

## Bye-Law 5 Elections

To be read in conjunction with:

- RUSU Constitution
- University of Reading Calendar
- Education Act 1994
- Charities Act 2011
- RUSU Elections Rules
- NUS Election Rules

### General Provision

The RUSU Elections Committee has responsibility to oversee all RUSU Elections to ensure that they are run in accordance with the Elections Rules and relevant regulations.

The following posts shall be elected by cross-campus ballot:

- Officer Trustees
- Elected Student Trustees
- NUS Conference Delegates
- Environment & Ethics Part-Time Officer (PTO)
- Student Voice Open Positions

The following posts shall be elected by specific groups of members:

- All remaining PTO positions
- School Representatives
- Course Representatives
- Junior Common Room (JCR) Social Committee Members

### By-Elections

If an Officer Trustee/Elected Student Trustee becomes vacant before the end of the first term of the academic year then a by-election will be held to fill that position

If an Officer Trustee/Elected Student Trustee becomes vacant after the first term of the academic year then the post will remain vacant until the next scheduled elections

A by-election will be held to fill any other vacant post following an election

### Eligibility to Stand for Election

Officer Trustee/Elected Student Trustees

- All Full Members are eligible to stand for any position unless this contravenes the Education Act 1994
- All candidates must confirm that they are not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee under the Charities Act 2011 by signing a Charity Trustee Declaration Form before the close of nominations.

The following definitions apply to Part Time Officer elections

### **Women's Officer**

RUSU defines a woman as anyone who self-defines as a woman, including (if they wish) those with complex gender identities which include 'woman', and those who experience oppression as women.

### **Disabled Students' Officer**

RUSU defines a disabled student as anyone who self-defines as disabled; they may be affected by a condition, which has a substantial long-term impact on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities. This definition encompasses both hidden and physical impairments, and mental health issues.

### **Black, Minority Ethnic (BME) Officer**

RUSU defines a BME student as anyone who self-defines as Black or any other minority ethnic group.

### **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans + (LGBT+) Officer**

RUSU defines an LGBT+ student as anyone who self-defines as a lesbian, gay, bi, trans or within any other sexual minority or gender identity.

### **International Students' Officer**

RUSU defines an international student as anyone who comes to the UK to study. This includes students from both within and outside the European Union (EU).

### **Undergraduate Mature Students' Officer**

RUSU defines an undergraduate mature student as an undergraduate student who started their course aged 21 and over. RUSU also considers students who have been financially independent for three years prior to the start of their undergraduate course; students with caring responsibilities and those that are care leavers as mature students.

### **Postgraduate Taught Students' Officer**

RUSU defines a postgraduate taught student as a student on a postgraduate taught mode of study.

### **Postgraduate Research Students' Officer**

RUSU defines a postgraduate research student as a student on a postgraduate research mode of study.

## **London Road Officer**

RUSU defines a London Road student as a student who is studying a course that is predominantly taught at the London Road Campus

### Nominations

All nominations shall be submitted via an accessible process agreed by the RUSU Elections Committee.

Any nomination must include the name and student number of the candidate.

Certain elections require candidates to self-define in one of the categories above to be eligible to stand in that election.

No candidate may stand for more than one position in the same election.

### Voting

Each Full Member of RUSU shall have one vote. No Full Member shall have more than one vote per election or referendum.

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 (RON) as a candidate.

Should RON be an elected candidate in an Officer Trustee/Elected Student Trustee elections then the post in question shall remain vacant until a by-election is held.

Should RON be an elected candidate in any other election then the surplus of votes will be transferred to the next eligible candidate.

If the result of voting in an election is a tie then the decision will be made based on a single coin toss.

### Rights of Full Members of RUSU

#### Officer Trustee/Elected Student Trustee elections

- All Full Members are eligible to act as part of a candidate's campaign team with the exception of current Officer Trustees
- All Full Members have the right to vote by secret ballot

#### NUS Conference Delegate Elections

- The RUSU President is, ex officio, one of the NUS Conference Delegates
- All Full Members are eligible to act as part of a candidate's campaign team with the exception of current Officer Trustees
- These elections are subject to NUS Election Rules.

### Appointment Of The Returning Officer

The Returning Officer shall be the NUS Returning Officer for Officer Trustee, Elected Student Trustee and NUS Conference Delegate Elections.

They shall be responsible for the good conduct and administration of the elections and shall have sole interpretation of the Election Bye-Law and Elections Rules.

The RUSU Chief Executive (or their Deputy) will act as the Deputy Returning Officer for Officer Trustee, Elected Student Trustee and NUS Conference Delegate Elections.

The RUSU Chief Executive (or their Deputy) will act as the Returning Officer for all other RUSU elections.

### The Powers Of The Returning Officer

- The Returning Officer may appoint a Deputy Returning Officer and other members of the Elections Committee to ensure the good administration and promotion of the election
- The Returning Officer may remove members of the Elections Committee who are not carrying out the Returning Officer's instructions or acting in an impartial manner
- The Returning Officer may seek legal advice if they believe that statements made or the contents of publicity could leave RUSU and/or the University of Reading open to legal action
- The Returning Officer can rule out of order any statement or the contents of any publicity which in their view is in breach of the Constitution, Bye-Laws, Elections Rules or other RUSU policies including the Equality and Diversity Policy.

### Dealing with Complaints

All complaints must be directed to the Elections Committee.

All complaints must be lodged with the Elections Committee before the close of voting.

In determining a complaint, the Returning Officer may decide to:

- not uphold the complaint
- halt elections for the specified post(s)
- issue a written warning
- disqualify the candidate(s)

The count will not be commenced until all complaints have been investigated and determined.

A Full Member of RUSU may appeal to the Trustee Board against a ruling of the Returning Officer but such an appeal will only be successful if supported by a majority of all Trustees. (?)