

Motion on Union Elections Rule Enforcement

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Union Notes

1. There is a complaints form for candidates in elections such as the Big Elections¹ which is handled by the Deputy Returning Officers (DRO) and Returning Officer (RO).
2. The current bye-laws² do not mandate the RO to handle a formal appeals process for the outcome of complaints against candidates.
3. There have been cases^{3,4} where complainants followed up with the DROs in order to find out about the outcome of their complaints only to be told that their complaints were "handled" with no further information, which has led to instances of student dissatisfaction.
4. In the Leadership Elections 2018, campaigning rules were set out in the Candidates' Pack⁵, which did not explicitly prohibit candidates from bribery or encouraging students to sign up for a society in order to vote for them.

Union Believes

1. The Union should ensure that its elections are transparent in as many reasonable aspects as possible.
2. The lack of details of complaint outcomes given to complainants inhibits the transparency of the elections process.
3. Campaigning rules should be reviewed and more explicit rules should be added to reflect on violations from past elections.

Union Resolves

1. To make it standard procedure to make the complainant aware of exactly what action was taken as soon as a complaint is handled.
2. To add a formal appeals process allowing the complainants and relevant candidate(s) to appeal as soon as a complaint is handled.
3. To ensure that campaigning rules explicitly:
 - a. disallow candidates from encouraging other students to sign up to a society with intent to gain votes from these students;
 - b. define and prevent the act of bribery.
4. To ensure that statistics are published about the number and type of complaints received, and the number and type of infractions given in order to improve transparency.

1

<https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/leadership-elections-2018/information-for-candidates/complaints-form> (accessed 6th March 2018)

2 <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/sites/default/files/Bye-Laws%20Nov%202012.pdf>

3 https://www.facebook.com/memeperial/posts/1682231978481841?comment_id=1682232901815082

4 https://www.facebook.com/memeperial/posts/1682231978481841?comment_id=1682282455143460

5 https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/sites/default/files/Leadership-Elections-2018_Candidates-Pack.pdf