

Leadership Elections 2018 – Update

The November 2017 Governance Committee set out a new schedule for our Leadership Elections cycle, which has been adopted by the Elections working group. As requested, here is a brief update on our progress so far:

Work area	Update
Calendar	The new calendar has been implemented, with a truncated campaigning period and the simultaneous reveal of candidates and opening of voting as requested. The opening of nominations has been deferred by 48 hours to provide five clear College days between the 23 January Union Council and the opening of nominations.
Technical	Challenges to our voting system posed by the calendar change have been identified and tackled. The process for exposing manifestos online has been updated and the key dates have been entered into eVoting, our voting software.
Communications	The new Marketing & Communications Manager, Keriann Lee, is producing a refreshed communications plan and design collateral, as well as fresh online content and candidate resources. A stakeholder engagement grid has been created.
Position list	Constituent Union positions are being approved at Union Council on 23 Jan, as well as Liberation Officer and Officer Trustee role descriptions; Academic & Wellbeing Network roles have been confirmed by the relevant staff; CSP roles are being confirmed with individual CSPs by the Activities team.
Training	The new calendar enables a focused training period for candidates that does not cross over with campaigning or voting. Potentially the single biggest challenge in comparison to previous election cycles will be the generation of adequate training materials and the allocation of staff and officer resources to offer them; this is a challenge the working group is currently focusing on.
Election management	Fran Hyatt and Iain Pullar will be Deputy Returning Officers. I have had no contact from Ian Darby at Students' Union UCL regarding potential Returning Officers; I have contacted Ben MacPhee at Canterbury Christ Church SU on a personal recommendation.
Student media	ICTV, IC Radio, Felix and the Debating Society have all been informed of the election timetable and discussions are ongoing regarding their support for promotions, campaigning and the planned candidate debate.

Questions and suggestions are welcome.