

YUSU OFFICER ELECTION RULES

- Spring Term 2017 -

THE PRINCIPLES

There is a maximum budget of £40 (of which £20 is reimbursable) for Full-Time Officer Candidates and £30 (of which £15 is reimbursable) for Part-Time Officer candidates and candidates for all other positions. The total worth of your campaign must not exceed this value. Do not use resources of a total value higher than this, regardless of their cost to you. Check with returningofficer@yusu.org when in doubt.

- a) Methods for disseminating ideas and publicity should be open to all candidates.
- b) Any individual student can endorse candidates; but not societies, sports clubs, networks or volunteering groups. Elected members of YUSU, JCRCs (along with Union and University student staff members) may only endorse candidates as individuals, not in their capacity as elected individuals or as members of staff.
- c) Candidates are expected to treat each other (and staff members) with respect, and must not campaign negatively against other candidates.
- d) Candidates are responsible for the actions of others on their behalf (including, but not limited to, their campaign teams).

A NOMINATIONS

1. Only full members of the Union are eligible to stand in YUSU elections; this includes any student enrolled at the University of York who has not opted-out of membership.
2. Anyone standing for election should fulfil any additional eligibility criteria, including but not limited to;
 - a. Self-definition and other eligibility requirements for some Part-Time Officer positions;
 - b. Trustee eligibility requirements for Full-Time Officer and Student Trustee positions.

B CANDIDATE WORKSHOP & BRIEFING

3. All candidates must attend the Candidate Workshop & Briefing to ensure that they have received a rules briefing, have the information required to stand in the election and have had their official candidate photo taken (this will be used when publicising the candidate, including on the YUSU website and as part of the voting system).
4. The Candidate Workshop & Briefing will take place in D/L/036 on Wednesday 8th February.
5. If a candidate is unable to attend the Candidate Workshop & Briefing, they must inform the Returning Officer in advance (and as soon as possible) so that an alternative time can be arranged – their nomination will not be approved until they have received a rules briefing and had their photograph taken.

C GENERAL CAMPAIGNING

6. In Week 6, YUSU and the YUSU Media Societies will run a 'Hustings Week' before campaigning begins in order to promote the elections and the candidates themselves. Candidates can campaign and promote themselves online during this week.
 - a. Candidates can create Facebook groups, Twitter handles et al, along with making copies of their manifestos and campaign slogans available online.
 - b. This 'Hustings Week' will include the URY Interview Night, Nouse/Vision release of the final Candidate list and the Full-Time Officer Debate.
7. Candidates must not campaign physically until the official opening of campaigning.
8. Physical campaigning, and voting, will be open at the close of the Full-Time Officer Debate on Friday 17th February.

9. Any candidate who begins campaigning physically (putting up posters and other materials around campus for example) before this time will be subject to sanctions at the discretion of the Returning Officer, up to and including withdrawal from the election.
10. Before the start of any campaigning, candidates may organise their campaign team and any campaign materials but must not canvass for support.

PHYSICAL CAMPAIGNING ACTIVITIES

11. Physical campaigning will be defined as any attempt to promote the name of a candidate or the benefits and policies of a candidate's candidature including, but not limited to: approaching and talking to students in person about candidature; using physical promotional materials such as posters and flyers; having statements published in campus and other media as a candidate; and getting supporters to do any of the above.
12. Candidates are expected to treat each other (and staff members) with respect, and must not campaign negatively against other candidates.
13. It is not permitted to make reference to individual YUSU staff members when campaigning in the elections.
14. Candidates are responsible for the actions of anyone acting on their behalf and must ensure that they are aware of these Rules and any other regulations that apply.
15. Candidates must ensure that any method or opportunity used to create or disseminate campaign information is open and accessible to all candidates.
16. Candidates must wear Campaigner Identification Badges/Lanyards (supplied by YUSU) at all times when campaigning.
17. Candidates may collect their Campaigner Identification Badges from the Student Centre from Friday of week 6 (9am on Friday 17th). These must be collected by 4pm on Friday 17th and returned to the Student Centre within 2 hours of the close of polling.

CAMPUS MEDIA

18. Candidates must not give any interviews or statements regarding their candidature or policies to any campus media outlet if the article or broadcast is to appear during the election period and before the 'Hustings Week' begins on Monday Week 6 (13th February). This concerns print, web and audio/visual content.
19. Candidates are, however, able to participate in any media engagement that complies with the Election Rules before the campaigning period, such as the recording of a "60 Second Manifesto".
20. Candidates who are also involved in the writing or production of campus media must not make reference to their candidature in any article, show, or production in which they are involved. They may, however, give interviews and statements to campus media, provided they comply with the Election Rules.

D PUBLICITY MATERIALS

21. Candidates must ensure that any materials used for the purposes of campaigning comply with all Election Rules. The Returning Officer, or their Deputy, may remove campaign materials which contravene any rule at their own discretion. In this case, no allowance will be made to increase their campaign budget for replacing such materials.
22. Candidates must not obscure, tamper with or remove the publicity of any other candidate.
23. College Campaigning Rules must be adhered to when campaigning and poster in college spaces – these will be made available to candidates during the Briefing.
24. Posters placed elsewhere on university property are placed at the risk of the candidate concerned. This concerns both university staff choosing to remove

them and the candidate concerned bearing responsibility for any consequences of their placement – such as their removal by a porter.

25. Requests to move or remove publicity materials must be complied with promptly
26. Use of sellotape to affix posters or similar materials is not permitted.
27. Use of chalk (and paint) to write on university property is not permitted.
28. Use of copyrighted material in campaigning is strongly discouraged.

Candidates are, however, free to use whatever artistic license they choose and must bear in mind that they alone will bear responsibility for dealing with any consequences following the use of copyrighted material.

29. Candidates must bear in mind the child-friendly nature of the University of York's campus, and be aware that materials and signage deemed to be offensive can be taken down and possible sanctions enacted.

E ELECTRONIC & ONLINE CAMPAIGNING

30. The use of social networking sites and websites for campaigning is permitted, providing all other Election Rules are adhered to.
31. The official hashtag is #YUSUELECTIONS – try to use this whenever possible
32. Any social networking groups created must include the following disclaimer within the group description: “If you have any concerns about the contents of this page, please contact the Returning Officer on returningofficer@yusu.org.”
33. Candidates may post campaign promotion to third party social network groups. However, candidates must not do anything that could be considered as spamming or abusing any single third party social media group.
34. Candidates cannot use any mailing lists that they may have access to as an officer, chair, president or other elected role to promote their campaign.

35. Candidates may collect and create their own mailing/contact list for the purposes of campaigning. Such lists must be opt-in and must not contain data gained from any third party source. Those signed up to the list must be aware of what their data will be used for. This applies both to email and to social media.

F ENDORSEMENTS

36. Candidates may not be publicly endorsed by any third party groups or organisations (including but not limited to political parties, Union committees and networks, societies, sports clubs, etc.). Affiliation to any third party group can, however, be expressed by the candidate.

37. Candidates may not be publicly endorsed by YUSU Officers, members of JCRCs, or individuals holding positions within societies, clubs, committees or networks whilst in their capacity as a position-holder. However, YUSU Officers, members of JCRCs, or individuals holding positions within societies, clubs, committees or networks may publicly endorse candidates as individual members of YUSU.

38. Candidates must not use Union resources, including official YUSU accounts, staff or Officer time and buildings, aside from the staff time and resources dedicated to all candidates as part of the elections support programme.

39. Candidates may not be publicly endorsed by any individual external to the University of York Students' Union (including but not limited to staff members of the University of York, representatives of commercial organisations, etc.).

40. YUSU societies, sports clubs, committees and Networks may distribute messages encouraging their members to take part in the elections, but such messages must not show any bias towards particular candidates but rather promote the elections as a whole.

G ELECTION BUDGETS

41. Candidates must keep a record of all materials used for the purposes of campaigning, including receipts for any items purchased. These must be provided to the Returning Officer using the official Candidate Expenses form within 2 hours of close of polling. Failure to do so may result in a candidate being withdrawn.
42. Candidates for Full-Time Officer elections have a budget of up to £40, of which up to £20 may be reimbursed to the candidate following the election.
43. Candidates for Part-Time Officer, Policy Coordinator, and Faculty Rep elections have a budget of up to £30, of which up to £15 may be reimbursed to the candidate following the election.
44. The Returning Officer reserves the right to withhold reimbursement of all or part of a candidate's expenditure in the event of Election Rules being broken or processes not being adhered.
45. The Returning Officer reserves the right to apply an approximate price to items used for campaigning but not purchased by the candidate (e.g. old clothing may be given a 'charity shop' value) for the purpose of calculating their expenditure. This will not be reimbursed.
46. Items freely available to any and all candidates at no cost do not need to be accounted for. This shall include but not be limited to paper and cardboard, and other items subject to the ruling of the Returning Officer.
47. Reimbursement of expenditure will be withheld from individual candidates until they provide evidence that they have made serious efforts to remove their posters from across campus, such as piles of posters taken down.

H VOTING

48. Voting will take place online via the YUSU website at www.yusu.org/vote.
49. Candidates must not interfere in any way with a voter at the point of voting, or place pressure on them to vote a certain way.

50. Candidates must not provide voters with a voting platform (e.g. laptop, smartphone, tablet computer).

I THE COUNT & RESULTS

51. The count shall be conducted electronically and the Returning Officer (or their nominee) shall be present to oversee it.

52. The announcement of results shall take place at the official Results Party after the close of voting. Results will be updated on the YUSU website and social media channels as soon as possible.

J THE RETURNING OFFICER

53. The Returning Officer for all YUSU elections shall be provided by the National Union of Students. In this instance the Returning Officer is Peter Robertson, Deputy Chief Executive.

54. The Deputy Returning Officer role shall be held by the Democracy & Campaigns Coordinator of the University of York Students' Union

55. Any complaints or queries should be addressed to returningofficer@yusu.org, and shall be addressed in a timely manner.

This document can be made available in large print upon request. If you require an alternative format then please contact us to discuss your requirements.

Email returningofficer@yusu.org