

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

24 – 26 January 2020

ELECTIONS REVIEW

The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **approve** the recommendations put forward by the Elections Review Working Group
- ii) **discuss and recommend** answering the questions in section 2

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Central Executive Committee is asked to approve the recommendations made by the Elections Review Working Group and make recommendations around items not discussed by the Group.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Photographs to remain mandatory.
- 2.2 Videos to be time limited to 90 seconds and candidates to be asked to respond to a question (helping them to focus their video).
- 2.3 Free text manifesto word count to be reduced to 200 words for all roles except President and Deputy President who will be allowed 400.
- 2.4 Number of questions posed to be reduced to 2 for all roles except for President and Deputy President who will be asked 4 questions.
- 2.5 Strategy pledges to be encouraged but optional.
- 2.6 Candidate information to include a way to contact the current post-holder (where applicable) to ask questions.
- 2.7 Ensure manifestos are downloadable for screen reader ease.
- 2.8 Elections Microsite to be created and to be a permanent page on the website (that will include successful candidate manifestos).

- 2.9 Update Election Rules/Social Media Guidelines to include that bullying or similar conduct on Facebook/other unofficial spaces will not be tolerated. Candidates to be reminded that from the point they put themselves forward in the election they are representing the Association.
- 2.10 Candidates cannot stand for both CEC and Trustee positions.
- 2.11 Candidates can only stand for a maximum of two positions.
- 2.12 Forums to continue being closed overnight but candidates to be given extra permissions that will allow them to answer questions after the forums close. They will only be able to ask questions during forum opening hours. (This has been checked with the Forum Controller and can be done).

3. Questions for CEC

- 3.1 Should the office be able to help candidates complete nomination forms?
- 3.2 What should the election timetable be? At the least when should elections be completed by?
- 3.3 To ensure mandatory engagement with voters, should the Office collect questions from the membership and email to candidates to respond by email. Answers to then be shared by the Returning Officer on the Q&A Forum and Elections Microsite.
- 3.4 Should there be any mention of accountability, if so, what should this look like?

Elections Review Group