



SOAS SU Preferenda Campaigning Rules

Preferenda Portfolio Part-Time Officer 2022/23

1. General Provisions

- a. The process for Preferenda shall be overseen by the Deputy Returning Officer of the Union.
- b. In the event of any conflict between these Preferendum Rules and the Schedules the Schedules take precedence.

2. Guiding Principles

- a. Campaigners must treat other candidates, students and members of the public with respect. This includes engaging in debate and not campaigning negatively.
- b. Campaigners campaigns should be fully transparent and accountable to the union.
- c. Campaigners must not do anything to gain an unfair advantage.
- d. Campaigners must not undermine the fair and democratic running of preferenda.
- e. Campaign Group Leads will be responsible for the actions of their campaign teams.
- f. Campaigns must not break any SU or University rules and regulations, or the law.

3. Manifesto's

- a. Manifesto's must:
 - i. Be submitted prior to the deadline which shall be published with the Preferenda Notice.
 - ii. Be no longer than 600 words.
 - iii. Be submitted using the template manifesto submission form.
 - iv. Be in support of the proposal.

- v. Be compliant with the Law, University and Union Policy. The Deputy Returning Officer reserves the right to request amendments, or not accept the manifesto where deemed necessary.
- b. Only one manifesto per proposal shall be accepted:
 - i. Priority shall be given to the student who proposed the proposal.
 - ii. If the proposer does not submit a manifesto, then the first manifesto received shall be the manifesto for that proposal, subject to the Campaigning Rules.

4. Campaigning

- a. Campaign Groups and Campaign Group Leads:
 - i. The individual who submits the accepted manifesto shall automatically become the Campaign Group Lead.
 - ii. Other students may wish to form a Campaign Group with the Campaign Group Lead.
 - iii. The Campaign Group Lead will be accountable for the Campaign and will speak on its behalf.
 - iv. Anyone who campaigns for or against an option in question shall be deemed to be a part of that Campaign Group and shall be bound by the Rules.
 - v. Campaign Groups are not permitted to spend anything as a part of the Preferenda. However, all items freely and available to each member may be used.
 - vi. Each Campaign Group shall have the same allowance for printed material which shall be provided by the SU. This should be requested by the Campaign Group Lead.
- b. SOAS SU shall produce impartial promotion for the Preferenda, including a manifesto booklet.
- c. No campaigning may start until the commencement of the campaigning period.
- d. Student media should ensure that they give impartial coverage.
- e. Clubs, Societies and Campaigns may endorse proposals but must come to this decision democratically such as through Committee consensus, or through General Meetings with Members.

5. Conduct

- a. Campaigns should not undertake campaign activity which others could not also reasonably do.
- b. Campaigns Group Leads must take reasonable steps to ensure that their supporters' actions comply with the Campaign Rules at all times and must be able to demonstrate this in the event of a complaint against them.

- c. Campaigns may only use mailing lists where lawful to do so.
- d. Campaigns must allow voters to cast their ballot freely.
- e. Campaigners must abide by the Law, University and Union Policies.

6. Voting

- a. There shall be a cross campus ballot in which all Student Members are asked to vote for options in order of preference.
- b. The process shall use Single Transferable Vote.
- c. There shall be a minimum of seven days for publicity and voting.
- d. There shall be a quorum of 50 eligible Student Members.

7. Complaints

- a. Any complaint shall be directed in the first instance to the Deputy Returning Officer, who shall make a ruling in writing after examining the evidence.
- b. There will be a complaints period of one hour after the close of ballots.
 - i. The only complaints which will be accepted after this point shall be on irregularities brought up by the count or the conduct of the count itself.
- c. The count for the election shall take place after ballots have closed and the complaints period has finished.
- d. No post with a pending complaint shall be counted until the complaint has been resolved.
- e. Results shall be confirmed by the Deputy Returning Officer and announced to the membership of the Union as soon as possible.
- f. A ruling by the Deputy Returning Officer may be appealed by using the Union Complaints Procedure. For the purposes of that procedure, they will be entering at the appeal stage.