

St Cuthbert's Society JCR

Article 1 Method I and Method I Presidential Election Rules



1. Method I Election Rules

1.1. Eligibility to Run in a Method I Election

1.1.1. You are eligible to run in a Method I election if you meet the following criteria:

- 1) You are a Full Member of St Cuthbert's Society Junior Common Room (JCR), and will be for the duration of the term of office of the position you are running for.

1.1.2. Should winning the election result in you holding a Method I position at the same time as any other position, a resignation from the earlier position(s) causing the conflict shall be automatic upon success unless there is an exemption listed below.

1.1.2.1. A person may, however, hold the position of Senior Induction Week Representative, Music Representative, Environment Representative, Student Trustee, or Bar Officer, at the same time as holding one Method III position.

1.1.2.2. The position of Volunteer Librarian and General Technician shall be an exception to this.

1.2. Applying for a Method I Position

1.2.1. By 7pm three days before the JCR meeting in which the position will be hustled, the candidate must electronically submit to the Senior Returning Officer (SRO):

- 1) A copy of their manifesto alongside a plain text version,
- 2) A 200-word summary of their manifesto (to be posted on the DUVS website by the SRO),
- 3) A copy of their poster,

- 4) Optionally, one additional audio/video/visual campaign material which must be distinct from a candidate's manifesto and include no new information, and if containing flashing/strobe lights must include a warning, and
 - 5) Optionally, an official photo to be used on the DUVS site (in JPEG format).
- 1.2.2. Should the SRO deem a statement made in any campaign materials untrue or misleading, the candidate will be asked to amend their materials accordingly and promptly.
 - 1.2.3. The candidate is strongly advised to speak with the incumbent holder of the position the candidate wishes to stand for to further understand the requirements of the position.
 - 1.2.4. Members of the Governance Committee must inform the SRO (or the JCR Chair if the SRO is running in an election) seven days before a meeting if they wish to run for a position in that meeting.

1.3. Election Material Guidelines

- 1.3.1. The candidate may at any time submit to the SRO for approval profile pictures for them and their campaigns team to use for the purposes of campaigning.
- 1.3.2. Posters and manifestos should be no larger than A4 and should include:
 - 1) The name and signature of the candidate,
 - 2) A photograph of the candidate,
 - 3) The position the candidate is running for, and
 - 4) The official St Cuthbert's Society crest.
- 1.3.3. The summary manifesto should be text-only and should not contain the candidate's signature.
- 1.3.4. Submitted election materials should not display the names or signatures of the candidate's proposer or seconder.
- 1.3.5. For each candidate, a total of 2 posters shall be placed by the Returning Officers across St Cuthbert's Society with 1 poster in each of the following locations:
 - 1) St Cuthbert's Club (12 South Bailey), and
 - 2) Brooks House Bar.
- 1.3.6. For each candidate, a total of 2 manifestos shall be placed by the Returning Officers across St Cuthbert's Society with one manifesto in each of the following locations:
 - 1) 12 South Bailey JCR, and
 - 2) Brooks House JCR.
- 1.3.7. If candidates send their election materials to the President before 12pm on the day of the meeting then they will print these free of charge and bring them to the meeting.

- 1.3.8. The removal or defacing of a candidate's poster(s) by any member of the Society (that is not the SRO or a Junior Returning Officer (JRO)) is forbidden.

1.4. Meeting Procedure for Method I Elections

1.4.1. Election Materials

- 1.4.1.1. At the beginning of the JCR Meeting in which the candidate will be husting they must submit in hard copy to the SRO:
- 1) 2 copies of their manifesto,
 - 2) 2 copies of their official poster,

1.4.2. Hustings for Method I positions

- 1.4.2.1. Hustings shall be held in a JCR Meeting.¹
- 1.4.2.2. All candidates for Method I positions may hust for a maximum of three minutes, unless the SRO deems otherwise for accessibility reasons. The new length of hust shall be at the SRO's discretion.
- 1.4.2.3. Hustings may not include any topic which conflicts with the Forbidden Campaigning Methods.
- 1.4.2.4. If a candidate is running in absentia, the candidate's speech will be read by a member of Governance Committee, or they can submit a voice recording of their speech or an unedited video without props before the election to be played during their hust.
- 1.4.2.5. After each candidate's hust there shall be an opportunity for candidates to be asked up to a maximum of 3 targeted questions about the content of their hust or manifesto.
- 1.4.2.6. There shall be an opportunity for candidates to be asked up to 5 non-targeted questions after all the candidates have husted.
- 1.4.2.6.1. These questions must not be aimed at a specific candidate, and must be answerable by all candidates.
 - 1.4.2.6.2. In exceptional circumstances, for example in a Presidential election, the SRO may allow more targeted and non-targeted questions to be asked.
 - 1.4.2.6.3. The JCR Chair will enforce the question limit if the SRO exceeds it without good reason.
 - 1.4.2.6.4. Any questions deemed inappropriate, irrelevant, or repetitive, shall be declined by the SRO.
 - 1.4.2.6.5. If a candidate is running in absentia, no questions shall be asked to any candidate in that election.
 - 1.4.2.6.6. Candidates shall give their answers in alphabetical order by surname. For each successive question, the order

¹ Definition: Husting: A small speech in which candidates in an election have the opportunity to address potential voters.

shall shift up by one (i.e. first respondent becomes last respondent, second respondent becomes first etc.)

1.4.2.6.7. Candidates can be asked questions via the live stream.

2. Method I Presidential Election Rules

2.1. Eligibility to Run in a Method I Presidential Election

2.1.1. You are eligible to run in a Method I Presidential Election if you meet the following criteria:

- 1) You are a Full Member of St. Cuthbert's Society Junior Common Room (JCR),
- 2) You are due to graduate at the end of the academic year in which you will hush for the position, and
- 3) You have passed the Sabbatical Officer Interview Process.

2.1.2. Or:

- 1) You are the President of the Society,
- 2) Being elected would not result in you holding an employed sabbatical position in the JCR for more than two years, and
- 3) You have passed the Sabbatical Officer Interview Process.

2.2. Applying for a Method I (Presidential) Position

2.2.1. Candidates can request a copy of the Sabbatical Officer Interview Process from the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

2.2.2. By 7pm fourteen days before the JCR meeting in which the position will be husted, the candidate must electronically submit to the Chair of the Nominations Committee a draft copy of their manifesto.

2.2.3. The candidate is strongly advised to speak with the incumbent holder of the position the candidate wishes to stand for to further understand the requirements of the position.

2.2.4. Members of the Governance Committee must inform the SRO (or the JCR Chair if the SRO is running in an election) fourteen days before a meeting if they wish to run for a position in that meeting.

2.2.5. By 7pm three days before the JCR Meeting in which the position will be husted, the candidate must electronically submit to the SRO:

- 1) A copy of their manifesto alongside a plain text version, only including the trustee-validated manifesto policies,
- 2) A 200-word summary of their manifesto (to be posted on the DUVS website by the SRO), only including material from their manifesto,

- 3) A copy of their poster, the policies in which can only be from their manifesto, and
 - 4) Optionally, an official photo to be used on the DUVS site (in JPEG format).
- 2.2.6. Should the SRO deem a statement made in any campaign materials untrue or misleading, the candidate will be asked to amend their materials accordingly and promptly.
- 2.2.7. Candidates who fail to send all their required materials to the SRO by 7pm three days before the JCR meeting will no longer be eligible to run in the Method I (presidential election) in that JCR meeting.

2.3. Additional Campaigning Methods and Expectations

- 2.3.1. Candidates in Method 1 Presidential elections are permitted to use a number of additional campaigning methods and are subject to some additional expectations, outlined below.
- 2.3.2. By 7pm the day before the JCR Meeting in which the position will be husted, the candidate must electronically submit to the SRO for approval the following:
- 1) A copy of their hust,
 - 2) A copy of their proposer's hust, and
- 2.3.3. At the beginning of the JCR Meeting in which the candidate will be husting they must submit in hard copy to the SRO:
- 1) 2 copies of a manifesto,
 - 2) 7 copies of their official poster, and
 - 3) A fully signed election form (which will be provided in the meeting) including on it a named proposer and seconder.
- 2.3.4. All candidates for Method I Presidential positions may hust for a maximum of ten minutes, unless the SRO deems otherwise for accessibility reasons. The new length of hust shall be at the SRO's discretion.
- 2.3.5. The proposer for a candidate for the President of the Society may hust for a maximum of three minutes, unless the SRO deems otherwise for accessibility reasons. The new length of hust shall be at the SRO's discretion.
- 2.3.6. Should either the candidate or the proposer not be able to attend the meeting; the speech will be read by a member of Governance Committee.
- 2.3.7. For each candidate, a total of 7 posters shall be placed by the Returning Officers across St Cuthbert's Society with one poster in each of the following locations:

- 1) Refounders' House,
- 2) Parsons Field Court,
- 3) Fonteyn Court,
- 4) Brooks House JCR,
- 5) 12 South Bailey,
- 6) St Cuthbert's Club (12 South Bailey), and
- 7) Brooks House Bar.

3. Campaigning in Method I and Method I (Presidential Elections)

3.1. Permitted Campaigning 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.
- 3.1.2. A candidate may campaign via:
 - 1) Word of mouth (canvassing),
 - 2) Official posters, and
 - 3) Social Media.
- 3.1.3. If the candidate seeks to campaign in any way not explicitly defined within this order they must have the approval and authorisation of the SRO in writing. Failure to comply could result in Methods of Sanction.
- 3.1.4. Only Campaign Team members may campaign for the candidate. The candidate is responsible for all campaigning done on their behalf.

3.2. Word of Mouth

- 3.2.1. Word of mouth (canvassing) is strictly limited to the spoken word, no signs or banners are allowed.
- 3.2.2. Pre-campaigning is permitted 24 hours before the JCR Meeting in which the candidate will hust. Any other form of pre-campaigning will result in a sanction.

3.3. Social Media

- 3.3.1. Campaigning via social media is permitted.
 - 3.3.1.1. All posts or private messages on social media sent by the candidate should contain the candidate's manifesto or poster alongside the corresponding manifesto/poster of all other candidates, with accompanying text at their own discretion.
 - 3.3.1.1.1. This rule does not apply to campaign team members, who are only required to post the manifesto/poster of the candidate they are campaigning for.
 - 3.3.1.2. All campaigning should be from personal accounts.

- 3.3.2. For campaigning purposes, candidates and their campaign teams are explicitly not permitted to:
 - 1) Make use of any material other than campaign materials approved by Governance Committee, and text, to campaign.
 - 2) Make a campaign website, or repurpose an existing website for that purpose.
 - 3) Make or post on any Facebook page, group or event.
- 3.3.3. The SRO will advertise the elections and the candidates fairly and impartially on Cuth's JCR Elections social media accounts.
- 3.3.4. The SRO will collate and circulate a Google Drive containing the campaign materials for all candidates.
- 3.3.5. On smaller Sports and Societies Facebook groups and pages, captains and group admins may advertise elections but they may not endorse any particular candidate.
 - 3.3.5.1. Personal ,unofficial and official Sports and Societies group chats may be used to advertise elections but may not be used to endorse or mention any particular candidate. The distribution of any candidate's manifesto, posters, or campaign materials within these group chats will result in sanctions being applied to the endorsed candidate.
 - 3.3.5.2. Any 'Freshers' Group chat' may not be used.
 - 3.3.5.3. Only standard message written by the Senior Returning Officer for campaigns team can be sent a standard message into sports group chats
- 3.3.6. Stories may be used to campaign. Candidates must post both manifestos and roughly the same time and same size.
 - 3.3.6.1. Stories that include a link to vote must have the link on both candidates' manifestos.
 - 3.3.6.2. Stories that do not include approved campaign materials may be used but must include no new information and posted with reference to other candidates.
 - 3.3.6.3. Stories must not include photos containing JCR members other than the candidate.
- 3.3.7. BeReal may be used but only as a reminder to vote but not as self promotion.
- 3.3.8. TikTok may be used for a candidate's additional material but must be posted with the google drive link created by the SRO.
- 3.3.9. @cuths.candidates will post all candidate posters and manifestos.

3.4. Forbidden Campaigning Methods

- 3.4.1. Candidates and campaign team members are forbidden from:
 - 1) Using amplified public address systems to endorse a candidate.

- 2) Campaigning in/at either St Cuthbert's Club (12 South Bailey Bar,) St. Cuthbert's Dining Hall, or Brooks House Bar (except for when there are hustings), any 'Off-Campus Fundraising Events' for St Cuthbert's Society JCR, The Feast of St Cuthbert, And Cuth's Day.
 - 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 other JCR member in their manifesto, poster, hust or content of their campaigning.
 - 9) Use of offensive and harmful language, especially based on any aspects of an individual's identity including but not limited to; gender, sex, sexual orientation, sexuality, disability, religion, race, nationality, ethnicity, educational background, age, appearance, or class. This may include misgendering individuals, making reference unnecessarily to any aspect of an individual's identity or personalising or belittling any person or group of people.
 - 10) Use of or references to subject matter that is construed as offensive including but not limited to, racist, xenophobic, homophobic, transphobic, misogynist, classist or ableist. Any other behaviour or language that may be considered as harassing, threatening or violent.
- 3.4.2. The SRO and Chair may stop a candidate during their hust if there has been a violation of the aforementioned policy.
- 3.4.3. 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.)
- 3.4.4. Any campaigning violations may result in the sanctioning of the candidate.
- 3.4.5. A candidate may only run individually. Formation of joint campaigns or slates is prohibited.

3.5. Campaign Teams

- 3.5.1. A campaign team is defined as any person the candidate has asked to campaign on their behalf.

- 3.5.2. The candidate may approach potential campaign team members no earlier than 7pm two days before the JCR Meeting husting. When approaching a potential candidate they must also state who else is running in their election and provide information on how to view all of the candidates' manifestos.
- 3.5.3. Candidates for Method I positions may approach a potential Proposer and Secunder no earlier than 7 days before the JCR Meeting husting, at any time of day.
- 3.5.4. Candidates for Method I (Presidential) positions may approach a potential Proposer and Secunder no earlier than 21 days before the JCR Meeting husting, at any time of day.
- 3.5.5. Campaign team members must be a Full Member of St. Cuthbert's Society JCR.
- 3.5.6. A campaign team may contain no more than:
 - 1) 5 members in a Method I Election, and
 - 2) 10 members in a Method I Presidential Election.
- 3.5.7. The proposer and secunder are members of the campaigns team of the candidate they propose or second.
- 3.5.8. 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. If possible the candidate must inform the SRO of how each campaign team member has been asked and if possible provide screenshots/proof.
- 3.5.9. Campaign team members must not:
 - 1) Be a member of an opposing candidate's campaign team,
 - 2) Be a previous holder of the position (with the exception that the candidate is re-running for a position),
 - 3) Be a member of the Executive Committee or Governance Committee,
 - 4) Hold or have held a sabbatical membership of the JCR,
 - 5) Be or have been elected for the next term to chair the committee the position will sit on, nor
 - 6) Be a Student Trustee.
 - 7) Be a candidate in the election during the campaigning period for that election.
- 3.5.10. Candidates are responsible for the actions of the people within their campaign team.
- 3.5.11. All candidates and members of campaign teams are required to grant the @cuths.candidates account permission to follow their Instagram profiles for the election period. This facilitates the tracking of campaigning activities by the Committee. Non-compliance with this

requirement may result in an election sanction, as determined at the discretion of Governance Committee.

- 3.5.12. A campaign team member can at any point choose to drop out, if this occurs the candidate is required to notify the SRO at their earliest convenience.

4. Voting and Results Procedure in Method I and Method I Presidential Elections

4.1. Procedure

- 4.1.1. Voting in Method I and Method I Presidential Elections shall be done via the Durham University Voting System (DUVS) which can be found at apps.dur.ac.uk/vote.
- 4.1.2. Voting shall be done using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) method²
- 4.1.2.1. It shall be conducted by secret ballot.
- 4.1.2.2. 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,
- 4.1.3.1. Voters must present their campus cards in order to be eligible to vote.

4.2. Caucus Voting Procedure

- 4.2.1. For those positions designated as being elected through caucus voting procedure, the election should incorporate an option to abstain due to not identifying with the given marginalised group.
- 4.2.2. In the event that the option to abstain receives the most votes, the option to abstain should be disqualified from the election without its votes being redistributed.
- 4.2.3. The Senior Returning Officer should make reasonable attempts to ensure that voting members are aware of the caucus voting procedure and discourage members from voting in elections for representatives for marginalised groups with which they do not identify.

² Single Transferable Vote (STV): whereby the voter's second preference would become their first in the event that their first choice was removed.

4.3. Election Duration

- 4.3.1. Online voting shall be open from 10am on the day after the meeting, and shall be open for a period of 48 hours, except for elections run during meeting 2.1 which will open at midnight on the day of the meeting and shall be open for a period of 64 hours.

4.4. Counting of Votes and Declaration of Results

- 4.4.1. The counting of votes shall be carried out between the closing of voting and the declaration of results.
- 4.4.2. The count must be witnessed by at least two members of the Governance Committee, including the SRO.
- 4.4.3. Each candidate may nominate an independent observer of their choice who shall attend the count to ensure it is done fairly.
 - 4.4.3.1. They shall not be a member of the candidate's campaign team.
 - 4.4.3.2. They shall not be permitted to share the result with any other person until the results have been announced by the SRO.
- 4.4.4. The declaration of results shall only occur once a majority of the entire membership of the Governance Committee is satisfied that there are no unresolved complaints or evidence of misconduct regarding the election.
- 4.4.5. Where, in the penultimate round of counting of a Method I or Method I (Presidential) election, two candidates are tied on an equal number of votes and there are no further votes to redistribute, the Senior Returning Officer shall declare the election null and void and the election shall be re-run. Only the two candidates that have tied at the penultimate round of vote-counting process will be eligible to participate in the re-run of the election as a result of the prior tie.
- 4.4.6. Method I Election results shall be announced on Cuth's JCR Elections social media and the full results published on DUVS.
 - 4.4.6.1. The SRO may choose to additionally announce the results in person, the details of which should be publicised in advance of the election commencing.
- 4.4.7. Method I Presidential Election results shall be announced from the balcony of Room 11, House 8 to the croquet lawn below and the full results published on DUVS.