

RULE 33: ELECTORAL MALPRACTICE

(a) *Electoral Malpractice*

(i) A person shall only have committed an Electoral Malpractice if they:

- (1) Communicate any illicit statement, as described in paragraph (ii)(1) below.
- (2) Communicate any illicit unscrutinised factual claim, as described in paragraph (ii)(2) below. This shall not preclude the press from legitimately reporting on the Election.
- (3) Represent themselves or any other Member or Members to be the Candidate or prospective Candidate of, endorsed by, supported by, or opposed by any political or national party, group, or faction, any University Society, or any press outlet.
- (4) Solicit votes for or against any Candidate or prospective Candidate in the Society's Buildings, except when speaking in the Presidential Debate as a Candidate for President-Elect, or in the House during Hustings.
- (5) Produce for distribution, or distribute, physical campaign materials or videos. This shall not apply in cases where this is in the legitimate performance of an obligation under these Rules or Standing Orders.
- (6) Without the sanction of these Rules or Standing Orders, make use of any University email system for the purposes of soliciting votes for or against a Candidate or prospective Candidate, or for drawing attention to the Election.
- (7) Spend money on advertising or publicising the Election, a Candidature, or a prospective Candidature. This provision shall not apply to day-to-day expenses, such as the costs of internet and telephone usage, or to those legitimately performing their obligations under these Rules or Standing Orders.
- (8) Engage in organised treating so as to draw attention, or attempt to draw attention, to a Candidature or prospective Candidature.
- (9) Use the Society's records of Membership with the intention of promoting or hindering a Candidature or prospective Candidature, or otherwise influencing the course of the Election.
- (10) Impersonate another person in order to hinder or promote any Candidature or prospective Candidature.
- (11) Engage in any electoral pact between Candidates in the Election and candidates in any different election inside or outside the Society. This shall not affect any internal agreements amongst Candidates for the various posts in the Election itself.
- (12) Pay, or promise to pay, a person's Nomination Fee.
- (13) Make any payment or financial inducement either directly or indirectly to any person, in order to encourage, discourage, facilitate, or hinder a Candidature or prospective Candidature in any way.

(14) Engage in bribery or buying Memberships so as to influence or attempt to influence the course of the Election.

(15) Access another's computer, mobile phone, personal electronic files, emails, social network accounts, or other personal electronic device without permission in connection with the Election.

(16) Abuse the Forms of the House or persistently seek to obstruct debate in the House in order to promote or hinder a Candidature or prospective Candidature. This shall include the Chair systematically and persistently showing bias in the selection of Members being called to speak, persistently and systematically ignoring the time restrictions for speakers, or other action intended to hinder Members from making qualifying speeches.

(17) Misuse or abuse their official position in the Society or elsewhere, or promise to misuse or abuse their prospective official position in the Society or elsewhere, so as to unfairly promote or hinder a Candidature or prospective Candidature.

(18) Procure any vehicle or conveyance for the purpose of systematically transporting Members to the Poll, unless authorised to do so by the Returning Officer, where the Returning Officer is satisfied that the intention of such transportation is not to unduly benefit or hinder any specific Candidate.

(19) Loiter in or outside the Poll Room during the Poll for an Election so as to influence the course of the Election, or else impersonate any other person when voting in the Poll Room.

(20) Maliciously or recklessly cause the Returning Officer to suspend the Count.

(21) Breach the secrecy of the Count by disclosing any result, correct or otherwise, either directly or indirectly, before the announcement of the results in the Bar, whether or not the Count has been suspended for any reason, without the sanction of the Rules or Standing Orders.

(22) Physically reproduce or materially deface any electronic or physical Electoral materials produced by the Returning Officer or their agent, if done in bad faith and without the prior consent of the Returning Officer.

(23) Deliberately hinder an Electoral Official in the discharge of their duties, including through the knowing submission of false or misleading evidence during the Scrutiny process.

(24) Make an Allegation, or persistent Allegations, under this Rule that are vexatious. It shall be a defence for a person to show that they were acting in good faith.

(25) Make a statement or submission that they know to be untrue to the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board, or otherwise act unreasonably towards the Election Tribunal, Appellate Board, or its agents, including through the unsanctioned naming of a party to an Allegation.

(26) Make a manifestly unreasonable Appeal against the decisions of an Election Tribunal.

(27) Act violently or in a manner that is liable to distress, grossly offend, or intimidate others in connection with the Election.

(28) Engage in conduct that amounts to harassment, bullying, or victimisation in connection with the Election. Harassment shall be considered to be engaging in unwanted and unwarranted conduct which has the purpose or effect of violating another person's dignity, or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment for another person.

(29) Engage in a harmful course of conduct motivated by discrimination in connection with the Election, including, but not limited to, discrimination, harassment, bullying, or victimisation, on the basis of race, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

(30) Engage in a course of conduct that amounts to extortion or blackmail of another person in connection with the Election.

(31) Breach the Poll Regulations issued under Rule 47(f) in the event that a Poll held under Rule 47(f) is held on the same day as the Election.

(32) Attempt to commit, conspire to commit, or conspire to attempt to commit an Electoral Malpractice under paragraphs (1)-(31) above.

(ii) *Explanatory Provisions*

(1) A statement shall be deemed illicit for the purposes of paragraph (i)(1) above if all of the following conditions apply:

(A) The statement is untrue or misleading. A statement shall be deemed untrue or misleading if evidence cannot be adduced to satisfy a reasonable belief to the contrary at the time of its communication.

(B) The person communicating the statement intends to influence the course of the Election.

(C) At the time of communication, the person communicating the statement could not reasonably believe it to be true and non-misleading.

(2) A factual claim shall be deemed illicit for the purposes of paragraph (i)(2) above if all of the following conditions apply:

(A) The person communicating the factual claim intends to influence the course of the Election.

(B) The factual claim has not been scrutinised under Rule 35.

(C) The person communicating the factual claim could not reasonably believe that the factual claim had been scrutinised under Rule 35.

(D) The factual claim cannot reasonably be interpreted as a statement of opinion.

(E) The factual claim is intended to be encountered by more than 25 people.

(3) No member of Staff, Senior Officer, Trustee, Trustee of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union Trust, or Electoral Official may solicit votes for or against any Candidate in the Election.

(iii) This Rule shall be interpreted in accordance with the following:

(1) The intention of this Rule is to ensure that the criteria upon which the Officers and Committees of the Society are chosen are founded upon the merits of the Candidates themselves as displayed in debating ability, past or potential contributions to the administration of the Society, and general sociability; that Members do not gain advantage by virtue of being richer than other Candidates, or in a position to offer deals involving other elections inside or outside the Society, or by employing an election agent; that Members are not persistently harassed into voting for particular Candidates; and that Candidates do not behave in a manner liable to bring the Society into disrepute.

(2) It is not the intention of this Rule to stifle legitimate discussion of the merits or demerits of Candidates; to prevent Candidates from leading normal social lives involving as it may the sort of private discussion of their interests and pursuits that is common between close personal friends; to prevent Candidates from standing in other elections; to stop Members from asking or advising Candidates to stand or not to stand whether in general or for any particular Office or Committee; or to alter traditional practices the legitimacy of which has been generally agreed, in particular with regard to speakers in the Presidential Debate.

(3) The Returning Officer, Election Tribunals, and Appellate Boards are bound to bear in mind that the purpose of these Rules is to allow the Members to choose the leadership and management of the Society according to the criteria set out in the Rules, and in a fair and just way. The Society is in essence a democracy: the purpose of the Election is not to enable an abstract exercise in statutory construction, but to allow the Membership as a whole to determine who they want to run their Society and what direction they wish the Society to take.

(4) Nothing in these Rules or Standing Orders shall prevent any person from stating any of the following: their age, gender, marital status, nationality, race, religion, sexual orientation, or any disability they may have.

(iv) *Exemptions*

(1) Each Election Tribunal or Appellate Board shall determine the appropriateness of proceedings under this Rule when potential criminal conduct forms part of an Allegation or is directly connected to the circumstances of an Allegation, and may decline to proceed under this Rule with respect to such an Allegation, if they deem it necessary. In such cases it shall be as if no Allegation had been brought.

(2) Allegations against members of Staff or the Society's contractors shall not be considered under this Rule, unless unrelated to their employment by or contract with the Society. Separate procedures shall provide for complaints against members of Staff and contractors.

(3) Allegations shall not be brought against the Senior Officers, Trustees, or Trustees of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union Trust, providing they were legitimately acting in the course of their duties.

(b) *Innocent Interference*

(i) A person shall only have committed an Innocent Interference under this Rule if they:

(1) Pervert the outcome of the Election by the dissemination of any untrue or misleading statement or unscrutinised factual claim so as to influence the course of the Election, although that dissemination was accompanied by a reasonable belief that it was truthful, non-misleading, or scrutinised, as appropriate.

(2) As the Returning Officer, in good faith, through negligence or otherwise, misinterpret or misapply the Rules or Standing Orders concerning the conduct of the Election so as to affect its outcome, or otherwise affect it through negligence.

(3) Breach, in good faith, the Poll Regulations laid out in Rule 47(f), where said breach has been designated as an Innocent Interference and the Poll held under Rule 47(f) is held on the same day as the Election.

(ii) An Allegation of Innocent Interference shall never require proof of intent to affect the course of the Election, merely proof of the fact that the Innocent Interference has done so.

(iii) Allegations of Innocent Interference, if resulting in convictions, shall carry no penalty.

(c) Requests to Investigate and Allegations

(i) If the Returning Officer receives, not later than the Close of the Poll, a Request to Investigate in writing concerning the circumstances of the Election, they shall investigate the circumstances outlined and advise and warn those concerned.

(ii) Re-Counts

(1) The Returning Officer may order a re-Count, in whole or in part, if a Member brings to their attention within 48 hours of the Close of Poll an error in the results published on the noticeboard.

(2) If a re-Count is ordered under paragraph (1) above or the Count, or part of it, has been postponed, the time limit for the Receipt of Allegations shall be extended to 1 hour after the result of the re-Count or postponed Count has been announced, if this takes place after 1 hour prior to the normal 48 hours time limit. Allegations against the Returning Officer for failure to post on the noticeboard within thirty minutes of the appropriate time limit a list of Allegations received or a notice to the effect that no Allegations have been made, as appropriate, at the end of the appropriate time limit for the Receipt of Allegations under this paragraph may be made within 1 hour of the appropriate deadline for the Receipt of Allegations.

(iii) After the Close of Poll, but within 48 hours thereof, any Member or Members may bring before the Returning Officer or any Deputy Returning Officer an Allegation in writing, signed by the Member or Members concerned, that:

(1) A Member or Members, including the Returning Officer or any Deputy Returning Officer, have committed an Electoral Malpractice or Innocent Interference.

(2) A non-Member, person, or persons unknown, has committed an Electoral Malpractice or Innocent Interference.

(3) A fine levied by the Returning Officer or a Deputy Returning Officer under Rules 34-35 or Standing Order D4 was unjust.

The Returning Officer may not call an Election Tribunal without an Allegation in writing, save as under Standing Order D5(f).

(iv) The Returning Officer shall only be deemed to have received an Allegation if it is signed by the Member or Members bringing the Allegation and, in form or substance, includes all of the following:

- (1) The name of the Defendant or Defendants, if known.
- (2) The Electoral Malpractice, Innocent Interference, or unjust fine alleged to have been committed or levied.
- (3) Whether an Electoral Malpractice, Innocent Interference, or unjust fine is alleged.
- (4) A description of the facts and circumstances of the Allegation.
- (5) Details of any documentary or other recorded evidence which corroborate the description in paragraph (4) above.
- (6) Details of witnesses or circumstances which corroborate the description in paragraph (4) above or the evidence in paragraph (5) above.
- (7) Details of the Offices and Committees purported to be affected by this Allegation for the purposes of sub-clause (h)(i) below.

(v) The Returning Officer and at least two Deputy Returning Officers shall meet in the Poll Room not later than 47 hours and 30 minutes after the Close of Poll, and shall remain there until 48 hours after the Close of Poll, for the purpose of receiving Allegations.

(vi) *Receipt of Allegations*

- (1) Within 30 minutes of the deadline of Allegations, the Returning Officer shall post on the noticeboard a list of Allegations received or a notice that no Allegations have been received, as appropriate. This list of Allegations shall not include the name of any party involved nor the Rule under which any Allegation is brought. It shall include any Office or Committee purported to be affected by the Allegation for the purposes of sub-clause (h)(i) below. An Allegation shall be considered brought 30 minutes after the expiry of the time limit for the Receipt of Allegations, or when the full list of Allegations is posted, whichever is earlier. Any Allegation submitted to the Returning Officer in writing before this deadline may not be withdrawn, save as under sub-clause (vii) below.
- (2) Should an Allegation be made against the Returning Officer, or should the Returning Officer bring an Allegation, the posting of this notice shall remain the responsibility of the Returning Officer, after which the provisions of Rule 32(d) shall apply, or else the provisions of Rule 32(d) shall apply thirty minutes after the expiry of the time limit for the Receipt of Allegations, whichever is earlier.

(vii) On receipt of any Allegation or purported Allegation the Returning Officer shall call an Election Tribunal as under clause (e) below. Conditions attached to an Allegation shall not be followed. The Returning Officer shall not correct any incorrectly or invalidly made Allegation. An Allegation may only be withdrawn with the consent of the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board. The Returning Officer shall notify any person named as a Defendant and supply them with the full Allegation, along with any other information they deem appropriate.

(viii) *Naming of Parties*

(1) Once an Allegation has been submitted, the Defendant may not be named unless they give their written consent to the Returning Officer, which may, as far as practicable, be revoked, or if the following conditions are all met:

- (A) They are found guilty of an Electoral Malpractice.
- (B) Any relevant Appeal process has concluded.
- (C) A Disciplinary Body permits their naming.

(2) No person shall name a Defendant without the permission of paragraph (1) above, save in the case of:

- (A) The Defendant to whomsoever they choose.
- (B) The Complainant to their close friends and advisors.
- (C) Those involved in the administration of the Allegation, as far as is necessary for proceedings under this Rule.
- (D) Any person to whom a Disciplinary Body gives permission.

(3) In the case of Allegations brought under paragraphs (a)(i)(27)-(30) above, and, insofar as they relate to paragraphs (a)(i)(27)-(30) above, Allegations brought under paragraph (a)(i)(32) above, the identity of the Complainant shall receive the same protections as that of the Defendant, and additionally proceedings shall immediately move *in camera*. In these cases, the Complainant may not be identified without their written consent to the Returning Officer, which may, as far as practicable, be revoked, unless they are convicted of an Electoral Malpractice during the disciplinary process, in which case they shall have the same rights as any Defendant. These provisions may additionally be extended to any Complainant by the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board, should they deem it appropriate.

(ix) *Reporting Obligations*

(1) Every Candidate in the Election shall report to the General Office in person during office hours, or to the Returning Officer by email, on the third day after the Poll to determine whether their attendance is required by an Election Tribunal. If an Election Tribunal is set up, any Candidate failing to report shall be disqualified from the Election.

(2) An Election Tribunal may rescind the disqualification of any Member who fails to report if it is satisfied that the failure to report was the result of unforeseeable or unavoidable circumstances or would otherwise be unjust.

(x) *Exclusion from the Society's Buildings*

By a unanimous decision, the Senior Officers may exclude any person against whom proceedings are being taken under this Rule from the Society's Buildings until the completion of such proceedings. This shall only apply to Allegations brought under paragraphs (a)(i)(27)-(30) above, and, insofar as they relate to paragraphs (a)(i)(27)-(30) above, Allegations brought under paragraph (a)(i)(32) above.

Nothing in this sub-clause shall be allowed to prevent the attendance of a person or their Representative at any proceedings, or to prevent legitimate access to the Society's Buildings to obtain material for the hearing. 'Proceedings being taken' shall not be considered to include those persons who have been found Not Guilty of any Electoral Malpractice, but whose case is still subject to Appeal.

(xi) *Discussion of Proceedings*

(1) After the commencement of proceedings under this Rule, no question shall be asked, no Motion moved, nor any discussion initiated in the House or in any Committee, that in any way relates to those proceedings. This shall exclude questions, Motions, and discussions necessary to pass absences, to ratify Minutes, to fulfil rights and obligations under these Rules and Standing Orders, to respond to the recommendations of an Election Tribunal or Appellate Board, or to enable Standing Committee to fulfil its duties as the Committee of Management of the Society.

(2) The provisions in paragraph (1) above may be waived in whole or part by the Election Tribunal, the Appellate Board, or either Senior Officer.

(3) The provisions in paragraph (1) above shall not apply to proceedings under this Rule that have concluded. Any Election Tribunal, Appellate Board, or Senior Officer may extend the provisions in paragraph (1) above to proceedings under this Rule that have concluded, or lift them.

(d) *Conduct of the Election Tribunal and Appellate Board*

(i) Election Tribunals and Appellate Boards shall adopt whatever fair way of proceeding as they shall decide, subject to the provisions of these Rules and Standing Orders.

(ii) Any objection to the composition or validity of an Election Tribunal or Appellate Board must be made to that Panel.

(iii) Any Allegation found to be invalid by an Election Tribunal or Appellate Board shall result in an immediate verdict of No Case to Answer.

(iv) The Election Tribunal or Appellate Board shall have the absolute right to sit, in whole or in part, *in camera* or excluding observers. During the hearing of evidence that concerns them directly, all Complainants, Defendants, Appellants, and Respondents, and any Member they appoint to represent them, shall have the right to be present. Any Member who has a direct interest in the outcome of an Election Tribunal or Appellate Board shall be entitled to be represented at said Election Tribunal or Appellate Board.

(v) Complainants, Defendants, Appellants, Respondents, and Members of the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board shall have the opportunity to call, examine and, where possible, cross-examine witnesses. No person shall be required to give any evidence that might incriminate themselves.

(vi) No Election Tribunal or Appellate Board shall consider electronic messages as evidence without the written consent of at least one of the parties involved, nor should they consider as evidence information obtained from private computers or other private electronic devices or private online accounts without the written consent of the owner of the device or the account, always provided that access to those devices or accounts was legitimately obtained.

(vii) *Investigative Powers*

(1) All Allegations shall be read out at the start of the investigation. If, during the investigation, the Election Tribunal has reason to suppose that a person has committed an Electoral Malpractice or Innocent Interference that they have not been granted the rights of a Defendant with respect to, they shall inform the said person immediately, and they shall have the rights of a Defendant thereafter with respect to that Allegation. All such investigations must be directly concerned with the circumstances of those Allegations that the Election Tribunal is directly investigating. Any person given the rights of a Defendant under this paragraph shall be deemed to have had an Allegation brought against them by the Election Tribunal.

(2) The Appellate Board shall have the same powers as the Election Tribunal in paragraph (1) above with respect only to investigating breaches of paragraphs (a)(i)(26) above, and, insofar as it relates to paragraph (a)(i)(26) above, paragraph (a)(i)(32) above. For all other Allegations, the Appellate Board may set up a new Election Tribunal and refer the Allegations to them.

(viii) After the summing up, the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board shall retire to make its decisions and consider its Declaration and Report. The Election Tribunal shall make an explicit finding of 'Guilty' or 'Not Guilty' on every Allegation. The Appellate Board shall make an explicit finding of 'Upheld' or 'Not Upheld' on every ground of Appeal. The proceedings of an Election Tribunal or Appellate Board shall be recorded, save only those parts of the proceedings for which only Members of the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board are present. The tapes shall be available only to a consequent Election Tribunal or Appellate Board. They shall be stored *in camera* in the archives for one year, and then they shall be destroyed.

(ix) The standard of proof required for a conviction shall be that the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board is satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt of the Defendant's guilt. No person shall be found guilty save by unanimous vote. The standard of proof required to settle all other questions of fact shall be a simple balance of probability, and a majority verdict shall be sufficient.

(x) *Declarations and Reports*

(1) An Election Tribunal or Appellate Board may declare all or part of their Declaration or Report to be *in camera*, and publish a redacted version of the documents for use by the Returning Officer. Distribution of *in camera*, redacted, or otherwise public Declarations and Reports shall be at the discretion of the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board, always provided that Complainants, Defendants, Appellants, and Respondents receive full, unredacted versions of any part or parts of a Declaration or Report that concern them, subject to any applicable legal obligations and sub-clause (c)(viii) above.

(2) The Report in paragraph (1) above should detail the decisions of the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board and a statement of the reasoning that led to the decisions. If different routes were followed, whether or not to the same conclusion, by different Members of the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board, the reasoning of each of them shall be stated.

(xi) *Subpoenas*

(1) The Election Tribunal or Appellate Board may inflict a fine of up to £100 on any Member who fails to appear before it, should any of the following conditions be met:

(A) A letter has been handed to them in person, at least 20 hours before the scheduled time, by the Returning Officer or a Deputy Returning Officer.

(B) An email has been sent in accordance with the provisions of Rule 67(f), at least 20 hours before the scheduled time.

(C) A Member is present before the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board and receives reasonable warning, at the discretion of the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board, of their being needed later in proceedings, and have written notice served to them specifying the scheduled time.

(2) The notification given under this sub-clause shall specify a date, place, and time at which the Member is required to attend by the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board, and shall state the conditions under which they may be fined if they fail to attend. The notification must state the Allegation with respect to which the person is being summoned.

(3) No Member shall be fined under this sub-clause if:

(A) They have given the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board good reason for non-attendance as determined by a simple majority of the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board Members, and either one of the following applies:

(I) They are unable to give evidence in writing, or they have made a written statement, which they have signed as full, truthful, and non-misleading.

(II) They have attended at the time specified under paragraph (2) above and have placed themselves at the disposal of the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board for the following four hours, save if a further subpoena under this sub-clause is issued.

(B) They have the rights of a Defendant with respect to the Allegation with respect to which they have been summoned.

(4) Any notification which complies with this sub-clause shall constitute a valid subpoena, and shall be deemed to have been served at the moment at which the letter is handed over, the email sent, or the Election Tribunal or Appellate Board provides the written notice. Nothing else shall constitute a valid subpoena.

(xii) Once the Appeals process is concluded, the decisions of any Election Tribunal that have not been quashed, or any consequent Appellate Board, or consequent Election Tribunal, shall not be challenged or otherwise questioned; and shall stand valid.

(xiii) The Election Tribunal or the Appellate Board shall have the power and the duty to make any order necessary to remedy any failure of the Rules or otherwise to determine how to fill vacancies left by its action.

(xiv) Notwithstanding any other Rule or Standing Order:

(1) The Complainant, Defendant, Appellant, Respondent, and any Representative thereof, may discuss the case with and provide relevant documentation to their close friends and advisors.

(2) Any person may rebut any potentially defamatory claim made before the end of the disciplinary process.

(3) Any person, with the consent of a Disciplinary Body, may submit evidence in proceedings under this Rule, in accordance with this Rule.

(4) Any person so obligated may publish any notice or other official notification required by these Rules or Standing Orders.

(5) Any person shall be entitled to freely communicate with the police, and make any disclosures required by law or otherwise for the purpose of potential or actual criminal proceedings.

(e) *The Election Tribunal*

(i) *Composition*

(1) The Election Tribunal shall be set up by the Returning Officer if an Allegation is made, as soon as possible, and shall consist of any three of the Members whose names are on the Shortlist made under clause (g) below. Should fewer than three of the said Members be available, the Election Tribunal shall consist of any Members chosen with the approval of Standing Committee that satisfy the requirements of clause (g) below. The Returning Officer and Standing Committee shall use their best efforts to ensure that at least one Member of the Election Tribunal is a qualified lawyer. No person shall serve on an Election Tribunal more than once in the space of three terms.

(2) If the Returning Officer is unable to form a quorate Election Tribunal able to hear all the Allegations fully within the required time period and deadlines, then the Returning Officer shall be empowered to Requisition an Emergency Meeting of Standing Committee for the purpose of appointing an additional Member or Members to the Election Tribunal Shortlist only, with a minimum notice period of 4 hours for the Meeting.

(3) The Returning Officer shall, notwithstanding any provisions around *in camera* or otherwise redacted materials, where practicable, send to Members of the Election Tribunal Shortlist they are summoning any relevant Allegation and any supporting materials they deem appropriate.

(ii) The Election Tribunal shall have absolute investigatory powers with regards to all Allegations. No Allegations brought after the time limits laid down in clause (c) above shall be considered by the Election Tribunal, save if the Election Tribunal has brought an Allegation using its investigative powers or if directed to consider such an Allegation by an Appellate Board. It shall have complete power to overturn, reduce, uphold, or increase any fine levied in the course of the Election that is the subject of an Allegation. Increases shall have no upper limit, regardless of the provision under which the fine was originally levied. It shall have the power to refer corporate Complaints under Rule 71 to the Senior Disciplinary Committee.

(iii) The Election Tribunal may inflict any or all of the following penalties on a person found guilty of an Electoral Malpractice:

(1) No penalty. In this case the person convicted shall not be deemed convicted for the purposes of these Rules and Standing Orders.

(2) A fine. Any fine shall be deemed imposed from the conclusion of the disciplinary process, if not overturned following Appeal.

(3) Disqualification from the current Election.

(4) Immediate dismissal from any Office, Committee, Appointed role, or official position, including the power to revoke any or all degrees of seniority the Member may have.

(5) Disqualification from, in any or all following terms: holding Office; sitting on any Committee; or holding any Appointed role or official position.

(6) Disqualification from nominating in any current or subsequent election or elections.

(7) Revocation of some, but not all, of the privileges of Membership, including but not limited to the right to attend Dinners, Speaker Meet-and-Greets, debating competitions, and social events.

(8) Suspension.

(9) Expulsion. Any expulsion shall be deemed imposed from the conclusion of the disciplinary process, if not overturned following Appeal. In the interim, the Member in question shall be deemed suspended.

(10) In the case of a non-Member, a fixed or unlimited prohibition on becoming a Member, entering the Society's Buildings, or otherwise exercising any or all of the rights of a Guest or non-Member available under these Rules or Standing Orders.

(iv) The Election Tribunal shall have absolute power to order a re-Count. Re-Counts shall be conducted according to the same provisions as the original Count, unless the Election Tribunal orders otherwise.

(v) The Election Tribunal may annul the whole Election or the Election for any particular Office or Committee if it is satisfied that Electoral Malpractice or Innocent Interference has substantially affected the result. In the event of an annulment, it shall be the duty of the Returning Officer to arrange a new Election for Monday of 1st Week, or, if the Election annulled was itself held on Monday of 1st Week, at the most convenient time during Full Term. The Election Tribunal may make any provisions it thinks fair with regards to the arrangements for and conduct of this new Election, including but not limited to:

(1) Ordering a re-Poll.

(2) Restricting those eligible to nominate in the new Election or re-Poll.

(3) Allowing previously-nominated Candidates to withdraw from the Election.

(4) Re-opening nominations.

(vi) Disqualifications shall be handled at the absolute discretion of the Election Tribunal. Disqualifications shall normally be resolved by recounting the ballot papers while ignoring all preferences for the disqualified Candidates.

(vii) *Declarations and Reports*

(1) The Election Tribunal shall present a Declaration to the Returning Officer within 216 hours of the Close of Poll. The Declaration shall state the Allegations made, the verdicts returned, and any penalties inflicted, and shall be read by the Returning Officer to the next Public Business Meeting at the discretion of the Election Tribunal.

(2) The Declaration shall also state which Offices and Committees have been accepted as being subject to the proceedings of the Election Tribunal for the purposes of sub-clause (h)(i) below, and any Members subject to the provisions of sub-clause (h)(ii) below.

(3) Within 336 hours of the Close of Poll, the Election Tribunal shall produce a full Report to the Returning Officer and thereupon cease to exist except as regards clause (f) below. A copy of the public Report shall be posted on the noticeboard as soon as practicable for at least five days. The Election Tribunal may direct the Returning Officer to read out any part of this Report at the next Public Business Meeting, unless the Election Tribunal has been subsequently quashed by an Appellate Board.

(f) The Appellate Board

(i) The sole grounds of Appeal to the Appellate Board from the decision of the Election Tribunal shall be that one of the following has occurred:

(1) There has been a breach of Election Tribunal procedure.

(2) The decision of the Election Tribunal was founded on an error of law.

(3) There has been a breach of any of the Principles of Natural Justice.

(4) An Election Tribunal failed to reach any verdict and publish a Declaration or Report within the set deadlines, substantially affecting the smooth running of the Society.

(ii) The following shall have the right of Appeal:

(1) Any Member who has brought an Allegation under this Rule with regard to the Election concerned.

(2) Any Member who has had an Allegation brought against them during the Election concerned.

(3) Any Member on whom the Election Tribunal has inflicted a penalty.

(4) Any other person to whom a Senior Officer gives Leave to Appeal.

(iii) Notice of Appeal or Request for Leave to Appeal, as appropriate, may be lodged with the Returning Officer within 48 hours of the Report being posted on the noticeboard as under sub-clause (e)(viii) above. A late Report shall not negate the right of any person to Appeal, and the 48 hour window shall begin from the deadline for the posting of the Report, and shall run until 48 hours after the actual posting of the Report, save if the Appellate Board determines otherwise. Notice of Appeal may not be withdrawn save with the consent of the Appellate Board, which shall then issue its Report under sub-clause (vii) below.

(iv) If a Request for Leave to Appeal has been made under paragraph (ii)(4) above, the Returning Officer shall pass the request for Leave to Appeal to the Senior Officers, who shall consider the

application. Either Senior Officer may grant Leave to Appeal, in which case the Request for Leave to Appeal shall be treated as Notice of Appeal. If the Senior Officers refuse Leave to Appeal they shall within seven days of their receipt of the Request notify in writing to the person concerned their reasons for refusing that person Leave. Should the Senior Officers fail to make and publish on the noticeboard any decision within seven days of the Request being made, then the Request shall be deemed to be accepted and shall be treated as Notice of Appeal from the expiration of the time period. Should both Notice of Appeal be lodged and a Request for Leave to Appeal be made, the Appellate Board may not sit before Leave to Appeal has been either granted or refused.

(v) The Returning Officer, acting under the instructions of the Senior Officers where possible, shall set up the Appellate Board, which shall consist of three Members who are members of any Convocation, and which may include either or both of the Senior Officers, always provided that no Member of the Appellate Board served on the Election Tribunal subject to Appeal, and provided they would not be disqualified from serving on an Election Tribunal Shortlist by virtue of sub-clause (g)(ii) below.

(vi) The Appellate Board shall:

(1) Ensure that explicit verdicts are returned to every Defendant on every Allegation.

(2) Ensure that sub-clause (e)(iii) above is obeyed.

(3) Have the power to order that a Member or Members of the Election Tribunal whose proceedings they are considering shall never be eligible to sit on a Senior Disciplinary Committee, Election Tribunal, Disciplinary Appeals Committee, or Appellate Board in the future, or for a specified number of terms.

(4) Have the power to confirm or quash the decisions or purported decisions of an Election Tribunal or purported Election Tribunal, in whole or in part, and to vary any penalty inflicted by the Election Tribunal, within the powers of the Election Tribunal. A quashed conviction shall not count as a conviction for the purposes of these Rules or Standing Orders.

(5) Have complete power to overturn, reduce, uphold, or increase any fine levied in the course of the Election that is the subject of an Appeal that it is considering. Increases shall have no upper limit, regardless of the provision under which the fine was originally levied.

(6) Have the power to remit Allegations to a new Election Tribunal, subject to such restrictions or provisions as it sees fit, or to bring Allegations against persons not already subject to an Allegation, to be heard by a new Election Tribunal. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to breaches of paragraph (a)(i)(26) above, and, insofar as it relates to paragraph (a)(i)(26) above, paragraph (a)(i)(32) above, which the Appellate Board shall be empowered to investigate itself without referral to the Election Tribunal, as though it had the powers of the Election Tribunal, including with regard to penalties. The time limits for any new Election Tribunal established under this paragraph shall apply from the publication of the Report of the Appellate Board, and the new Election Tribunal may not meet prior to the publication of said Report.

(7) Have the power to refer corporate Complaints under Rule 71 to the Senior Disciplinary Committee.

(vii) The Appellate Board shall Report to the Returning Officer as soon as practicable after it has completed its investigations and shall thereupon cease to exist. If the Appellate Board has exercised its powers under paragraph (vi)(5) above, the Returning Officer shall set up a new Election Tribunal subject to any additional provisions the Appellate Board may have made. The Report shall be

distributed at the discretion of the Appellate Board. The Appellate Board may, at its discretion, issue a Declaration prior to any Report for the purposes of waiving the restrictions on the entry to Office or Elected place on Committee of any Member otherwise imposed by sub-clause (h)(i) below, however in so doing it binds itself to issue no Interpretation or Ruling in its Report that contradicts such action.

(viii) If a new Election Tribunal is set up:

(1) The time limits laid down in sub-clause (e)(vii) above shall apply from the time the Report was published on the noticeboard instead of from the Close of Poll, save that if either of the Senior Officers certify in writing that gross injustice might thus be done, the time limits shall apply from a time of their choosing.

(2) No Member who served as a Member of the quashed Election Tribunal, or the Appellate Board, shall serve on the new Election Tribunal.

(3) The new Election Tribunal shall consider those decisions or purported decisions which the Appellate Board has quashed, and any other matters that the Appellate Board has directed the new Election Tribunal to consider.

(4) If the new Election Tribunal annuls any Election not annulled by the previous Election Tribunal, it shall itself determine upon whom the powers and duties of any Office in question shall devolve until the result of the new Election shall have been declared; such devolution shall not comport the Office itself. Any Committee places so affected shall remain vacant in the interim.

(g) *Election Tribunal Shortlist*

(i) The Election Tribunal Shortlist shall consist of at least fifteen and up to twenty-five Members of at least eighteen terms' standing who are Ex-Junior Officers, Ex-Elected Members of Standing Committee, Ex-Chairs of Consultative Committee, or Ex-Returning Officers. The Returning Officer shall propose this Shortlist for the approval of Standing Committee at its Ordinary Meeting in 5th Week. A simple majority of Standing Committee present and voting may accept the list either as proposed or without any particular name or names. Should Standing Committee not accept any particular name on the original list, bringing the total number of names below fifteen, it shall require the Returning Officer to propose a further name or names in its place.

(ii) Any person who has ever been convicted of any offence under Rule 71 or this Rule for which they were punished by a fine exceeding £100, immediate dismissal from any Office or Committee, suspension, or expulsion, or for which they were banned from nominating for an election within the Society, or prohibited from serving on this Shortlist, shall not be added to the Election Tribunal Shortlist.

(h) *Entry to Office or Elected place on Committee*

(i) No Member shall enter upon Office or an Elected place on Committee until the latest of:

(1) 49 hours have elapsed since the Close of Poll in the Election concerned.

(2) In the case of an Allegation being brought, and not withdrawn before the sitting of an Election Tribunal, that purports to affect an Office or Committee, with respect to that Office or Committee only, or with respect to a Member deemed implicated under sub-clause (ii) below:

(A) 48 hours have elapsed since the publication of the Report of any Election Tribunal that considered that Allegation, with no Notice of Appeal lodged or Request for Leave to Appeal made with respect to that Allegation, including any Election Tribunal set up by an Appellate Board.

(B) If no Notice of Appeal has been lodged with respect to that Allegation, but a Request for Leave to Appeal has been made, the Senior Officers have refused Leave to Appeal with respect to that Allegation.

(C) If Notice of Appeal has been lodged, either directly or following a Request for Leave to Appeal being granted, the Report has been published of any Appellate Board with respect to that Allegation.

(ii) An Election Tribunal or Appellate Board may additionally prevent any Member who they determine to be directly implicated in an ongoing Allegation from entering any Office or Elected place on Committee until the deadlines outlined in sub-clause (i) above have expired, at their absolute discretion. Any such action shall form part of the Declaration and Report of such bodies. Any Member prevented from entering Elected place on Committee shall prevent all Members who would otherwise enter Elected places on that Committee from entry until the expiration of the deadlines outlined in sub-clause (i) above. Should the President-Elect be directly implicated in an ongoing Allegation, the Election Tribunal shall determine whether to devolve the powers of the President, but not the Office, to the Returning Officer, and for what duration, as under Rule 12(c)(ii).

RULE 34: ELECTION OF JUNIOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

(a) *Election*

An Election shall be held every term to choose the President-Elect, Librarian-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, Secretary, the Elected Members of Standing Committee, and the Elected Members of Secretary's Committee for the following term. The Poll, if one is necessary, shall be held on Friday of 7th Week, open between 9.30am and 8.30pm. For the purposes of these Rules, should no Poll be necessary, the Close of Poll shall be deemed to be 8.30pm on Friday of 7th Week.

(b) *Nominations*

(i) *Nomination Period*

(1) Nominations shall open at 9.30am on Friday of 5th Week and close at 3pm on Friday of 6th Week. Nominations may only be submitted in the said period during hours when the General Office is open or else when the Returning Officer or their designated agent has access to the General Office, save for the last hour of the nomination period. For the last hour of the nomination period, Nomination Envelopes may only be received by the Returning Officer in a room designated by the Returning Officer in their Letter to Candidates under paragraph (ii)(4) below.

(2) Should this designated room change, the Returning Officer must post a notice detailing the new designated room on the noticeboard, the door to the General Office, and the door of the previously designated room. During this period, the Returning Officer shall be present in the designated room for the purpose of receiving nominations, and only Electoral Officials and those Members wishing to submit nominations shall be permitted to enter, unless the Returning Officer grants an exception.

(3) Any Member deemed to be loitering in, or disrupting, the designated room by the Returning Officer, or the most senior Deputy Returning Officer present in their absence, shall be liable to a fine of up to £50 to be imposed by the Returning Officer, or the most senior Deputy Returning Officer present in their absence.

(ii) *Nomination Packs*

Nomination packs shall be available from the General Office from 9.30am on Friday of 5th Week until the Close of Nominations, containing:

(1) A Nomination Form, as prescribed under sub-clause (x) below.

(2) A checklist of relevant items to be included, pertaining to the nomination.

(3) A copy of Rules 33-35 inclusive, and Standing Orders D1 and D4.

(4) A Letter to Candidates from the Returning Officer providing further information, including the times the Returning Officer will be in the Society's Buildings to advise Members wishing to nominate; the designated room for Close of Nominations; the times and locations of the two Candidates' Meetings; digital Manifesto and photograph submission deadlines; Manifesto Scrutiny; and the Returning Officer's obligation to make reasonable adjustments for Candidates with specific access needs.

(5) A Letter to Candidates from the President-Elect, confirming the Vacation Day requirements for each position, the definition of this under Standing Order B1, and the date, time, and location of the Committee Induction event.

(iii) It shall always be the obligation of the Member wishing to nominate to ensure that their nomination is correctly completed. The Returning Officer shall be present in the Society's Buildings at two designated times to advise Members wishing to nominate on the proper completion of their nomination.

(iv) *Vacation Day Requirements*

The total amount of time, defined under Standing Order B1, during the Vacation in which the Candidates would be required to work in the Society's Buildings if Elected shall be decided by the President-Elect and outlined in their Letter to Candidates, subject to a maximum as outlined below:

Number of Days	Junior Officers (Excl. Officers-Elect)	Officers-Elect and Standing Committee	Secretary's Committee
Michaelmas Term	40	20	15
Hilary Term	30	15	10
Trinity Term	30	15	10

(v) *Committee Induction*

The Committee Induction event shall be a training day during Full Term for Officers-Elect, Officers-Elect-Designate, the Secretary-Designate, Elected Members of Standing Committee-Designate, and Elected Members of Secretary's Committee-Designate, after they are Elected. The Induction shall be supervised by the President-Elect. Attendance shall be compulsory, and unless a Member has an acceptable reason for their absence, as judged by the President-Elect, then they shall be fined up to £20 by the President-Elect. The President-Elect shall ensure that any Members who miss this event are informed of any essential information from it.

(vi) *Nomination Envelopes*

Any eligible Member may nominate themselves by submitting to the Returning Officer, either directly or to an agent authorised by the Returning Officer during hours when the Returning Officer or their designated agent has access to the General Office, or, in the last hour of the nomination period, in the designated room, a sealed Nomination Envelope, signed over the seal by the nominating Member, containing the following:

- (1) A completed Nomination Form.
- (2) Correct payment of the Nomination Fee, established by Standing Order D4, for the position the Member has nominated for by cash in Pounds Sterling.
- (3) A photocopy of the front and back of the Member's Membership Card, or alternate proof of Membership acceptable to the Returning Officer.

(vii) *Nomination Envelope Submission*

(1) On submission of the sealed Nomination Envelope, the Returning Officer or their agent shall countersign the seal of the Envelope. They will also enter the Member's name and the time of submission on a Nomination List, which will be available for inspection by any Member on demand. Once a Nomination Envelope has been received, it will be deposited in a secure location, and no Member shall be permitted to alter or to withdraw any material contained therein once it has been received.

(2) Members may nominate a proxy, who must also be a Member, in writing to the Returning Officer prior to nominating to submit their nomination on their behalf should they be unable to do so themselves. Proxies may only submit pre-signed and sealed Nomination Envelopes.

(viii) Final Submissions Period

(1) The doors of the designated room shall be sealed at exactly 3pm and Candidates, or their proxies, who have presented to nominate by this point but have not yet done so, shall be permitted to nominate.

(2) Should the Member not have sufficient means of payment on their person for the Nomination Fee, they shall be unable to nominate. Members shall not be permitted to leave the room to rectify their nomination if it is found to be insufficient after the doors have been sealed, or to find other means of payment.

(ix) Dual Nominations

(1) If a Member wishes to nominate for two separate positions they must submit two separate nominations in separate Nomination Envelopes. There is no requirement to submit both nominations at the same time. However, each individual nomination must be complete as an independent nomination, including all relevant monies and documentation. If a Member submits two nominations, valid or invalid, which are incompatible under clause (c) below, the nomination for the more junior position under Standing Order D1 shall be deemed to be the only nomination received from that Member.

(2) If a Candidate is Elected to two positions, they shall be deemed Elected only to the senior position under Standing Order D1, and the more junior position shall be considered vacant from Sunday of 9th Week, save if Rules 12, 33, or 38 otherwise delay succession.

(x) Nomination Forms

The Nomination Form shall contain sections for the following:

(1) A list of positions arranged in a single column, with each position accompanied by a box which the Member shall mark to nominate for the position in question.

(2) Information about the Nomination Fees required for each position under Standing Order D2.

(3) The name that the Member wishes to appear under on Election materials. Where a Member does not indicate a preferred first name and surname, or the Returning Officer believes the indicated name may be confusing, frivolous, or not a recognised name for that Member, the Returning Officer shall instead use the first name and surname of the Member as shown on their Membership Card.

(4) The College or Institution that the Member belongs to, to appear with their name on the Manifesto Booklet. Where a Member does not indicate a College or Institution, or the Returning Officer believes the indicated College or Institution may not be a recognised College or Institution for that Member, the Returning Officer shall instead use the College or Institution of the Member as shown on their Membership Card.

(5) A valid email address for contacting the Member.

(6) The seniority under Standing Order D1 that the Member holds. The Returning Officer shall ensure that this is verified as far as practicable. This position shall appear next to the name of the Candidate on the Manifesto Booklet, Notice of Poll, and ballot paper, and any other appropriate Election materials.

(7) The term in which the Member became a Member.

(8) Any qualifying speeches which the Member wishes to draw to the Returning Officer's attention.

(9) Information about additional eligibility evidence required where sub-clause (c)(ii) below applies.

(10) An opportunity for the Candidate to declare any access needs and request reasonable adjustments to the Electoral processes.

(11) A written declaration that the Member understands and agrees to abide by the Rules of the Society during the Election and during any term of service; that they will comply with the requirements of Rule 33(c)(ix) regarding signing-down; that they are prepared and able to assist during the Vacation, as detailed in the Letter from the President-Elect, if they are Elected or if they succeed to Office or an Elected place on Committee; and that they consent to have their data processed for the purposes of being a Candidate in the Election.

(12) A designated space for the Member to sign and date their agreement to paragraph (11) above.

(xi) *Invalid Nominations*

After the Close of Nominations, the Returning Officer, in the presence of at least two Deputy Returning Officers, shall open the Nomination Envelopes, and verify that they contain valid nominations. A nomination shall be ruled invalid by the Returning Officer should they be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that any of the following provisions apply upon their investigation:

(1) Where the nomination was not submitted, with the Member's signature on the Nomination Envelope, within the time period allowed by the Member or their validly nominated proxy.

(2) Where the required Nomination Fee or photocopies of the Member's Membership Card, or an acceptable alternative, are not included in the Nomination Envelope as under paragraphs (vi)(2) and (3) above.

(3) Where the Member is not eligible to nominate for the Office or Committee as under clause (c) below.

(4) Where the Member has not satisfied the qualifying speech requirements. The Returning Officer's investigation shall include, at a minimum, the check of any potential qualifying speech listed on the Member's Nomination Form against the Public Business Minute Book.

(5) Where the Member or their proxy altered their nomination after the Close of Nominations, or did not have on their person the required items to validly nominate at this time, having presented themselves to nominate.

(6) Where the Member has not indicated the position for which they have attempted to nominate on the Nomination Form, or where they have indicated more than one position, and the materials contained within the Nomination Envelope do not resolve the ambiguity. In this case the Returning Officer shall not contact the Member and shall rely solely on the materials in the Nomination Envelope.

(7) Where the Member has not provided a valid email address by which to contact them during the Election period.

(8) Where the Member has not recorded the term they became a Member, or confirmed how they will comply with Rule 33(c)(ix) on signing-down, or signed and dated their Nomination Form as required under paragraph (x)(12) above.

(9) Where the Member owes monies to the Society.

(10) Where the Member is ineligible to nominate as explicitly stated elsewhere in the Rules, including but not limited to any Disciplinary Body sentence which prevent the Member nominating in the Election.

(xii) Notification of Invalid Nominations

(1) If the Returning Officer determines that a nomination is invalid under paragraphs (xi)(2), (7), (8), or (9) above, the Returning Officer shall inform the Member as soon as practicable after the Close of Nominations, but no later than 7pm on Friday of 6th Week, of all deficiencies in their nomination and of how to rectify them. The Member shall then have until 8pm on Friday of 6th Week to rectify their nomination. Any payment of monies owed to the Society required by this paragraph must be paid to the Returning Officer in Pounds Sterling and exact cash, who shall deposit those monies with the General Office or Library as soon as practicable.

(2) Where alterations must be made to a Nomination Form, the Member shall be supervised at all times by the Returning Officer and a Deputy Returning Officer, or the most senior Deputy Returning Officer and another Deputy Returning Officer, making sure that no other changes are made. Any unauthorised alterations shall be deemed to render the nomination invalid under paragraph (xi)(5) above.

(3) If the Returning Officer determines that a nomination is invalid under paragraphs (xi)(1), (3), (4), (5), (6), or (10) above, or that a nomination is invalid under paragraphs (xi)(2), (7), (8), or (9) above and has not been rectified by 8pm on Friday of 6th Week, they shall post a list of all such nominations on the noticeboard and notify those Members of their nomination's invalidity.

(xiii) Manifestos

(1) Each Candidate, save Candidates for Secretary's Committee, shall be entitled to submit a Short and Long Manifesto, adhering to any requirements outlined in the Rules. Candidates for Secretary's Committee are not entitled to submit a Long Manifesto, but shall be entitled to submit a Short Manifesto.

(2) Candidates who submit Manifestos shall submit them as editable, digital, versions to the Returning Officer by the Close of Nominations. If no digital Short Manifesto, or, if entitled, Long Manifesto, has been submitted, the Returning Officer shall notify the Candidate as soon as practicable after the Close of Nominations, but no later than 7pm on Friday of 6th Week. If the Candidate has not submitted a digital Manifesto by 8pm on Friday of 6th Week, they shall not have a Manifesto displayed. If only a Short Manifesto is submitted, it shall be treated as both the Short and Long Manifesto, and displayed accordingly.

(xiv) *Photographs*

(1) Candidates are not required to submit a photograph. Each Candidate for Office and Standing Committee shall be entitled to submit a current, non-frivolous, full-facial photograph of themselves, in black and white, with a plain background and of reasonable size to the Returning Officer by the Close of Nominations. The Returning Officer shall make available in digital form these photographs to individual Members on request, after 9pm on Friday of 6th Week.

(2) The Returning Officer shall determine whether to include photographs in the Manifesto Booklet at their discretion, and shall include all submitted photographs of Candidates for each Office or for Standing Committee, or none.

(3) If the Returning Officer believes that a submitted photograph does not conform to the above requirements, or, in the case of a Candidate for Office or Standing Committee, no photograph has been submitted, they shall inform the Candidate as soon as practicable after the Close of Nominations, but no later than 7pm on Friday of 6th Week. Should the Candidate not provide a suitable photograph by 8pm on Friday of 6th Week, they shall not have a photograph displayed.

(c) *Eligibility*

(i) Any Life Member may offer themselves for Election during their first 11 terms of Membership, subject to any restrictions elsewhere in the Rules.

(ii) Any Life Member who has been a Member of the Society for more than 11 terms may offer themselves for Election, always provided that:

(1) They are not a Fellow nor a Junior Fellow of a College, nor employed by the University in a full-time teaching capacity.

(2) They are, at the time of Election, and have been for the previous six months, resident within 25 miles of Carfax.

(3) They have not offered themselves for Election on more than eight occasions in total.

(iii) No Member shall nominate themselves for the Office of President-Elect unless they are a current or former Member of Standing Committee.

(iv) No Member who holds or has held the position of President, President-Elect, Librarian, Librarian-Elect, Treasurer, Treasurer-Elect, or Secretary shall nominate themselves for any Office equal or junior to themselves in seniority under Standing Order D1. No Member may serve for more than two terms total as an Elected Member of Secretary's Committee.

(v) No Member shall nominate themselves at the same Election for more than one Office, for more than one Committee, or for an Office and Secretary's Committee.

(vi) No Member shall nominate themselves for Standing Committee or for Office during their first term of Membership.

(vii) No Member shall nominate themselves for any position in the Election if they have served as an Electoral Official after two weeks before the Opening of Nominations for the Election concerned.

(viii) No Member shall nominate themselves for Secretary's Committee without having made at least two qualifying speeches, at least one of which shall have been made in the term in which the Member nominates. No Member shall nominate for Standing Committee or an Office without having made at least four qualifying speeches, at least two of which shall have been made in the term in which the Member nominates. For the purpose of this sub-clause only:

(1) Speeches made in Public Business including Emergency and After Debates shall count as qualifying speeches. Only one speech may be counted from any one day, and all such speeches must address the Motion at hand and substantively argue for the side of the Motion which the Candidate purports to support. Speeches made regarding Private Business, Points of Order or Information, or Procedural Motions shall not be counted.

(2) The Public Business Minute Book and recording of Public Business shall be treated as an authoritative record of qualifying speeches, and Candidates shall be given the benefit of any doubt regarding the validity of any one speech.

(ix) Office in this eligibility clause shall refer to the Offices of President-Elect, Librarian-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, and Secretary.

(x) No Member shall nominate themselves for any position in the Election if they are a member of Staff, Senior Officer, Trustee, Trustee of the Oxford Literary and Debating Union Trust, the Librarian-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, or Chair of Consultative Committee. No Member who resigns or is removed from any of those posts shall be eligible to nominate in the term during which they served.

(xi) In sub-clause (viii) above the following shall apply:

(1) "No Member shall nominate themselves for Secretary's Committee without having made at least two qualifying speeches, at least one of which shall have been made in the term in which the Member nominates." shall instead read "No Member shall nominate themselves for Secretary's Committee without having made at least one qualifying speech, which shall have been made in the term in which the Member nominates."

(2) "No Member shall nominate for Standing Committee or an Office without having made at least four qualifying speeches, at least two of which shall have been made in the term in which the Member nominates." shall instead read "No Member shall nominate for Standing Committee or an Office without having made at least two qualifying speeches, which shall have been made in the term in which the Member nominates."

(xii) On Sunday of 1st Week of Hilary Term 2022, the provisions of sub-clause (xi) above, and this sub-clause, shall be deemed spent, and they shall be deleted.

(d) *Election Nominations Timeline and Notifications*

(i) *Opening of Nominations*

Before the Opening of Nominations, the Returning Officer shall post on the noticeboard notice of the following, and this shall further be distributed, at the discretion of the Returning Officer, on the Society's Mailing List by Monday of 6th Week:

- (1) The Opening of Nominations and the period during which nominations may be received, and details of the Close of Nominations.
- (2) Any agent the Returning Officer has authorised to receive nominations, such as the General Office staff or a Deputy Returning Officer. This may be amended later by the Returning Officer as additional agents are authorised or removed.
- (3) That Nomination Packs may be collected from the General Office.
- (4) Information regarding the two times the Returning Officer shall be present in the Society's Buildings to assist Candidates who have queries about the Election process.
- (5) The qualifying speech requirements under sub-clause(c)(viii) above.
- (6) That examples of past Manifestos are available on request from the Returning Officer.
- (7) Information for the two Candidates' Meetings that will be held under Standing Order D4.

(ii) *Close of Nominations*

By 9pm on Friday of 6th Week, the Returning Officer shall post on the noticeboard the following:

- (1) A List of Validly Nominated Candidates, in the ballot order determined under Rule 35(b).
- (2) A list of any Candidate whose nomination was ruled invalid under sub-clause (b)(xi) above, and the Returning Officer's reasoning for doing so.
- (3) Photocopies of all Nomination Forms received, with contact details obscured.
- (4) Notification of the objections period to Short and Long Manifestos.
- (5) The times and locations of Manifesto Scrutiny, Hustings, the Presidential Debate, the Poll, and the Count.

(iii) The Returning Officer shall compile a mailing list of all Candidates, which shall be sent to the President-Elect no later than 9pm on Wednesday of 7th Week to assist with their Committee Induction preparations.

(iv) In the event that no Member has validly nominated for a Junior Office, that Junior Office shall be considered vacant from Sunday of 9th Week. In the event that no Member has validly nominated for

any Junior Office, the President shall inform the soonest practicable Public Business Meeting of this fact and of the relevant rights of succession under Rules 12 and 38.

(e) Election Expenditure

(i) Before the Opening of Nominations, the Returning Officer and the Senior Treasurer shall approve a termly budget for expenditure on the Election. This shall not be subject to scrutiny, amendment, or ratification by any Committee or other Officer, except as a result of disciplinary proceedings under Rules 33 and 71. It shall be included in any accounts and financial reports presented in subsequent terms.

(ii) The Returning Officer shall not exceed their budget, except in exceptional circumstances. Should these circumstances occur, the Returning Officer shall inform the Senior Treasurer as soon as is practicable. Expenditure on disciplinary proceedings shall not count as part of Election expenditure.

(f) Accountability of Elected Officials

The Short Manifestos of each elected Junior Officer must be displayed on the noticeboard for the duration of their term as a Junior Officer.

RULE 35: CONDUCT OF THE POLL

(a) *Re-Open Nominations*

In addition to those Members who have validly nominated under Rule 34(b), Re-Open Nominations shall appear on the ballot paper in any Election for President-Elect, Librarian-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, and Secretary. Re-Open Nominations shall not be considered a Candidate, except for the purposes of Rule 33, clause (i) below, and Standing Orders D5, D6, and D7.

(b) *Order of the Ballot*

(i) Before the List of Validly Nominated Candidates under Rule 34(d)(ii)(1) is posted on the noticeboard, the Returning Officer, at the first Candidates' Meeting and in the presence of at least two Deputy Returning Officers, shall draw lots to determine the ballot order as it shall appear on the ballot paper for the Election of each Office and Committee.

(ii) Re-Open Nominations shall always appear after all Candidates for Office on the ballot paper. Should any Candidate subsequently be declared ineligible, their name shall be removed from the ballot order.

(c) *Manifestos*

(i) Short Manifestos will be included in the Manifesto Booklet. Long Manifestos will be distributed via the Society's Mailing List, displayed in the Poll Room on Election Day, and displayed on the noticeboard.

Manifestos shall comply with the word lengths below at the point of submission, and A4 page restrictions. Short and Long Manifestos shall be standardised with 12-point Times New Roman font, save for the heading, which shall be in 14-point type. Short Manifestos may be changed in size and font by the Returning Officer for the Manifesto Booklet. The Returning Officer may remove line breaks in a Short Manifesto to ensure that the Manifesto Booklet is suitable.

Word/Page Lengths	President	Other Officer	Standing Committee	Secretary's Committee
Short	140	80	40	20
Long	500 (max 3 pages)	350 (max 3 pages)	80 (max 1 page)	40 (max 1 page)

Boldface, italic type, simple • bullet points, and underlining shall be permitted in Manifestos, but no other visual embellishments, numbering, or indentation shall be permitted.

Where spaces between discernibly distinct words have been omitted, or where words have been compounded by a symbol, such as a hyphen, except where such a compound occurs in common usage, the words shall be counted as if they had not been compounded for the purposes of word lengths.

(ii) The Returning Officer shall ensure that all Manifestos contain sufficient demonstration of experience and capability regarding the Office or Committee for which they stand. The following thresholds shall apply:

(1) For all Short Manifestos for Office and Standing Committee at least seventy-five percent of the total word count, and for Secretary's Committee at least fifty percent.

(2) For all Long Manifestos at least fifty percent of the total word count.

(3) The remaining number of words in Manifestos may be used by the Candidate to make whatever statements or pledges that they see fit, while ensuring it is not in breach of any Rules or Standing Orders, especially Rule 33, and other provisions under this Rule regarding Manifesto content.

(iii) No Candidate may list in their Manifesto:

(1) Any specific speakers, by name or title, whom they intend to invite during their potential term of service.

(2) Any specific speakers, by name or title, whom they have invited unless a confirmation has been received which includes a mutually agreed date of attendance.

(3) Any sponsorship or other monies they raised for the Society, unless a contract or other form of confirmation has been received.

(4) All monetary values contained in Manifestos shall exclude VAT.

(iv) The Returning Officer shall strike out from the Manifesto any statements which they deem to breach the guidelines below:

(1) No Manifesto shall explicitly or implicitly make any statement or pledge that is in the rational opinion of the Returning Officer false, misleading, *in camera*, confidential, unlawful, or liable or calculated to bring the Society into disrepute, or otherwise in breach of the Rules or Standing Orders. The Returning Officer shall not deem any statement or pledge to be liable or calculated to bring the Society into disrepute unless they are satisfied that the content of the statement or pledge is either frivolous or malicious.

(2) No Manifesto shall be permitted to express concerns about the activities or the running of the Society without also pledging the changes that the Candidate would implement were they to be Elected in order to rectify that concern.

(3) No Manifesto shall mention any other Member, save the Candidate, by name or implication save those who have been Guest Speakers and are not studying for a degree at the University of Oxford nor Oxford Brookes University.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (3) above, Candidates may make general comparative claims within their Manifesto to draw Members' attention to the fact that the Candidate has more proven instances of a particular claim than any other Candidate in the Election for the position for which they have nominated.

(5) Words in the Glossary of Terms under paragraph (e)(ii)(3) below shall be held to an appropriate standard in the rational opinion of the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer shall, however, consider any declared disabilities of a Candidate and make appropriate reasonable adjustments when considering the suitability of controlled terms consistent with their duties under clause (n) below.

(6) Any claim which derives from actions taken for any institution outside the Society must contain reference to the type of external institution concerned, and held to a standard consistent with that of the terms in the Glossary of Terms under paragraph (e)(ii)(3) below.

(7) No Manifesto shall use the following terms in reference to any Officer of the Society: "deputised" or any synonym thereof, and "Vice President".

(d) Displaying Manifestos and Objection Provisions

(i) All Manifestos shall be Scrutinised by the Returning Officer, assisted by Deputy Returning Officers, to verify statements and pledges made in Manifestos and discuss any necessary alterations. The Returning Officer shall verify that all pledges made in a Manifesto are feasible. All Candidates may be interviewed as part of this Scrutiny process, in accordance with the following:

(1) The interviews must be held in a room in the Society's Buildings, save that, in unusual circumstances and at the discretion of the Returning Officer, a given interview or interviews may be held online. The interviews shall be public, although the Returning Officer at their discretion may remove any or all persons from the interview, save the Candidate and the Candidate's Representative. The President shall ensure that the Returning Officer has access to the Society's Buildings for as long as is necessary to conduct the Scrutiny process.

(2) The Candidate shall submit to the Returning Officer in writing the name of one Representative, who is not another Candidate, if they do not wish to represent themselves. The Candidate may change this Representative at any time, notifying the Returning Officer. This shall not limit the Returning Officer's power to require a Candidate to provide evidence directly where it may assist the Scrutiny process. Candidates for Standing Committee and for Office in particular shall be expected to attend Scrutiny in person.

(3) The Returning Officer shall give each Candidate an approximate interview time with as much notice as possible and inform them and their Representative where this is altered, where possible.

(4) These interviews shall be recorded, and the Returning Officer shall have the responsibility of safeguarding the recording.

(5) The Returning Officer shall be entitled to strike any and all statements and pledges made by a Candidate by the objections deadline for the Office or Committee for which the Candidate has nominated.

(6) All Candidates shall supply the Returning Officer with a digital evidence pack to support the statements and pledges in their Manifesto.

(ii) By 9pm on Friday of 6th Week, all Unscrutinised Short and Long Manifestos shall be displayed on the noticeboard until the objections deadline for each Office or Committee, and sent to all Candidates and their Representatives as soon as practicable.

(iii) As soon as practicable following the completion of Scrutiny, all Scrutinised Short and Long Manifestos shall be displayed on the noticeboard until the deadline for Receipt of Allegations and sent to all Candidates and their Representatives.

(iv) Any Member may object to any Manifesto in writing on the grounds that a statement or pledge is in breach of a specified Rule or Standing Order. The Member objecting shall present all relevant

evidence to support the objection in the objection itself. The Returning Officer shall keep a copy of all objections made, and shall first determine whether there is a case to investigate for each one. The Returning Officer shall only determine that there is no case to investigate if they reasonably believe that the objection is manifestly unfounded. The identity of an objector shall be kept anonymous by the Returning Officer unless the objector consents to be named, but the content of the objection shall be public, save if the Returning Officer determines otherwise.

(v) If there is a case to investigate, the Returning Officer shall determine whether the Candidate's attendance is necessary to obtain further evidence or discuss Manifesto alterations. If so, the Returning Officer shall contact the Candidate and their Representative to arrange this or the submission of further written evidence. If the Candidate and their Representative are unable to attend the Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officers shall discuss the evidence in the Candidate's absence. The Returning Officer shall then determine whether the objection should be upheld, and alter the Manifesto as appropriate.

(vi) For all Candidates, objections shall be submitted by noon on Sunday of 7th Week, unless the Returning Officer, at their discretion, extends the objection deadline for a given Committee or Office through a notice on the noticeboard to that effect, notifying all Candidates and their Representatives of the extension, at any time up to 2 hours prior to the deadline.

(vii) Manifestos shall be considered Scrutinised when the Returning Officer has formally closed Scrutiny for all Candidates for the Committee or Office in question, the objections deadline for the Committee or Office in question has expired, and all objections, if made, have been disposed of by the Returning Officer. Candidates and their Representatives shall be notified when their Scrutiny has been formally closed, as soon as practicable.

(e) Manifesto Booklets, Glossary of Terms, and Election Publicity

(i) The Returning Officer shall produce a Manifesto Booklet containing all Short Manifestos and publicising the Poll.

(ii) The Returning Officer shall ensure that when laying out the Manifesto Booklet they include:

(1) Descriptions of each Office or Committee as below:

President: with overall responsibility for the Society and for arranging its debates

Librarian: with responsibility for the Library and for arranging individual speaker addresses

Treasurer: with responsibility for the raising of sponsorship and for buildings maintenance

Secretary: with responsibility for the term's social events and for minuting Standing Committee Meetings

Standing Committee: Members of the Society's governing body, to assist the Officers and plan social events

Secretary's Committee: to assist with running social events and distributing publicity

(2) A prominent direction to a Glossary of Terms in the Manifesto Booklet alerting Members to the fact that the Glossary may help them judge “the relative merits of Manifestos”, a phrase which should be included.

(3) A Glossary of Terms as follows:

“The Returning Officer has ensured to the best of their ability that all claims made in Manifestos are true; they advise, however, that Members acquaint themselves with the commonly used terms below in order that they are not misled. Members may wish to consider other similar words used as holding the same meanings and draw inferences from the fact that a Candidate has been unable to make the most substantial kinds of claims.

Stronger Claims:

Raised / Secured - the Candidate must prove primary responsibility for the production or negotiation of a contractual arrangement, to claim to have raised/secured funds or partnerships.

Brought - the Candidate must prove that a speaker visited the Society as a direct result of their confirmation.

Confirmed - the Candidate must prove primary responsibility for a speaker accepting an invitation to visit on a mutually agreed date, or the Candidate has drawn up an as yet unsigned contract, following agreement from involved parties on its contents, which is set to be signed in due course.

Organised - the Candidate must prove their primary control of an event’s inception and development. Where primary control is shared comparably with another Member, co-organised shall be used.

Responsible for / Led / Ran - the Candidate must prove primary responsibility for the content of claim.

Arranged - the Candidate must prove a substantial degree of control of an event’s development, but not the contribution to inception that any organised claim requires.

Negotiating - the Candidate must prove primary responsibility for an ongoing negotiation, clear interest in response to their proposition, and further progress from this towards a confirmed claim since then.

Weaker Claims:

Assisted / Helped to – modifiers used where there is sufficient proof that a Candidate contributed substantively, but insufficient to prove that they have the necessary level of contribution or control for the stronger claim.

Interest from – where there is insufficient evidence for a stronger negotiating claim, but there has been clear interest received to their invitation or proposition.

Invited / Contacted – proof has been provided that the Candidate had primary responsibility for the invitation.

Supervised / Oversaw / Co-ordinated – proof has been provided for a lower level of involvement in an event or project suitable for these claims.

Facilitated / Worked – proof has been provided that a candidate contributed significantly to an event, usually but not necessarily the logistics or hospitality.

Weaker claims will be used often in Manifestos even by good Candidates: usually only Candidates for Office will be able regularly to make “stronger claims”. The distinction is nonetheless worth making.”

(4) A copyright notice, forbidding any unauthorised reproduction or copying.

(5) A notice of the availability of accessible and large-type Election materials, alongside the email of the Returning Officer.

(iii) The Returning Officer shall produce a Notice of Poll which shall include:

(1) Details of the Poll, such as where and when to vote.

(2) Details of the Presidential Debate, if applicable, and the Hustings.

(3) A list of all Candidates in ballot order, noting the seniority of each under Standing Order D1.

(4) A copyright notice, forbidding any unauthorised reproduction or copying.

A Notice of Poll shall be displayed in the General Office, outside the Society’s Library, and at the entrance of the Goodman Library.

(iv) The Returning Officer shall ask the Bursar to distribute digital versions of the Manifesto Booklet, Long Manifestos, and Notice of Poll through the Society’s Mailing List. The email shall be sent no later than Thursday of 7th Week, and the Returning Officer shall supply the documents as soon as practicable. The Returning Officer shall additionally endeavour to produce screenreader-accessible versions of these documents on request.

(v) The Returning Officer may, if they wish, produce physical versions of any Electoral materials. If such physical Electoral materials are produced:

(1) The Returning Officer may, at their discretion, require Candidates to assist with the distribution of physical Electoral materials. Should any Candidate fail to assist without good reason, as determined by the Returning Officer with respect to Rule 23(e), they shall be liable to a fine of up to £50 issued by the Returning Officer.

(2) The Returning Officer may, at their discretion, make copies of physical Electoral materials available in the General Office to any Life Member.

(3) The Returning Officer may, at their discretion, make copies of physical Electoral materials available for consultation in the Poll Room on the day of the Poll.

(4) Notwithstanding this sub-clause, the Ballot Paper must always be physically produced, and may only be handled by the Returning Officer or their agents acting in the legitimate course of their duties.

(f) *Hustings*

(i) Hustings shall be held immediately prior to the Presidential Debate, unless there be no Presidential Debate, in which case Hustings shall take place on the evening prior to the Poll. The Returning Officer, or the most senior consenting Deputy Returning Officer in their absence, shall Chair Hustings, and the most senior consenting Deputy Returning Officer shall act as Secretary, ensuring that a recording is made of all speeches, and securely stored.

(ii) All Candidates for Office shall be entitled to make a Hustings speech which shall not exceed three minutes, save in the case of Candidates for the Office of President-Elect, where it shall not exceed five minutes. Points of information shall not be permitted.

(iii) The President shall give all Candidates for President-Elect the opportunity to make Paper Speeches during one Public Business Meeting between the Close of Nominations and the Opening of Poll; this debate shall be the Presidential Debate.

(iv) *Questions to Candidates*

(1) Following the husting speeches of the Candidates for each Office, questions may be asked of the Candidates for that Office.

(2) The Returning Officer shall decide how much time is allocated to questions for the various Offices, and how long Candidates' answers to questions may be. The order in which Candidates answer shall be rotated with each question.

(3) Candidates may take points of information at their discretion during their answers. Questions must be addressed to all Candidates for an Office. Questions and points of information must directly relate to the Candidates' experience, capability, or views concerning the administration of the Society. This paragraph shall be brought to the attention of Members at the start of Hustings for each Office.

(4) The Returning Officer shall, at their discretion, rule a question out of order if they suspect it may break these guidelines, and any Member disrupting Hustings may be fined up to £25 by the Returning Officer.

(g) *Order in the Poll Room*

(i) The ballot shall be secret. Any Member infringing the secrecy of the ballot shall be fined up to £100 by the Returning Officer or, in their absence, the most senior Deputy Returning Officer present.

(ii) The Returning Officer shall be responsible for preserving good order in the Poll Room. Any Member who disrupts the Poll Room shall be warned by the Returning Officer. If their ballot has been cast, they shall be instructed to leave. If they do not cease their disruption, the Member shall be fined up to £100 by the Returning Officer. Any Member warned this way who has not yet cast their ballot shall have a reasonable amount of time determined by the Returning Officer to do so. If they do not do so in the determined time frame, the Returning Officer may requisition the ballot paper of the Member and place it without further marking in the ballot box, in the presence of at least two Deputy Returning Officers. The Returning Officer shall do likewise with any ballot paper left unattended, provided that it can be verified as having been issued by a Poll-Clerk. In the absence of the Returning Officer, the most senior Deputy Returning Officer present shall act as the Returning Officer for the purposes of this sub-clause only.

(iii) Nothing in sub-clauses (i) and (ii) above shall be held to prevent any Member from informing others of the way that Member has voted after that Member has left the Poll Room.

(iv) If the Returning Officer, or failing them the most senior Deputy Returning Officer present, casts a ballot on a Member's behalf, then they must:

(1) Make a private record of the name and Membership Number of the Member whose ballot they placed in the ballot box on the Member's behalf.

(2) Post a notice on the noticeboard within one hour of placing a Member's ballot in the ballot box on the Member's behalf stating the time at which they placed the ballot in the ballot box, and the names of the Deputy Returning Officers present and consenting.

(3) Read out at the beginning of the Count the public notice regarding any ballots placed in the ballot box on behalf of Members.

(h) *Procedure for Voting*

(i) The Returning Officer shall appoint Poll-Clerks to issue ballot papers to Members. Any Member may vote in the Poll by submitting their name and Institution, with their Membership Card or some form of photographic identification, to one of the Poll-Clerks. The Poll-Clerk shall check that the person's name is recorded in the list of Members provided for that purpose and that they have not already voted in the Poll, require them to sign a numbered list of those voting, and then deliver a ballot paper to them. The Poll-Clerk shall write their initials next to the Member's name on the list of Members, and cross them off. Any Member carrying their Membership Card or proof of Membership shall be entitled to vote, even if their name does not appear on the list of Members. In this case the Poll-Clerk shall write in the Member's name, Institution, and Membership Number.

(ii) A Member may only be issued with another ballot paper if they inadvertently spoil their ballot paper. In this case, the Member shall return it to the Poll-Clerk who shall, with the consent of the Returning Officer, or failing them the most senior Deputy Returning Officer present, issue another ballot paper, and deposit the spoiled ballot paper separately in a box provided for the purpose.

(iii) If the Returning Officer or any Deputy Returning Officer observes that a Member has torn or otherwise damages their ballot paper, they may temporarily prevent that Member from casting their ballot. They shall bring this to the attention of the most senior Deputy Returning Officer present who is not themselves who shall determine whether to proceed under sub-clause (ii) above if they determine that the ballot paper has been spoiled by the damage, or to otherwise deposit the ballot paper in an envelope with the time and the Member's Membership Number on the front. It shall be sealed in their presence, and signed by the Returning Officer, or failing them the most senior Deputy Returning Officer present, and at least two Deputy Returning Officers. Any ballots cast in this manner shall be opened in the Count in the presence of at least two Candidates' Representatives, or failing them two Deputy Returning Officers.

(iv) Any ballot that cannot be recognised as a single ballot having had all of its constituent parts cast in the ballot box, either through it being whole or by reasonable deduction by the Returning Officer, that has not been signed by a Poll-Clerk, is unstamped, written in red pen, or has not been signed down for by a valid voter shall be deemed invalid.

(i) *System of Voting*

Single Transferable Vote is to be used in the Election, under Standing Order D6. If a Candidate must be eliminated and two or more Candidates have received an equal number of votes in a given round, the Candidate shall be eliminated whose vote was lowest at the earliest distribution to show a difference. Should this criterion fail, the most junior of them under Standing Order D1 shall be eliminated. Should this too fail, the Returning Officer shall draw lots to determine who shall be eliminated.

(j) *The Count*

(i) The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the counting of the votes, which shall be done as soon as is practicable and in accordance with Standing Orders Chapter D. The Electoral Officials the President, the Officers-Elect, and the Candidates' Representatives shall have the right to be present throughout the Count for the Election. The Returning Officer may, at their discretion, permit any other person to be present at the Count, excluding any Candidate.

(ii) Any Candidate in the Election shall be entitled to send a Member to represent them at the Count. No person shall act as a Representative for more than one Candidate for any individual Office or Committee. A Representative representing more than one Candidate must seek the permission of the Returning Officer to do so before the commencement of the Count. No Candidate, Member of the Election Tribunal Shortlist, Electoral Official, nor the President shall be the Representative of any Candidate. No person ineligible to serve as a Deputy Returning Officer under Rule 32(h) shall be the Representative of any Candidate, unless that ineligibility results from them being a Voting Member of Standing Committee.

(iii) For the duration of the Count, the Returning Officer shall be empowered to issue fines of up to £100 on any other person present if such a person is acting in breach of Standing Order D5 or is otherwise disrupting the Count.

(iv) In the event of an actual or apparent emergency, the Returning Officer shall suspend the Count and evacuate the Count Room. As far as is practicable and safe, the ballot papers shall be stored in a secured ballot box, and guarded by at least three Deputy Returning Officers, until the Count can resume. Any person who breaks the secrecy of the Count during its suspension under this sub-clause may be fined up to £200 by the Returning Officer for each offence, subject to a maximum of £1000 per person; this shall not prejudice any further action under Rule 33.

(v) In the case of a suspension of the count under sub-clause (iv) above, the Returning Officer shall adjourn the Count to a time stated at the time of adjournment, if they believe that it will not be possible to recommence within nine hours of the beginning of the Count, and shall announce such results as have been definitively decided by the time of suspension. The ballot papers shall, when the Count is adjourned, be sealed up as under Standing Order D5(h).

(vi) The Returning Officer shall announce the results of the Poll in the Bar, as soon as is practicable after the Count has been completed, and shall then post the results on the noticeboard and in the Public Business Minute Book and send them to all Candidates, their Representatives, the President, the Bursar, and the Senior Officers.

(k) *The Second Election*

(i) In the event that Re-Open Nominations is Elected to Office, a Second Election shall be held for that Office.

(ii) The deadline for nominations for the Second Election shall be 72 hours after the announcement of results as under sub-clause (j)(vi) above. In the event that the deadline for nominations falls outside the

times when the Society's Buildings are open, then the deadline shall be extended until one hour after the next time when the Society's Buildings are open following the deadline.

(iii) All Candidates wishing to nominate themselves for the Second Election, including any Candidates who had nominated themselves for the First Election, shall be required to nominate themselves as under Rule 34(b).

(iv) The normal Rules for eligibility under Rule 34(c) shall apply, except that no qualifying speeches shall be required and no Member elected to any position in the First Election shall be eligible to nominate.

(v) In the event that no nominations are received for a position in the Second Election, then the position shall be considered vacant under Rule 38 from Sunday of 9th Week, and no Poll for that position in the Second Election shall be necessary. In the event that one valid nomination is received for a position in the Second Election, then that nominating Member shall be considered Elected to that position, and no Poll for that position in the Second Election shall be necessary. In the event that no Poll for the Second Election be necessary, then the Close of Poll shall be deemed to be 8.30pm on Friday of 8th Week for the purposes of these Rules, or at the deadline for nominations under sub-clause (ii) above, whichever is later.

(vi) The Returning Officer shall determine at their sole discretion and outline on the noticeboard, at least 24 hours before the Close of Nominations for the Second Election, the timelines for the submission of late materials, the posting of the List of Validly Nominated Candidates, the Scrutiny process, Manifesto objections, and any other information and deadlines that they see fit.

(vii) If a Poll for the Second Election be necessary, the Returning Officer shall arrange for the Society's Mailing List to be emailed a Notice of Poll for the Second Election, and the Scrutinised Manifestos of any Candidates for the Second Election.

(viii) The Poll for the Second Election, if necessary, shall be conducted in the same form as under clauses (g)-(j) above. The Poll shall be open from 9.30am to 8.30pm, ordinarily on Friday of 8th Week, save if the Returning Officer has directed otherwise under sub-clause (vi) above. Re-Open Nominations shall not appear on the ballot paper in the Second Election. Any Member Elected to Office in the Second Election shall succeed to that Office as under Rule 12.

(ix) The deadline for Allegations concerning the Second Election shall be 24 hours after the Close of Poll for the Second Election, and such Allegations shall be brought as under Rule 33(c), adjusting the time periods accordingly.

(l) Re-Open Nominations and Electoral Malpractice

(i) In the event that Re-Open Nominations is Elected to a position in the First Election, and an Election Tribunal subsequently orders a re-Poll of the First Election, the re-Poll shall be held on Monday of 1st Week in the following term, and any Second Election which has already been held shall be declared void.

(ii) Any successful Candidate in a Second Election which is subsequently declared void shall be deemed never to have been Elected.

(iii) In the event that an Election Tribunal disqualifies a Candidate in the First Election, and a subsequently ordered re-Count demonstrates Re-Open Nominations to have been Elected in the First Election, another Election shall occur on Monday of 1st Week.

(iv) In the event that an Election Tribunal orders a re-Poll of the Second Election, the re-Poll shall occur on Monday of 1st Week.

(v) Nominations, if necessary, for any Election on Monday of 1st Week shall open at 9.30am on Monday of 0th Week, and shall close at 3pm on Thursday of 0th Week.

(vi) The Rules for eligibility under Rule 34(c) shall apply, except that no qualifying speeches shall be required, no Member Elected to any position in the First Election or Second Election shall be eligible to nominate, and only Members who were eligible to nominate for the Office of President-Elect in the previous term shall be eligible to nominate for that Office. The Election Tribunal may amend this sub-clause as it sees fit in any Declaration or Report ordering an Election on Monday of 1st Week.

(vii) In the event that no nominations are received for a position in an Election on Monday of 1st Week, then the position shall be considered vacant under Rule 38, and no Poll for that position shall be necessary. In the event that one valid nomination is received for a position in an Election on Monday of 1st Week, then that nominating Member shall be considered Elected to that position, and no Poll for that position shall be necessary. In the event that no Poll for the Election on Monday of 1st Week be necessary, then the Close of Poll shall be deemed to be 8.30pm on Monday of 1st Week for the purposes of these Rules.

(viii) The Returning Officer shall determine at their sole discretion and outline on the noticeboard, at least 24 hours before the Close of Nominations for the Election, the timelines for the submission of late materials, the posting of the List of Validly Nominated Candidates, Scrutiny, Manifesto objections, and any other information that they see fit.

(ix) If a Poll for any Election on Monday of 1st Week be necessary, the Returning Officer shall arrange for the Society's Mailing List to be emailed a Notice of Poll for the Election, and the Scrutinised Manifestos of any Candidates for the Election, not later than 9pm on Sunday of 1st Week.

(x) The Poll for the Election on Monday of 1st Week, if necessary, shall be conducted in the same form as under clauses (g)-(j) above. The Poll shall be open from 9.30am to 8.30pm on Monday of 1st Week. Re-Open Nominations shall not appear on the ballot paper in the Second Election.

(xi) Any successful Candidate in an Election on Monday of 1st Week shall assume Office at the deadline for Allegations, if none are brought, or at the appropriate time according to the provisions of Rule 33(h)(i), if an Allegation is brought. Any Office due to have an Election on Monday on 1st Week shall be considered vacant until after the Election.

(xii) Any Allegations concerning a Second Election which has been declared void under sub-clause (i) above may still be made within the deadline under sub-clause (j)(ix) above, and shall still be investigated as under Rule 33.

(xiii) The deadline for Allegations concerning an Election on Monday of 1st Week shall be 24 hours after the Close of Poll on Monday of 1st Week, and such Allegations shall be brought as under Rule 33(c), adjusting the time periods accordingly.

(m) *Elections in Extraordinary Circumstances*

(i) Notwithstanding any other provision in these Rules or Standing Orders, in extraordinary circumstances, two-thirds of Standing Committee present and voting, with the consent of a Senior Officer and the Returning Officer, may empower the Returning Officer to run as much of the Election,

as well as any other election in the Society, as they see fit remotely and/or electronically. The Returning Officer shall be empowered to waive any requirements or alter any processes under Rules 33-35 and Standing Orders Chapter D, including but not exhaustively Rules 34(b)(xi)(2), (9), and (c)(viii), as required to ensure the fair and effective running of the Election. Should the Returning Officer be so empowered as per sub-clause (iii) below, they shall determine at their sole discretion and post on the noticeboard, where practicable, any and all amended or waived deadlines and schedules for the Election, to ensure the good running of the Election.

(ii) Any waivers or alterations must apply to all Members or other persons. Such alterations or waivers must be publicised, at a minimum, to all Candidates, Electoral Officials, Representatives, and Members of Standing Committee in writing as soon as is practicable.

(iii) A Motion to enact the provisions of this clause must be brought to Standing Committee with the prior consent of the Returning Officer and at least one Senior Officer. The Returning Officer may Requisition an Emergency Meeting of Standing Committee for this purpose, save that the minimum notice period shall be 12 hours, and there shall be no requirement for the Requisition to be posted on the noticeboard.

(iv) All action taken under this clause must be in all cases reasonable, fair, just, and operate under the principle that the Election should, wherever practicable, be run as under Rules 33-36 and Standing Orders Chapter D, with the minimum of alteration.

(v) The Returning Officer shall not be protected from Allegations of Innocent Interference concerning this clause. All action taken by the Returning Officer under this clause shall be in accordance with the principles set out in Rule 33(a)(iii).

(vi) The extraordinary powers granted to the Returning Officer under this clause shall last until noon on Monday of 9th Week, at which point this clause shall no longer apply, save that any such Motion moved between Sunday of 9th Week and Monday of 4th Week the following term may specify a shorter time limit.

(n) Equality Considerations

In conducting an Election under Rules 33-35, the Returning Officer shall consider their duty to make reasonable adjustments to the election process under the Equality Act 2010 and other enactments consistent with their duty under Rule 67(a)(ii). This shall include, if necessary, making provision for proxy votes in appropriate circumstances under this clause.

CHAPTER D: ELECTIONS

STANDING ORDER D1: TABLE OF SENIORITY

President
Trustees, in order of Election
President-Elect
Librarian
Librarian-Elect
Treasurer
Treasurer-Elect
Secretary
Ex-Presidents, in order of Election
Ex-Trustees, in order of Election
Ex-Librarians, in order of Election
Ex-Treasurers, in order of Election
Ex-Secretaries, in order of Election
Chair of Consultative Committee
Elected Members of Standing Committee, in order of Election
Chair of Debate Selection Committee
Ex-Returning Officers, in order of Election or appointment
Senior Appointed Officials
Ex-Chairs of Consultative Committee, in order of Election
Ex-Elected Members of Standing Committee, in order of Election
Ex-Chairs of Debate Selection Committee, in order of Election
Ex-Senior Appointed Officials, in order of appointment
Elected Members of Secretary's Committee, in order of Election
Junior Appointed Officials
Ex-Deputy Returning Officers, in order of appointment
Ex-Elected Members of Secretary's Committee, in order of Election
Ex-Junior Appointed Officials, in order of appointment
Other Members of the Society, in order of Election

The order of Election or appointment to the Society shall be determined by the order of the vacations-and-terms in which the relevant Members were Elected or appointed, a vacation-and-term beginning with the first day of the vacation and ending with the last day of the subsequent term.

For the purpose of this Table, any Junior Elected Committees as were constituted from time to time shall be deemed to be Secretary's Committee. For the purpose of this Table, Ex-Bursars shall be deemed to be Ex-Chairs of Consultative Committee. For the purpose of this Table, Ex-Senior Officers and Ex-Trustees who were appointed to their position before March 1999, shall be deemed to be Ex-Trustees, ranked equally by order of election. For the purpose of this Table, Ex-Officers-Elect shall be deemed to be the appropriate Ex-Officers. For the purpose of this Table, any Junior or Senior Appointed position as was constituted from time to time shall be deemed to be a Junior or Senior Appointed position, as appropriate. No other position that is now defunct shall have any status in the Rules or Standing Orders.

STANDING ORDER D4: NOMINATIONS

(a) *Nomination Fee*

(i) The following sums shall be paid by any Candidate in their Nomination Envelope:

- For Secretary's Committee: £20.
- For Standing Committee: £30.
- For any Office save that of President-Elect: £40.
- For the Office of President-Elect: £50.

(ii) However, any Candidate who holds Access Membership, or is eligible for a full Maintenance Loan as provided on submission of official documentation, shall have the Nomination Fee reduced to the following:

- For Secretary's Committee: £5.
- For Standing Committee: £10.
- For any Office save that of President-Elect: £15.
- For the Office of President-Elect: £20.

(iii) The Nomination Fee of any Member whose nomination is ruled invalid shall be returned in full by the Returning Officer.

(b) *Candidates' Meeting*

(i) All Members who have nominated themselves in the Election shall attend one of two Candidates' Meetings with the Returning Officer, where the Returning Officer will explain Election procedure and answer any reasonable questions. These Candidates' Meetings shall take place between 8pm and 9pm on Friday of 6th Week, and at any time on Saturday of 6th Week, at a time and place to be advertised by the Returning Officer, and may be held online at the discretion of the Returning Officer.

(ii) The Returning Officer may appoint any Deputy Returning Officer to carry out their duties according to sub-clause (i) above.

(iii) All Candidates shall attend at least one Candidates' Meeting. Any Candidate in attendance for at least three-fifths of the Meeting shall be deemed to have attended.

(iv) Any Candidate who fails to attend either Candidates' Meetings without obtaining the permission of the Returning Officer prior to the beginning of the second Candidates' Meeting, providing good reason for their absence with respect to Rule 23(e), shall be fined up to £50 by the Returning Officer.