

## Leadership Elections 2018

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Preparations will begin soon for our next major elections cycle – the Leadership Elections 2018 (LE18). It is customary to update the Governance Committee on the details of the election, such as the timetable, position list and project management plans.
- 1.2. Some aspects of the election must be authorised by the Governance Committee (either in person or via email), which is discussed below.

### 2. Election Details

- 2.1. Formally, the election timetable is set by the Returning Officer once they are appointed. However it is standard practice to propose a timetable in advance of their appointment. I propose that LE18 take place to the following timetable, which places the election in broadly the same stage of the academic year as the previous cycles:

	2015	2016	2017	<b>2018</b>
Nominations open	00:01, Monday 2 February	00:01, Monday 1 February	00:01, Monday 30 January	<b>00:01, Monday 29 January</b>
Nominations close	23:59, Sunday 1 March	23:59, Sunday 28 February	23:59, Sunday 26 February	<b>23:59, Sunday 25 February</b>
Your Candidates Revealed	12:00, Monday 2 March	13:00, Monday 29 February	12:00, Monday 27 February	<b>12:00, Monday 26 February</b>
Manifesto deadline	17:00, Monday 2 March	17:00, Monday 29 February	17:00, Monday 27 February	<b>17:00, Monday 26 February</b>
Meet the Candidates	16:00, Wednesday 4 March	16:00, Wednesday 2 March	16:00, Wednesday 1 March	<b>16:00, Wednesday 28 February</b>
Voting opens	12:00, Friday 6 March	12:00, Friday 4 March	12:00, Friday 3 March	<b>12:00, Friday 2 March</b>
Voting closes	12:00, Friday 13 March	12:00, Friday 11 March	12:00, Friday 10 March	<b>12:00, Friday 9 March</b>
Results Party	18:00, Friday 13 March	18:00, Friday 11 March	18:00, Friday 10 March	<b>18:00, Friday 9 March</b>

- 2.2. The following positions are currently expected to be included:

- 2.2.1. Officer Trustees
- 2.2.2. Elected Student Trustees
- 2.2.3. Council Chair

- 2.2.4. Felix Editor
- 2.2.5. Constituent Union Committees (GSU participation to be clarified in January)
- 2.2.6. Liberation Officers
- 2.2.7. Academic and Wellbeing Departmental Representatives
- 2.2.8. Committees of CSPs with membership over threshold (to be agreed in consultation with Activities Team)

### **3. Governance Committee responsibilities**

- 3.1. Imperial College Union's Bye-laws state that for Major Elections, the Governance Committee must do the following:
- 3.2. *"Appoint an appropriately qualified person to act as the Returning Officer, who may not be a current Member of the Union and whose appointment must be ratified by the Trustee Board"*
- 3.3. Former Returning Officers are unavailable or inappropriate for various reasons:
  - 3.3.1. Pari Dhillon, Returning Officer for the Leadership Elections 2017, has since been commissioned as an independent contractor by Imperial College Union to produce our Liberation Review. Consequently, we do not consider Pari a suitable candidate as her financial relationship with Imperial College Union could be perceived to create a conflict of interest.
  - 3.3.2. Alex Mckee, Returning Officer for the Autumn Elections 2016, has stated that he would prefer not to be considered as a potential Returning Officer for LE18 as it was likely he would be familiar with candidates for Officer Trustee positions due to his previous role as a senior manager here.
- 3.4. I am currently approaching CEO-level staff at other students' unions as prospective Returning Officers. My preferred candidate is Ian Dancy, Chief Executive of Students' Union UCL, who was Returning Officer for the Autumn Elections 2017. I have offered a reciprocal arrangement where I would return their March elections and Ian would return ours; we have not yet fully agreed this arrangement.
- 3.5. When a suitable prospective Returning Officer has been found, they will be circulated to Governance Committee for appointment and then the Board of Trustees for ratification. As in previous years, this will be done by email.

### **4. Discussion points**

- 4.1. Evaluations of previous election cycles have generated several suggestions for improvement, some of which relate to the governance and management of elections
  - 4.1.1. For the working group ('elections team') to begin its work earlier and in a more formal manner, with timely minutes and action trackers from the beginning
  - 4.1.2. For communication of the roles of Officer Trustees and other senior student volunteers to be more coherently communicated well in advance of elections

4.1.3. For the technical aspects, such as setting up the voter rolls and software, to be documented more clearly with reduced reliance on individual staff members

4.2. **Question for discussion: What does the Governance Committee recommend be implemented to improve the management and planning of this election cycle?**

## **5. Recommendations**

5.1. That Governance Committee endorse the proposed timetable

5.2. That Governance Committee endorse the proposed position list

5.3. That Governance Committee endorse the approach to recruiting a Returning Officer

5.4. That Governance Committee discuss and make suggestions regarding the management of the elections process and what input they would like to have in it