RHSU

leadership elections

jargon buster

su.rhul.ac.uk/elections

Jargon Buster

With elections nominations open, you may have heard some complicated language being used. We want elections to be as accessible to as many people as possible, so we've created a list of words and terms to give you some clarification.

Ballot

The slip where a voter places their vote and marks their choice. Unlike national elections, we use online ballot papers during the voting period.

Campaigning

The act of attempting to gain votes in an election through a variety of means, including using social media, banners, and talking to students.

Candidate

A person running for a role.

Candidate Statement

Statement outlining why candidates wish to run, and what skills and experience they have which will aid them if elected. Selection of top 8 of RHSU Priorities, and for 3 of them, outline 2 tasks they'd complete if elected.

Canvassing

Similar to campaigning, this is the attempt to gain votes from the electorate.

Electorate

The individuals able to vote in an election. At Royal Holloway, this means any student who is a member of the Students' Union. Unless you have opted out, you are automatically a member of the SU, and are therefore eligible to vote.

Ex Officio

Certain roles are automatically given membership of committees due to the role/position they hold. An example of this is that the President and University Principal are ex officio members of University Council.

Incumbent

The individual who currently holds a role. Matthew Paterson is currently the incumbent for the position of President.

Nomination

The process of putting yourself forward for a position. Once you nominate yourself you will become a candidate.

Officer Elect

A newly elected individual who will soon be beginning their term, they can also be referred to as an incoming officer.

Outgoing Officer

An individual currently occupying a role or position, who will leave at the end of their term.

Returning Officer

The individual responsible for ensuring fairness in the elections. For the Leadership Elections, this role is filled by a representative from the National Union of Students, and the role of Deputy Returning Officer will be filled by the Students' Union's Head of Community Engagement, assisted by the Change and Insight Manager.

R.O.N (Re-open nominations)

An option on each of the roles. This is selected when a voter does not wish to vote for any of the candidates, and instead believes that nominations should be reopened for a new batch of potential candidates.

RHSU Priority 8

Selection of 8 from a list of 20 issues voted for by students which the Students' Union will focus their work and resources on in the next academic year.

SABB/Sabbatical Officer

One of the four officer positions (President, VP Education etc.) that you can run for. Each officer holds their position for one year, or two if they run for re-election and are successful. They lead on the Union's campaigns, sit on important University committees, and are a big part of the decision-making processes within the SU. They are also trustees of the Students' Union and sit on the Board of Trustees.

Student Trustee

A current student who sits on the Students' Union's Board of Trustees. They help guide the Students' Union's strategy and ensure work is being done to deliver the organisation's aims and objectives. Sabbatical officers are automatically trustees of the Union while additional Student Trustees are recruited every year.

STV (Single transferable vote)

LarThe voting system used by the Students' Union. This system gives voters the ability to rank their candidates in order of preference. You can learn more about STV with this handy video.

Term

A period of approximately 12 months where the elected individual is in office. Sabbatical Officers can be in office for a maximum period of 24 months.

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