

Leadership Elections 2017 – Governance Committee

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Preparations are underway for the next elections cycle – the Leadership Elections 2017 (LE17). At this stage, it is customary to update the Governance Committee on the details of the election.
- 1.2. Some aspects of the elections must be authorised by the Governance Committee (either in person or via email), the details of which are also discussed below.

2. Election Details

- 2.1. LE17 will take place to the following timetable:

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

- 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. Liberation Officers
- 2.2.6. Departmental Representatives (Undergraduate)
- 2.2.7. Constituent Union Committees (GSU participation to be clarified)
- 2.2.8. Committees of CSPs with over 150 members

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. The Returning Officer used for the Autumn elections, UCLU senior manager Alex Mckee (formerly senior manager at ICU), had made it clear he was not to be considered as a potential RO for LE17 as it was likely he would be familiar with candidates.
- 3.4. The Managing Director and Head of Student Voice & Communications are currently approaching CEO-level staff at other students' unions as prospective Returning Officers.
- 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. Other election information

- 4.1. Preparation for LE17 will take into account the lessons learnt during LE16 and the Autumn Elections 2016 (AE16). These include:
 - 4.1.1. Proactive management of the risks posed by technical and software challenges, such as the two incidents that affected AE16.
 - 4.1.2. Development and promotion of a new set of messages around the current Officer Trustee Team and the Officer Trustee roles themselves, as agreed by the recent Communications Committee.
 - 4.1.3. Creation of an overarching working practice document for elections management.
 - 4.1.4. Improved support and training for Deputy Returning Officers.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. Governance Committee note the proposed timetable for LE17.
- 5.2. Governance Committee note that the search for a Returning Officer continues, and gives their approval for an email vote to be held once a candidate (or candidates) is identified.
- 5.3. Governance Committee note the steps taken to prepare for LE17 in light of the successes and challenges of previous elections cycles.