

# Article 1 STANDING ORDER: ELECTION RULES

## 1 Eligibility and Application

### 1.1 ELIGIBILITY TO RUN IN A METHOD I ELECTION

1.1.1 You are eligible to run for a Method 1 Election if you meet the following criteria:

- 1) You are a member of St. Cuthbert's Society Junior Common Room (JCR).
- 2) Winning the election would not result in you holding two Method I positions, or a Method I and a Method II position at the same time.

### 1.2 APPLYING FOR A METHOD 1 ELECTION

1.2.1 24 hours before their husting at the JCR meeting, the candidate must submit electronically to the SRO for approval the following:

- 1) A copy of a manifesto with the names of the candidate, proposer, and seconder being no longer than a single A4 page.
- 2) A copy of their official poster (as defined by section 4.)
- 3) Should the SRO deem a statement made in a manifesto to be untrue, the candidate will be asked to amend their manifesto accordingly.

1.2.2 24 hours before their husting at the JCR meeting, if the candidate wishes to campaign with these methods, the candidate may submit to the SRO:

- 1) Table slip designs (as defined by section 5).
- 2) An official photo to be used on the DUVS site (in JPEG OR MPG format).

1.2.3 The candidate is strongly advised to seek the advice of the incumbent person holding the position the candidate wishes to stand for to further understand the position.

## 2 Meeting Procedure

### 2.1 Election materials

2.1.1 At the beginning of the meeting in which the candidate will husting, they must submit in hard copy to the SRO:

- 1) Two copies of a manifesto signed by the candidate, proposer, and seconder being no longer than a single A4 page.
- 2) 7 copies of their official posters (as defined by section 4.)
- 3) A fully signed election form (which will be provided in the meeting) including on it a named proposer and seconder.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Definition: Proposer and Secunder: Two Members who will support your application.

## **2.2 HUSTINGS**

- 2.2.1 Hustings for Method 1 positions shall be held in a JCR meeting that is scheduled to begin 24 hours after the deadline for submitting documentation.
- 1) All candidates for Method 1 positions may husting for a maximum of 3 minutes.
  - 2) Hustings may not include any topic which conflicts with section 10.
  - 3) If a candidate is running in absentia, the candidate's speech will be read by a member of governance committee.
- 2.2.2 There shall be an opportunity for candidates to be asked questions by meeting attendees on their hustings, manifestos and any other relevant topic after all candidates have husted.
- 1) Questions must not be aimed at a specific candidate, and must be answerable by all candidates.
  - 2) Any questions deemed inappropriate shall be declined by the SRO.

## **3 Campaigning**

### **3.1 PERMITTED CAMPAIGN METHODS**

- 3.1.1 The period of official campaigning shall be between the times that the online vote opens and when the online vote ends (see section 2).
- 3.1.2 A candidate may spread their message by:
- 1) Word of mouth (canvassing),
  - 2) Official posters (as defined by section 4),
  - 3) Table slips (as defined by section 5), and
  - 4) Social media (as defined by section 6).
- 3.1.3 If the candidate seeks to utilise any form of campaigning not explicitly defined in section 2 or section 8, they must have this approved and authorised by the SRO in writing. Failure to do so could result in Methods of Sanction (as outlined by section 12.)

### **3.2 PRE-CAMPAIGNING**

- 3.2.1 Pre-campaigning is permitted 24 hours before the JCR meeting in which the candidate will hust on the condition that all material has been approved.
- 3.2.2 Pre-campaigning is strictly limited to:
- 1) Word of mouth (canvassing).

### **3.3 Posters and manifestos**

- 3.3.1 The JCR will reimburse the cost of printing from a University printer only and only upon the production of a valid receipt.
- 3.3.2 Posters shall be no larger than A4 and should at least display:
- 1) The name and signature of the candidate,
  - 2) A photograph of the candidate,
  - 3) The name and signature of both the proposer and seconder (electronic signatures accepted),
  - 4) The position the candidate is running for, and
  - 5) The official St Cuthbert's Society crest.
- 3.3.3 A total of 7 posters shall be placed across St Cuthbert's Society with –
- 1) One poster in Refounders' House,
  - 2) One poster in Parson's Field Court,
  - 3) One poster in Fonteyn Court,
  - 4) One poster in Brooks House JCR,
  - 5) One poster in 12 South Bailey JCR,
  - 6) One poster in St Cuthbert's Club (12 South Bailey Bar), and
  - 7) One poster in Brooks House Bar.
- 3.3.4 A total of two signed manifestos shall be placed across St Cuthbert's Society with
- 1) One manifesto in Brooks House JCR, and
  - 2) One manifesto in 12 South Bailey JCR.
- 3.3.5 The manifestos of each candidate shall be displayed on the DUVS website.
- 3.3.6 The JROs will be responsible for the distribution and removal of posters and table slips.
- 3.3.7 The removal or defacing of a candidate's poster(s) by any member of the Society (except by the SRO or one of the JROs) is forbidden.

### **3.4 TABLE SLIPS**

- 3.4.1 Designs for table slips shall be submitted to the SRO for review and printing at least 24 hours before the hustings.
- 3.4.2 The SRO shall manage the printing and the distribution of the table slips.
- 3.4.3 Table slips shall be distributed at:
- 1) The first dinner after the hustings, and
  - 2) The first lunch time after that dinner.
- 3.4.4 **Table slips shall be no larger than A6 and at least display:**
- 1) The name of the candidate, and
  - 2) The position the candidate is running for.

- 3.4.5 **The defacing, removal or relocating of a candidate's table slip(s) by any member of the Society (except by the SRO or one of the JROs) is forbidden.**

### **3.5 SOCIAL MEDIA**

- 3.5.1 Campaigning via social media is permitted. However, you are:
- 1) Only permitted to campaign from a personal account,
  - 2) Not permitted to make or repurpose an existing video or website, and
  - 3) Not permitted to make or post on any Facebook pages, groups or events.
- 3.5.2 The SRO will advertise the elections and the candidates on the Fresher's pages fairly and impartially. Captains and group admins of any smaller Facebook groups may advertise the elections in Sports and Societies Groups but they may not endorse any particular candidate.

### **3.6 FORBIDDEN CAMPAIGNING METHODS**

- 3.6.1 Candidates and campaign team members are forbidden from –
- 1) Using amplified public address systems to endorse a candidate,
  - 2) Campaigning in either St Cuthbert's Club (12 South Bailey Bar,) St. Cuthbert's Dining Hall, or Brooks House Bar (except for when there are hustings),
  - 3) Any form of bribery or exchange of value for votes,
  - 4) Pressuring or coercing Members to vote for the candidate, with the candidate in attendance,
  - 5) Campaigning for request new candidates,
  - 6) Personally attacking a JCR member or previous JCR member,
  - 7) Any action or form of campaigning that the SRO deems as negative campaigning,
  - 8) Associating or affiliating with any member of governance committee or the incumbent, and
  - 9) Any privileges associated with a current JCR position may not be utilised at any point during the election (including but not limited to: repurposing of official St. Cuthbert's Society social media pages and/or websites, emailing from an existing official St. Cuthbert's email account.)
- 3.6.2 Any violation of the rules by a candidate or a candidate's campaign team member (as outlined in section 11) may result in the sanctioning of the candidate (as outlined in section 14.)

### **3.7 CAMPAIGN TEAM**

- 3.7.1 A campaign team is defined as any person the candidate has asked to campaign on their behalf.
- 1) The candidate may approach potential campaign team members no earlier than 7 days before the JCR Meeting husting.
  - 2) Campaign team members must be a Full Member of St. Cuthbert's Society JCR.

- 3) A campaign team may contain no more than 10 members (including the proposer and seconder.)
- 3.7.2 A candidate's campaign team must be recorded and approved by the SRO at the start of the JCR Meeting in which the candidate will be husting.
- 3.7.3 The proposer and seconder are members of the campaigns team of the candidate they propose or second.
- 3.7.4 Campaign team members must not:
  - 1) Be a member of an opposing candidate's campaign team,
  - 2) Be a previous holder of the position (on the exception that the candidate is re-running for a position), nor
  - 3) Be a member of governance committee.
- 3.7.5 Candidates are responsible for the actions of people within their campaign team.

### **3.8 BUDGET**

- 3.8.1 The candidate has a budget of up to ten pounds sterling which will be provided by the JCR on receipt of documentation detailing their spending.
- 3.8.2 Only campaign materials funded by the candidates JCR budget may be used to campaign for election.
- 3.8.3 The budget may be spent on only campaign materials approved before purchase by the SRO.

## **4 Counting of Votes**

### **4.1 Procedure**

- 4.1.1 Voting for Method I positions shall be done via the Durham University Voting System (DUVS) which can be found at [apps.dur.ac.uk/vote](https://apps.dur.ac.uk/vote)
- 4.1.2 Voting shall be done using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) method
  - 1) It shall be conducted by secret ballot.
  - 2) All elections shall incorporate Re-Open Nominations (R.O.N.) as a candidate.
- 4.1.3 In the event of any failure of the online voting system, the election shall be either restarted or shall be carried out via paper ballots with the voting point being available for at least ten hours in total in such a place as is accessible to all Members, at the discretion of the SRO,
  - 1) Voters must present their campus cards in order to be eligible to vote.

## **4.2 Election duration**

- 4.2.1 Online voting shall be open from midnight on the day of the meeting, and shall run until 16:00 on the third day after the meeting (exclusive), a period of 64 hours.
- 4.2.2 Election results shall be announced online on the Cuth's JCR Elections Facebook page, and on the DUVS site. At the discretion of the SRO, the results may also be announced in the Bailey Bar at 18:30 on the day the vote closes.

## **4.3 Counting of votes**

- 4.3.1 The counting of votes shall be carried out between the closing of voting and the declaration of results.
- 4.3.2 The count must be witnessed by at least two members of Governance Committee, including the SRO.
- 4.3.3 Each candidate may nominate an independent observer of their choice who shall attend the count to ensure it is done fairly
  - 1) They shall not be a member of the candidate's campaign team.
  - 2) They shall not be permitted to share the result with any other person until the results have been announced by the SRO.
- 4.3.4 An election may be declared null and void under exceptional circumstances:
  - 1) A two thirds majority by the members of Governance Committee shall be required to declare an election null and void.
  - 2) Under such circumstances nominations shall then be re-opened.

# **5 Misconduct**

## **5.1 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

- 5.1.1 Any Society member who wishes to make a complaint about a campaign or candidate should do so, in writing, to the SRO as soon as possible after the incident.
- 5.1.2 The SRO shall then convene a meeting of the governance committee to discuss the matter and sanction any campaign as decided as per section 12.

## **5.2 METHODS OF SANCTION**

- 5.2.1 All methods of sanction will be decided upon by governance committee through a minuted meeting.
- 5.2.2 The available methods of sanction to governance committee are:
  - 1) **Budget:** The budget of a candidate can be reduced. If the budget has already been spent, the money spent shall be confiscated,

- 2) **Docking of votes:** Some of the candidate's votes may be docked, up to a maximum of 20% of their total vote. If the docking of votes leads to a change in the elected candidate the election must be re-run omitting the sanctioned candidate(s) at the discretion of governance committee,
  - (i) Docked votes shall be non-transferrable.
- 3) **Disqualification:** The candidate is removed from the election and all votes (if applicable) are reallocated according to STV,<sup>2</sup>
- 4) **Limiting campaign methods:** The permitted campaign methods of the candidate may be reduced (including but not limited to: social media ban, removal of posters, removal of campaign team members) and
- 5) **Publicity:** Publicising a clear breach of election rules by St. Cuthbert's Society social media outlets.

## **6 Election for President of the Society**

### **6.1 The election for President of the Society shall be run under these rules and regulations, with a number of exceptions: these are detailed below;**

- 6.1.1 Election materials for candidates must be submitted electronically to the SRO 72 hours in advance
  - 1) This shall include a digital copy of both the candidate's and the proposer's hust
- 6.1.2 Candidates are permitted to husting for up to 10 minutes
- 6.1.3 The proposer of each candidate is permitted to husting for up to 3 minutes directly prior to the husting of the candidate themselves
  - 1) These hustings shall be subject to the same regulations as hustings given by Method I candidates
- 6.1.4 Candidates shall be permitted to have a campaign team of up to 15 people (including proposer and seconder)
- 6.1.5 The result of the election for president of the Society shall be announced from the balcony of Room 11, House 8 to the croquet lawn below
- 6.1.6 Candidates shall be permitted a budget of £15

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<sup>2</sup> Definition: Single Transferrable Vote: whereby the voter's second preference would become their first in the event that their first choice was removed.