election rules and regulations cannot be made by Union Council as a 300-member body cannot meet quickly to make snap decisions, nor can it debate extensively the detailed issues of election regulations given the numerous other issues drawing its attention;
- 3) That members of Student Officer Committee often go on to run in further elections
- 4) That, in addition to noting Union believes 1), our members consistently tell us they want a more open and transparent Union
- 5) That nobody considering running for election or re-election should have an advantage over any other member because they were able to input into the election process, rules and regulations
- 6) That the Student Officer Committee should be able to input into the election timetable through recommendations
- 7) That an independent committee accountable to Union Council should be the body that examines and makes detailed recommendations on election rules and regulations;
- 8) That a majority of this committee should be non-officer members of Union Council;
- 9) That we should strive for rules and regulations for elections to be finalised and published at least 1 month prior to any ballot, to ensure that candidates can familiarise themselves with the rules, inform their campaign team and plan accordingly. Where this is not possible, we should strive for rules to not be changed or revised after nominations have closed.

**Union resolves:**

- 1) To set up a 5-member "Union Election Rules Working Group" which will consist of:
  - a) The Campaigns & Democracy Officer;
  - b) The Chair of the Democratic Procedures Committee;

- c) Three Union Councillors, elected by Union Council by the Single Transferable Vote method of election. At least one of the councillors must self-identify as a non-male gender;
- d) A Chair, elected from among the working group by the members.

2) That these members' terms will last until the end of the academic year save that in the event that they became a candidate in an election for a role other than student council they would resign from the committee

3) The role of the group will be to:

- a) Examine the issues around rules and regulations for Union Elections, within the confines of the principles set out in the SU by-laws and the Constitution and with a focus on clarity and accessibility
- b) To make recommendations on the bye laws for elections to Union Council
- c) To make recommendations on the regulations for a given election to the Returning Officer/Deputy Returning Officer
- d) Along with the Student Officer Committee to make recommendations on the timetable for a given election to the Returning Officer/Deputy Returning Officer

4) That the Working Group will adopt its final recommendations by a simple majority vote and will report these to Union Council;

5) That where the Returning Officer does not adopt a recommendation, that this is reported to Union Council with a clear justification.