



## **Interim Elections Bye-Laws FAQs**

The organisation's governing documents (the Articles) outlines which roles within the organisation need to be elected to run the organisation. For the most part this is the sabbatical officer trustees and the student trustees. As we are in Transformation, our current bye-laws are under review, but we need to make sure that our elections in Hilary are still conducted fairly and in line with the current Articles of Association (which are already being reviewed).

The Education Act 1994 requires the SU to hold cross-campus, secret, ballots for major office holders of the Union. Our 'major office holders' are our sabbatical officers. There are two changes proposed in our new articles, which we are hoping to reflect as soon as possible, namely that we will move from 6 sabbatical trustees to 4 and that we will allow officers to run again for a second term (as is provided for in the Education Act but not in our current articles).

Further, the Board has decided that we will move from having a student returning officer, to an external, trained returning officer. For 2025 this will be NUS whose returning officer function is paid for through our current NUS affiliation fee and is a service we have not accessed previously.

These new interim bye-laws enable us to conduct our Hilary Term elections in line with this requirement and with these proposed changes.

### ***Q1 – what has changed?***

The previous elections bye-laws were spread across 4 different documents, which can all be found on our website here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/about-us/how-were-run/governing-documents/>

These rules and bye-laws have been added to over time since at least 2010 and have not been reviewed in their whole since then. Largely aside from the changes outlined above (4 Sabbatical Officers, the possibility of a second term in office, and an external RO), these bye-laws represent a much simplified version of all of the rules and take out some of the more prescriptive rules, allowing the SU to retain the simple principle of ensuring that the elections are free and fair.

### ***Q2 – why are these 'interim'?***

The SU is currently conducting a whole-scale purpose and democracy review which will likely change the structure of the SU. You can input into this wider consultation here:

<https://www.oxfordsu.org/about-us/transformation/getinvolved/>

As part of this, we will need to build a new full set of bye-laws, of which elections bye-laws will be one element. These will need to fit the new structure, and will likely require more detailed consultation than these proposed interim bye-laws.

### ***Q3 – why are some parts of the proposed bye-laws still pending***

As above, the democracy review includes a review of the 4 sabbatical officer roles and which other roles we will need to elect in Hilary 2024. As a result, there are some decisions still pending. We are



looking for students' agreement in principle with these bye-laws which will be updated and approved by the Board in December 2024 ahead of the Hilary Term elections.