

CANDIDATE BRIEFING SESSION

ELECTIONS 2021



www.newmansu.org

Newman Students' Union

ABOUT THE STUDENTS' UNION AND ELECTIONS



We have a **'Constitution'**. This is a document which sets out how we shall run and what powers we have. We are legally bound to adhere to this document, the Education Act, the Charities Act and other relevant laws.

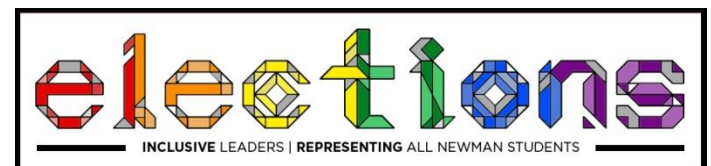
We have a **'Strategic Plan'**. This sets your aims and targets that you will be expected to achieve over the year. **TIP:** Your manifesto template will guide you towards what we aim to achieve – but this does not mean that you can't add new and exciting ideas!

We have an **'Executive Committee'** to represent members, manage what we do and implement the Strategic Plan. The Executive Committee should act in the best interests of its members.

We have a **'Board of Trustees'**. This Board is responsible for ensuring that Newman Students' Union is meeting legal requirements and spending its funds accordingly, while protecting the Union's sustainability, its professional image and its reputation.

They have the power to over-rule the Executive in order to do this, as set out in the Constitution, but will generally not intervene unless there are legal or financial reasons.

The Election Process is run by the **Returning Officer (RO)** who shall have the final say in any dispute. The Returning Officer will usually appoint a **Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)** who may be a senior member of Union Staff within the Students' Union to deal with issues in the first instance.



KEY DATES FOR ELECTIONS



15th March 2021

16:00 – 17:00

Academic Representation Officer Question Time

17:15 – 18:15

Equality & Campaigns Officer Question Time

16th March 2021

16:00 – 17:00

Events & Activities Officer Question Time

17:15 – 18:15

RaG & Community Officer Question Time

17th March 2021

16:00 – 17:00

Societies Officer Question Time

17:15 – 18:15

Sport & Health Officer Question Time

18th March 2021

16:00 – 17:00

Vice-President Question Time

17:15 – 18:15

President Question Time

22nd March 2021

10:00

Elections Open (www.newmansu.org/vote)

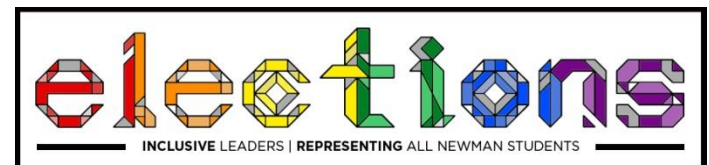
26th March 2021

12:00 Noon

Elections Close

16:00

Announcement of Results



GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC PLANNING



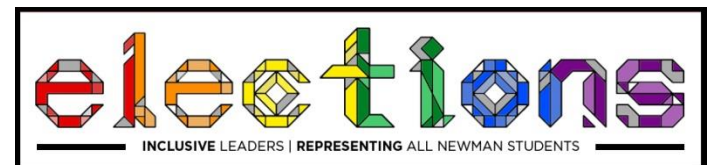
Thursday 4th March | 10:00 – 12:00

There is a leadership and Development Session being held this Thursday being delivered by the General Manager on Charity Governance in an SU Setting and Strategic Planning.

This session will help you greatly when running in the elections but also if you are successful. Please use this opportunity to develop your understanding and knowledge.

To gain access to the session, please email Scarlet Moss, Employability & Voice Coordinator on s.moss@newman.ac.uk

This session is NOT COMPULSORY.



QUESTION TIME



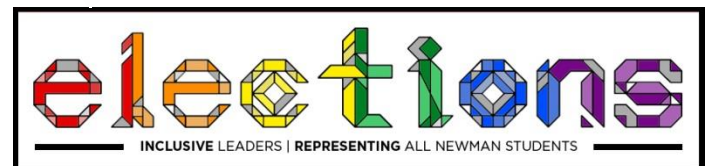
Question Time (also known as Hustings) is your opportunity to tell everyone why you are standing and hopefully persuade them to vote for you. This will be your opportunity to talk about your manifesto, your aims and why you have run!

WE HAVE CHANGED OUR QUESTION TIME!

We know that Question Time can be daunting for new public speakers, which is why we will be doing it differently this year! We will collect questions in advance for all the Executive Committee Positions ONLY (Not the Trustee Positions) and the General Manager will ask the questions to the candidates in a quiet room on Facebook LIVE!

To ask a question, please complete the form online at:

<http://www.newmansu.org/question-time.html>



HOW VOTING WORKS

At Newman Students' Union we use **Single Transferable Voting (STV)**.
This means that students who vote can **RANK CANDIDATES IN PREFERENCE ORDER**.

See the following video that explains the process of STV:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLH_w5kHJpA

WHAT IS A SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE?

- ✓ Rank candidates in order of your preference
- ✓ Rank as many candidates as you like in each election
- ✓ Ranking candidates means if your preferred choice gets eliminated your vote goes to your next preference
- ✓ Your preferences can impact the ultimate outcome of the election
- ✓ Don't think any candidate represents you? Vote RON (Re-Open Nominations)

BALLOT PAPER

Place the candidates in order of preference (1, 2, 3 etc)
Rank as many candidates as you wish

CANDIDATE A	2
CANDIDATE B	3
CANDIDATE C	1
CANDIDATE D	4
RON	5

WHERE DO STUDENTS VOTE?



Voting is ONLINE. You can find this directly on your moodle page, or via our website at www.newmansu.org/vote .

When using the Website link, you will see a pop-up on screen that will ask you for your University Log-In details, including your username and password. This is the same details you use to log into your moodle.

Once you are onto the voting page you can rank each candidate for each position, including Re-Open Nominations (which is on the next slide). You can also click “I do not want to vote for this position”. **Once submitted you cannot change your mind.**

President

The President of the Union leads on the Union's work in Student Voice and Employability, as well as representing students at the highest level in the University. They are also Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Please note you have 3 choice(s) in this contest. Also, you have to select a minimum of 1 choice(s). This is compulsory to complete.



Alex Reston

[Option Information](#)



Kirsty Hanlon

[Option Information](#)



Re-Open Nominations

[Option Information](#)

I do not want to vote for this position

RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS



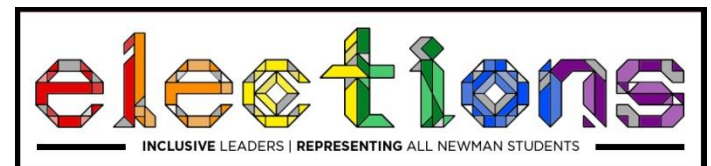
**MEET RON: THE DEMOCRACY
SAVING DINOSAUR!**

**DISLIKE YOUR CANDIDATES?
VOTE RON ~~TO EAT THEM ALL~~
TO RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS**

RON stands for Re-Open Nominations. NSU believes that the voter (you) should always have the choice to make a positive vote.

This means that even those candidates who appear to be standing alone for a post, will still need to be the best person for the job.

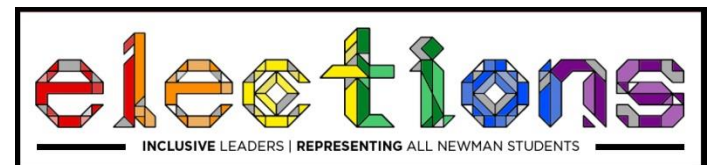
RON appears on every ballot to ensure that the voter can choose to give someone else a chance to stand if they don't like all of the current candidates



ELECTION RULES



- **No candidate or other person shall make or cause to be made deliberate misrepresentation of other candidates either verbally or on any publication or by any other means.**
- **No candidates or any other person shall bribe, or attempt to bribe, any elector in any way whatsoever.**
- **A candidate may be subject to disciplinary procedures including disqualification if they or someone acting on their behalf or for their benefit;**
 - **Bring NSU into disrepute;**
 - **Responsible for corrupt practice (as defined by the Returning Officer);**
 - **Disrupt elections;**
 - **Dishonest conduct;**
 - **Act to threaten, intimidate, deceive, coerce, collude, conspire or use force to interfere with the election process;**
 - **Falsify, deceive, deface or destroy any election material;**
 - **Artificially create an advantage that any other candidate cannot reasonably (as determined by the Returning Officer or their nominee) replicate;**
 - **Interfere in a vote or voting process; or**
 - **Act in a way that infringes the rules and regulations set out by the Returning Officer.**
- **A candidate may be subject to disciplinary procedures, including disqualification if they breach any Union or University policy or regulation.**
- **If a candidate faces disciplinary, the procedures can be found outlined in Bye Laws F, Disciplinary Procedures for Members of Newman students' Union.**



GENERAL GUIDANCE AND RULES



- **Don't harass students. THEIR vote is THEIR decision.**
- **Don't overwork yourself and your campaign team – even online!**
- **Don't be put off if one student is disinterested or rude to you.**
- **Don't promise things that you can't achieve.**
- Do send out positive messages.
- Think about the different types of students in your messages!
- Do encourage people to use their vote and explain why the SU is important.
- Do set up Social Media Pages for us to share on our website.
- Do think outside the box – make videos on Youtube and Facebook LIVE or use Instagram stories.
- Do create campaign teams to spread the word. Word of mouth is the biggest/most effective tool we have!
- Do ask friends/campaign teams to share your content and speak to their friends on their course.

ABSOLUTE DISQUALIFICATION RULES

- Don't campaign in the library.
- Don't use commercial endorsements.
- Don't stand near a student who is casting a vote or vote on their behalf – every device is a ballot station!
- Do abide by the SU Code of Conduct (www.newmansu.org/policies).
- Do NOT spend any money on publicity (including Boosting Social Media Posts).



COMPLAINTS



In the first instance all complaints must be sent to me as **Deputy Returning Officer** at r.beasley@newman.ac.uk . I will assess the situation, ask any relevant questions to the people involved and make a formal decision.

Complaints cannot be made past 16:00 on Tuesday 30th March 2021.

APPEALS

An appeal can then be made to the **Returning Officer (External)**:

Cassie O'Boyle
Representation & Advocacy Coordinator
University College Birmingham Guild of Students

This will again be sent through myself at the same email address. The Returning Officer will collect any information required and make a decision.

The Returning Officer's decision shall be final.

