

UWA SCIENCE UNION

ELECTION REGULATIONS

Current as of 3rd October 2017

Date of last amendments made: 13th October 2015

In accordance with clause 7.6 of the Science Union Constitution, the Science Union Committee provides Election Regulations as follows:

1 NOMINATIONS

1.1 Persons wishing to contest Elected Office-Bearer positions must submit a completed Nomination Form in order to be validly nominated.

1.1.1 The Nomination Forms shall be made available by the Returning Officers in the Science Library Foyer, before the Annual General Meeting, at a Special General Meeting, should it occur no more than one week before an Annual General Meeting and on Social Media, along with copies of these Regulations.

1.2 Persons wishing to contest Elected Office-Bearer positions may, in addition to the completed Nomination Form, also submit the following documents as part of their nomination:

1.2.1 A poster designed by the person to advertise his or her candidacy that shall: consist of images and/or text; be no more than one A5 page; have margins of not less than 1.5cm; and have type no smaller than 12 pt; and

1.2.2 A photograph of the person taken not more than six months prior to the AGM at which the person must confirm his or her nomination

1.3 No campaigning material shall make reference to any other person contesting any Elected Office-Bearer position.

1.4 Persons wishing to contest Elected Office-Bearer positions must submit one Nomination Form stating each position they wish to contest. They may submit a photograph, a profile and a poster for each position they wish to nominate for.

1.5 Nominations shall be submitted to the Returning Officers by:

1.5.1 Depositing Nomination Forms in the appropriate box in the Science Library Foyer; or

1.5.2 Posting Nomination Forms by mail addressed to the Returning Officers, care of the Science Union.

1.5.3 E-mail to the Returning Officers from a student email, care of the Science Union

1.6 Nominations must be received by the Returning Officers before start of business at the Annual General Meeting

1.7 Where a person wishing to contest an Elected Office-Bearer position wishes to submit the additional documents referred to in Regulation 1.2, he or she must:

1.7.1 Submit hardcopy and electronic versions of the poster by the beginning of the Annual General Meeting;

1.7.2 Submit electronic versions of the photograph and profile before start of business at the Annual General Meeting at which the person must confirm his or her nomination;

1.7.3 Submit the hardcopy version of the poster by submitting it into the Science Union office;

1.7.4 Submit the electronic versions of the poster, photograph and profile in the file type specified by the Returning Officers and via the method specified by the Returning Officers.

1.8 The Returning Officers may refuse to accept a nomination or any additional documents that do not comply with these Regulations.

2 CONFIRMATION

2.1 At the Annual General Meeting, the Returning Officers shall read each nomination in turn, specifying:

2.1.1 The name of the nominee; and

2.1.2 The Elected Office-Bearer position for which the nominee has nominated.

2.2 When the Returning Officers read a nominee's nomination at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Regulation 2.1, that nominee shall confirm or withdraw the nomination.

2.3 Subject to Regulation 2.4, if a nominee is not present in person at the Annual General Meeting, that nominee's nomination shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

2.4 A person may confirm a nomination on behalf of a nominee not present in person at the Annual General Meeting where the nominee has:

2.4.1 In the opinion of the Returning Officers, a reasonable excuse for not being present in person; and

2.4.2 Informed the Returning Officers of that excuse before the Annual General Meeting.

3 CAMPAIGNING

3.1 Subject to Regulations 3.2, there shall be no campaigning, oral or written, by or on behalf of any nominee.

3.1.1 If a candidate should be aware of campaigning on their behalf it is their responsibility to remove the campaigning at the earliest reasonably possible time, else the Returning Officers should treat the campaigning as being done on their behalf.

3.2 Nominees may communicate their nomination and their reasons for nominating to other students through the following means, except that nominees may not refer to any other nominee for any other elected Office-Bearer position

3.2.1 Nominees may speak about their nomination in private to other students except for in lectures, the Voting Booth and its surrounding areas;

3.2.2 Nominees may send private messages to individual students but are not allowed to "spam" which is defined as contacting the same student/s on multiple occasions or sending messages to groups of people requesting their vote; and

3.2.3 Nominees may give a short speech at the Annual General Meeting. For Presidential candidates positions this may extend for a maximum of 4 minutes. For Executive positions other than the President, this may extend for a maximum of 2 minutes. For all other positions this may extend for a maximum of 1 minute.

3.3 The Returning Officers shall have absolute discretion in sanctioning a nominee who breaches Regulations 3.1, 3.2 or 3.3, or who knowingly permits or instructs another to do so. Sanctions available to the Returning Officers include, but are not limited to:

3.3.1 Verbally warning the nominee;

3.3.2 Removing the poster submitted by the nominee from the display boards in the area around the ballot box; and

3.3.3 Striking out the nomination of the nominee, this is encouraged if the breaches may have, in the minds of the Returning Officers, encouraged more people to vote than the difference between the candidates.

3.4 It is expected that those running for an position are aware of these regulations and claims of ignorance of these rules should be treated equally as to if they had deliberately breached the regulations.

4 ELECTORAL INFORMATION

4.1 The Returning Officers shall display boards in the area around the ballot box displaying the posters submitted by nominees in accordance with Regulation 1.2 during polling times.

4.2 The Returning Officers shall compile the photographs and profiles submitted in accordance with Regulation 1.2 into a book or document format, and shall make copies of that document available:

4.2.1 At the ballot box during all polling hours; and

4.2.2 On the Science Union Elections page from the first day of polling.

5 BALLOTS

5.1 This Regulation applies to all ballots for all Elected Office-Bearer positions listed in the Constitution.

5.2 The President shall provide to the Returning Officers a list of all Ordinary Members of the Society current as at the opening of the Annual General Meeting, which shall serve as the Roll.

5.3 The Returning Officers shall prepare ballot cards for the Elected Office-Bearer position.

5.3.1 Each ballot card shall specify:

5.3.1.1 the Elected Office-Bearer positions to which it relates;

5.3.1.2 the names of the nominees for that Elected Office- Bearer position;

. 5.3.1.3 that preferences should be indicated by numbering the boxes in order; and

. 5.3.1.4 that it is not necessary to number all boxes.

5.3.2 Each ballot card shall provide space for the Returning Officers' initials.

5.3.3 The Returning Officers shall randomly determine the order in which nominees' names appear on ballot cards.

5.4 Ballots shall be cast as follows:

5.4.1 The Returning Officers shall set up a ballot box in the Science Library Foyer.

5.4.2 Persons seeking to vote may present themselves to the Returning Officers at the ballot box between 12.00pm and 2.00pm on the days appointed for the ballot.

5.4.3 The Returning Officers shall provide ballot cards to a person seeking to vote, in accordance with Regulation 5.5, if the person seeking to vote:

5.4.3.1 Is an Ordinary Member appearing on the Roll;

5.4.3.2 Presents a UWA Campus Card as proof of identity.

5.4.4 Persons seeking to vote shall:

5.4.4.1 Indicate their preferences by numbering the box next to the name of each nominee in order; and

5.4.4.2 Cast their ballot by depositing their ballot cards in the ballot box.

5.5 The Returning Officers shall provide ballot cards to a person seeking to vote as follows:

5.5.1 Before providing ballot cards to a person seeking to vote, the Returning Officers shall initial those ballot cards in the space provided in accordance with Regulation 5.3.2.

5.5.2 The Returning Officers shall provide all persons seeking to vote with ballots for:

5.5.2.1 President;

5.5.2.2 Education Vice-President, External Affairs Vice- President, Social Vice-President and Welfare Vice- President;

5.5.2.3 Secretary and Treasurer;

5.5.2.4 Media Officer and Online Promotions;

5.5.2.5 Female Sports Coordinator, Male Sports Coordinator and Competitions Officer;

5.5.2.6 Careers Officer, Education Officer(s), Social Officer(s) and Welfare Officer; and

5.5.2.7 Ordinary Committee Members.

5.6 The Returning Officers shall be solely responsible for the custody and integrity of the:

5.6.1 Roll;

5.6.2 Ballot cards;

5.6.3 Ballot box; and

5.6.4 Nomination board.

6 ELECTION RESULTS

6.1 On the day appointed for the counting of the ballot, the Returning Officers shall tally the ballots for each Elected Office-Bearer position as follows:

6.1.1 The Returning Officers shall determine the results of ballots for Elected Office-Bearer positions in the order listed in clause 6.1 of the Constitution.

6.1.2 The number of ballot cards cast in accordance with Regulation 5.4 shall be tallied.

6.1.3 Where a nominee has been elected to an Elected Office- Bearer position, the Returning Officers shall disregard references to that nominee in ballot cards for other Elected Office-Bearer positions.

Subject to Regulation 6.1, on the day appointed for the counting of the ballot, the Returning Officers shall determine which of the nominees is elected to positions other than the Ordinary Committee Member position as follows:

6.2.1 The number of ballot cards indicating each nominee as the voter's first preference shall be tallied.

6.2.2 If a nominee is indicated as the voter's first preference on more than half of the ballot cards, that nominee shall be elected.

6.2.3 If no nominee is indicated as the voter's first preference on more than half of the ballot cards, the nominee who was indicated as the voter's first preference on the least number of ballot cards shall be discounted and those ballot cards shall be allocated according to the voter's remaining preferences.

6.2.4 The process described in Regulation 6.2.3 shall be repeated until one nominee is elected under Regulation 6.2.2 or until only one nominee remains, in which case that nominee shall be elected.

Subject to Regulation 6.1, on the day appointed for the counting of the ballot, the Returning Officers shall determine which of the nominees is elected to the positions of Ordinary Committee Member as follows:

6.3.1 The number of ballot cards indicating each nominee as the voter's first preference shall be tallied.

6.3.2 If three nominees are indicated as the voter's first preference on more than one quarter of the ballot cards, those nominees shall be elected.

6.3.3 If less than three nominees are indicated as the voter's first preference on more than one quarter of the ballot cards, the nominee who was indicated as the voter's first preference on the least number of ballot cards shall be discounted and those ballot cards shall be allocated according to the voter's remaining preferences.

6.3.4 The process described in Regulation 6.3.3 shall be repeated until only three nominees remain, at which point those remaining nominees shall be elected.

6.4 Each nominee may, by providing a signed statement to the Returning Officers, appoint one scrutineer to observe the ballot count on their behalf, provided that:

6.4.1 the scrutineer is not themselves a nominee in any ballot count;

6.4.2 the scrutineer only observes the ballot count or counts related to the nominee that appointed them; and

6.4.3 the scrutineer does not obstruct or interfere with the processes of the Returning Officers.

6.5 The Returning Officers shall inform the President of the names of the nominees elected to each Elected Office-Bearer position. The President shall announce the names of the nominees elected to each Office-Bearer position no later than seven days after being informed of the names of the nominees elected by the Returning Officers.

6.6 The Returning Officers shall comply with any request to see records of the ballot count from:

6.6.1 the President, in respect of each ballot or;

6.6.2 a nominee, in respect of ballots related to their own nominations.

6.7 The Returning Officers shall deal with any request for a recount should:

6.7.1 Any request for a recount may be submitted to the Returning Officers:

6.7.1.1 within forty-eight hours of the announcement of the election results;

6.7.1.2 in writing; and

6.7.1.3 signed by a nominee in the ballot to which the recount relates.

6.7.2 Upon receiving a request for a recount, the Returning Officers shall:

6.7.2.1 conduct the recount in accordance with Regulations 6.1 and 6.2 or 6.3 as appropriate; and

6.7.2.2 determine the result of the ballot to which the recount relates.

6.7.3 The Returning Officers' determination or purported determination of the result of the ballot to which the recount relates shall be final and conclusive.

6.8 After the determination of any recount, or, if no request for a recount is submitted, forty-eight hours after the announcement of the election results, the Returning Officers shall formally certify the:

6.8.1 nominee selected to each Elected Office-Bearer position; and

6.8.2 names of the unelected nominees for each Elected Office-Bearer position, in the order determined in accordance with Regulation 6.1.

6.9 After formally certifying the election results, the Returning Officers shall destroy the roll.

7 INTERPRETATION

7.1 The Returning Officers shall determine any question regarding the interpretation of these Regulations.

7.2 A determination or purported determination made by the Returning Officers under Regulation 7.1 shall be final and conclusive subject to Regulation 7.2.1.

7.2.1 Any member of the Science Union may lodge an inquiry or complaint in to the Returning Officers in writing regarding the interpretation of these Regulations or any action taken in reference to them. This must be considered by the Returning Officer and the outcome of this shall be final and conclusive.