



## ELECTION RULES

### Lent 2019

Contravening the election rules may result in an informal warning, a formal warning, a campaign ban or disqualification. The Elections Committee shall strictly enforce penalties, and all candidates are strongly advised to consult the Committee if they are unsure of any aspect of the rules. The following principles underpin how we believe the elections should be contested:

- Do only what other candidates have an equal opportunity to do
- Treat all students, candidates and staff members with respect
- If in doubt, ask the Elections Committee first

<b>1. CAMPAIGNING</b>
1.1 Campaigning is any action that is used for the purpose of promoting your candidacy in a CUSU election.
1.2 This includes: flyers, posters, badges, campaign clothing, props, banners, face to face communication, events (e.g. hustings), use of social media, websites etc.
<b>2. WHO CAN CAMPAIGN?</b>
2.1 Members of CUSU and GU staff are not allowed to campaign or show preference to any candidates in any elections. Full-time elected Officers may not campaign for any candidate, except themselves.
2.2 Full time elected Officers who wish to stand for election cannot campaign on paid time and must take annual leave if campaigning during work hours.
2.3 Students should not seek or promote endorsements from anyone not a member of CUSU or the GU.
2.4 Candidates' campaigners do not have to be registered with CUSU. However, anyone who the Elections Committee believes to be campaigning to the advantage of a candidate will be held to these election rules. Candidates should make all reasonable efforts before and during the campaign to ensure that their campaigners understand and follow the election rules.
2.5 Clubs and Societies may endorse a candidate if they democratically decide to do so in accordance with their own constitutional requirements. Evidence of the way in which the decision was taken must be made available to the Elections Committee on request. JCRs, MCRs and the Liberation Campaigns may not endorse candidates. Selective moderation of posts to email lists, groups or social media pages resulting in any candidate(s) being favoured shall be considered an endorsement.
<b>3. HOW CAN I CAMPAIGN?</b>
3.1 Fly-posting, graffiti and other forms of defacement are all illegal in Cambridge and cannot be used. In addition, the defacing or removal of other candidate's materials is prohibited.
3.2 Use of pre-existing email lists, social media pages or groups for the purpose of promoting your

candidacy is not permitted. When sending electronic messages of any sort (text, email, WhatsApp etc.) for this purpose, they must only be sent to friends and your campaigners. The only exception to this rule is if a Society has decided to endorse a candidate; they may then use their own mailing lists etc. to announce this. Selective promotion of a candidate from a non-society social media page shall be considered a pre-existing list for these purposes.

3.3 Slates (groups of candidates supporting one another) are not permitted. Candidates cannot campaign for candidates in a different election, cannot share resources with other candidates and cannot endorse any other candidates. Campaign team members can support multiple candidates, but they cannot campaign for multiple candidates at the same time.

3.4 Candidates and campaigners may not make reference to another candidate's personal attributes. They may make reference to their political beliefs, manifesto commitments and record in office providing references are not slanderous. (G.8.iii, *CUSU Standing Orders*)

3.5 No candidate or member of their campaign team, or any other person attempting to influence a voter may approach within three metres of an individual when they are casting their ballot, unless inadvertently doing so.

**3.6 Hate speech, including any language or action which is deemed racist, sexist, ableist, homophobic or transphobic, is banned in all contexts.**

#### 4. WHEN CAN I CAMPAIGN?

4.1 Candidates may campaign only during the campaigning and voting period:

- Campaigning opens - 09:00 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October
- Voting opens – 09:00 Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October
- Voting closes – 17:00 Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

4.2 Candidates **may not** publicly announce their candidacy until the campaigning period opens.

#### 5. CAMPAIGN SPENDING

5.1 All candidates in a CUSU election will have access to a campaigns budget provided by CUSU. The amount will depend on the position you are standing for. To ensure that no student is disadvantaged due to financial circumstances, CUSU can order materials on your behalf, reimburse you throughout the election or reimburse students at the end of the election period. Students are also encouraged to use the CUSU Print Service where the cost of printing will be deducted from your spending cost.

5.2	Position	Money you can spend
	Full-time sabbatical roles	£100
	University Councillor and Ethical Affairs Officer	£70

5.3 If using materials you already own, you must declare these to the Elections Committee, who will attribute a cost to be taken out of your campaigning budget. When using free resources, these must all be readily available to all candidates.

5.4 CUSU must receive receipts to log candidates' spending no later than noon on the day that voting closes.

#### 6. QUERIES, CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

6.1 If at any point a candidate, campaigner or student has concerns about the election or its process, the Elections Committee should be contacted immediately: [elections@cusu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:elections@cusu.cam.ac.uk)

6.2 The Elections Committee may be approached informally at any time for guidance, clarification of the rules or a ruling, without submitting an official complaint.

6.3 Complaints must be received by the Elections Committee within 24 hours of observing, or becoming aware of, the incident in question *and* not later than 24 hours after the closing of polls.

6.4 The Elections Committee will acknowledge all complaints within 24 hours of receipt.

- CUSU Elections Committee Returning Officer: **Alex Russell**
- CUSU Elections Committee Deputy Returning Officer: **Sofia Ropek Hewson**