



Imperial College Union Governance Committee

2 July 2018

AGENDA ITEM NO.	7
TITLE	Autumn Election dates 2019
AUTHOR	Keriann Lee Head of Student Voice & Communications
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	It is proposed that Autumn Elections 2019 be delayed by a week to facilitate greater awareness among new and returning students before polls are conducted, without also affecting the operation of bodies which rely on these roles.
PURPOSE	To approve dates for Autumn Elections
DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED	To review and approve proposed dates

Introduction

Nominations for Autumn Elections usually open on the first day of term each academic year. This allows just enough time to elect Reps (primarily Academic Reps, Wellbeing Reps and Reps to Council) before Student Staff Committees and Union Council meet for the first time towards the end of October.

However, this poses a challenge to participation since new students are often not acquainted with our complex representation structures before they are asked to stand for positions. It also doesn't allow much time to prime returning students who are bombarded with lots of information at the start of each term.

Last year, this was combatted through the provision of more information during the Welcome process. That meant the concept of electing reps was introduced during the digital channels for A Level Results Day in August and was reinforced further in other communications before arrival such as email and at Union stalls and events such as fair during the Welcome period.

This helped increase engagement among first year students and helped contributed to the robust turnout seen in the last election.

This year, the Elections Working Group proposes to go one step further in attempting to offset this challenge by pushing the polls back by one week. This would still allow time for SSC meetings and would allow all reps to be in place before the second proposed Union Council meeting on 5 November as is customary.

2018 dates for Autumn Elections

- **Nomination period:** 12:00, Saturday 29 September - 12:00, Wednesday 10 October
- **Candidates' Briefing:** 13:00, Wednesday 10 October, Pippard Lecture Theatre (Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus)
- **Manifesto deadline:** 12:00, Thursday 11 October
- **Manifestos published and campaigning begins:** 7:00, Friday 12 October
- **Voting:** 12:00, Monday 15 October - 12:00 - Friday 19 October
- **Results:** online and via email to candidates, Friday 19 October

Proposed 2019 dates for Autumn Elections

- **Nomination period:** 12:00, Thursday 3 October - 12:00, Monday 14 October
- **Candidates' Briefing:** 13:00, Tuesday 15 October
- **Manifesto deadline:** 12:00, Wednesday 16 October
- **Manifestos published and campaigning begins:** 12:00, Thursday 17 October
- **Voting:** 12:00, Monday 21 October - 14:00 – Thursday 24 October
- **Complaints deadline:** 5pm, Thursday 24 October
- **Results:** online and via email to candidates, Friday 19 October