

Clubs, Societies and Project Elections

A note by Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Abi de Bruin and the Student Activities Manager Anthony Crowther

- The Majority of DepSoc elections are already online as part of the Big Elections; all DepSocs contain a large number of students such that a vote in person would be impractical with no obvious college space to hold a full turnout vote in. The move to online should not be contentious here.
- Other groups need more consideration:
 - a. Should all club elections take place online or does this lead to 'voter fatigue'?
 - b. Is an online vote appropriate for smaller clubs that have problems filling roles even with nominations from the floor?
 - c. Should there be a number of members at which an election has to take place online?
 - d. Does it need to be more qualitative than a simple numbers divide?
 - e. Should we give clubs an opt-in to online voting if they don't meet whichever criteria we set as being put automatically online?
 - f. How would we manage and communicate the transition to online voting?
 - g. Who would actually be responsible for putting a clubs' elections online? There would need to be a deadline for a clubs constitution so we knew what positions to put online.
 - h. Who would be returning officer for club elections if they are done at the same time as the big elections? A member of staff or the same RO? It should be noted that elections is one of the busiest times of the year for student activities and as such may be unrealistic to get a member of staff to add to their workload in this period.
 - i. Would we have to allow big online elections for main roles and then minor elections offline for deputy positions etc.
 - j. Open vs Closed nominations for club elections?
 - k. What would we do with Management Group and Constituent Union elections?
 - l. Would it be functionally possible to create a cut-off date for purchasing memberships that allows you to be a voting member in the club elections – for example only the students that are members at the close of nominations?
- What are the actual benefits and costs to moving voting online for the different groups liable to be affected here: Sabbatical Roles, CUs, MGs, Reps, Large CSPs, Small CSPs etc.

Proposals for CSP Elections

- Above a certain membership CSP elections should be put automatically online, with the capacity for smaller clubs to opt in to online
- Those CSP as mentioned above should be allowed to run minor elections offline after the main club elections to fill remaining positions