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**ELECTION RULES**

MSU Elections are open to all full student members of Marjon Students’ Union. All candidates are entitled to equal opportunities, and the elections should be accessible for all students, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, age or personal financial status.

These rules are binding and apply to all candidates (and campaign teams) running in an election and to all agents (and campaign teams) taking part in a referendum.

For further election details please see MSU election by law.

The rules are reviewed and implemented by the MSU Elections Committee.

**1. IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER**

All students and their campaign teams are expected to abide by:

* MSU policy
* University rules and Codes of Conduct
* The Law

Failure to adhere to these may result in disciplinary action.

**2. THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

The Elections Committee will be comprised of the following:

* The Returning Officer (an NUS staff member (in abstentia)
* The Deputy Returning Officer MSU General Manager or their nominee
  + The Chair (MSU President) or alternate Officer Trustee (who is not a candidate in the election)
* Another MSU Officer Trustee (who is not a candidate in the election).
* An External Trustee

In the event, that all Officer Trustees choose to stand in the election/act as either an agent or a member of a campaign team in the referendum, then the Officer Trustee positions on the Elections Committee will be formed of Student Trustees.

The Elections Committee will be responsible for:

* Writing and updating the Election & Referenda Rules and associated guidelines
* Agreeing MSU elections and referendum timetable
* Administering and promoting all MSU elections and referendum
* Responding to complaints and any issues relating to rules and conduct
* Overseeing the work of the DRO

**3. ELECTION & REFERENDA RULES**

All candidates/agents (and their campaign teams):

* Will abide by the Election & Referenda Rules as set out in this document, and those set out in the Election key dates document, budget and other guidelines as produced by the Elections Committee.
* Will act in the interests of a fair election/referendum.
* Will act with integrity and not mislead the electorate.
* Will show respect and consideration at all times to the other candidates, their supporters, all other students, all staff and members of the community.
* Will be held liable for the actions of their campaign team or anyone else acting on their behalf.

**4. ELIGIBILITY TO STAND FOR ELECTION (OR PARTICIPATE AS A MEMBER OF A CAMPAIGN TEAM)**

* All candidates/agents (and their campaign teams) must be full members of MSU as defined by the MSU Constitution
* All candidates must be a full member for the duration of their elected time in office (with the exception of Sabbatical Officer Candidates)
* Nominees who have been or are subject to a University or MSU disciplinary procedure should highlight this to the Elections Committee. Approval to run may be subject to the decision of this committee. Failure to do this may result in disqualification.

**5. STATEMENTS/MANIFESTOS**

**6. CAMPAIGNING**

We encourage all candidates/agents (and their campaign teams) to wear facemasks when they are interacting with people who they wouldn’t normally interact with.

The Elections Committee may define additional campaign-free zones. There will be at least a two meter campaign-free zone around any MSU polling station. Candidates cannot enter these campaign-free zones.

Campaigning is not permitted in the Library, computer rooms or other designated quiet study areas.

All candidates/agents (and their campaign teams) should also abide by the following;

* Only campaign or use campaigning materials from the campaigning start date published in the relevant election/referenda key dates.
* Only positively promote the candidate and what they want to achieve in their position.
* Not negatively campaign, eg. being offensive or derogatory about the competition,or making attacks of a personal nature against another candidate, their manifestos or members of their campaign team. To ensure equal opportunities, all candidates/agents have the right to the same access to the electorate:
* If you are involved in any MSU club, society, volunteering or media stream, and wish to use this to promote your campaign, you must grant equal access to other candidates involved in your election
* MSU clubs, societies, volunteering or media streams may not endorse candidates through their social media or through any other means.
* University and MSU staff may not endorse any candidates/agents.
* Candidates may not endorse other candidates.

**7. USING SOCIAL MEDIA**

All candidates/agents (and their campaign teams) should adhere to guidelines on using social media/email

MSU will set up a SU Officer Election Event in which candidates in that election are permitted to post.

Candidates may set up Facebook pages. The DRO must be added to these.

* Candidates/agents should NOT use dating platforms, such as, but not limited to, bumbledate, tinder, etc., as part of their election campaign or to canvass votes.
* No activity group should give preferential treatment to specific candidate/agent. For example, if a candidate/agent were to post in a group and another candidate/agent also wishes to post in that group, the group administrators must not favour one candidate/agent over another.
* Candidates/agents may not use mailing lists.
* No endorsement of other candidates may take place online.

**8. BREACH OF RULES**

The Elections Committee will use these rules as a guideline in the case of enquiries and complaints and will come to a decision.

Any breach of the rules may be punished. Sanctions could include but not limited to:

* An informal warning- verbally or in writing
* A formal warning, which may or may not be made public to the electorate
* A ban on campaigning, for a defined period
* Total disqualification

Decisions made by the elections committee are not subject to appeal.

In the case of total disqualification, the Returning Officer’s decision will be final.

**9. COMPLAINTS**

All complaints must be sent to mdavies@marjon.ac.uk

Complaints should be made as soon as the issue arises and should not generally be raised at a later date.

All complaints must be made before the deadline set in the election/ referendum timetable which shall be scheduled before the count.

**Complaints received after the deadline may not be considered or acted upon**.