



DIT Students' Union Sabbatical Election Regulations

Approved by Electoral Commission for Sabbatical Elections in February 2010

The following information and regulations must be read in full and adhered to by all candidates, campaign managers and campaign team members.

- 1) Each candidate must be a member of the DIT Students' Union as defined by DITSU Constitution i.e candidates who are deemed fully registered students as defined by the Institute shall be entitled to run for election. Therefore any students repeating externally are not eligible to run for election.
- 2) It is the responsibility of each candidate to ensure that all relevant documentation and information is provided when registering for election.
- 3) Candidates will be required to pay a **refundable deposit of €20** when submitting their nomination form. This money to be receipted by the local Returning Officer and refunded to the candidate following the announcement of **all** election results. This deposit may not be refunded if the candidate is in breach of the criteria laid down by the Electoral Commission.
- 4) The candidate must appoint a campaign manager who must be a member of DIT Students' Union as defined by DITSU Constitution. The campaign manager may be not a current Sabbatical Officer, a current Class Rep Convenor, a full-time DITSU staff member, a candidate themselves or a member of the Electoral Commission.
- 5) The candidate and his/her campaign manager shall be jointly responsible for the good conduct of the campaign and for the actions of the members of the campaign team.
- 6) The Campaign Manager shall act as a liaison between the Electoral Commission and the candidate.
- 7) Current Sabbatical officers may help someone else's campaign, once on annual leave. They need not take annual leave if re-running themselves, apart from polling days. However, they must not neglect their duties and responsibilities during campaigning.
- 8) At no time, throughout the duration of the elections, are any individuals to interfere with any campaign material of any candidate. Any instances of interference with campaign material of other candidates by or on behalf of other candidates may result in the disqualification of the candidate, if the Electoral Commission so decides.

- 9) The Electoral Commission shall allocate specified amounts of campaign material to all candidates. Only those resources and materials allocated may be used during the election campaign. Use of any other materials or resources of any kind may result in the disqualification of the candidate, if the Electoral Commission so decides, i.e. use of promotional t-shirts, and additional paper is prohibited.
- 10) The Electoral Commission has monitored the use of electronic communications for electoral purposes since its inception and adapted its policies as the nature of, and the scale of use, has changed. For the purposes of the 2010 election cycle (sabbatical and class rep convenor elections) the Commission has decided to lift its restrictions on the use of electronic communications. This measure is strictly a pilot initiative and will be reviewed after the elections. As such we urge candidates to use such media responsibly.
- 11) **All candidates and/or campaigns managers must attend a meeting of election candidates on Friday 5th February 2010 @ 3.00p.m. Venue to be confirmed. Nominations will only be ratified by the Chief Returning Officer at this meeting.** All allocations of campaign material shall be distributed at this meeting and election regulations addressed. When the meeting with the candidates concludes on the evening nomination closes, campaigning can start.
- 12) All candidates for election **must** attend the session of election Hustings (candidates Question time). This is a public gathering of students in the Constituent sites. Each candidate has an opportunity to address the student body uninterrupted and in turn must answer questions posed by the students of the site. Candidates are advised to prepare a coherent speech and be prepared to defend and speak about their manifesto.
- 13) An appointee of the President and/or the Chief Returning Officer shall chair the Hustings. At no time will bad language or personal attacks be permitted. All candidates for each position shall be heard in an order as determined by the chairperson and once speeches are complete, questions can be asked of the position and individual candidates.
- 14) Attendance at the election hustings (candidates Question time) is **compulsory** for all candidates and failure to comply, except through certified illness shall result in disqualification of the candidate.
- 15) **All candidates must submit their Manifesto with the Nomination Form. Nomination forms shall not be accepted without a Manifesto. The Manifesto must contain:**
- a) The candidate's name and student number
(Student Number is for official use only)
 - b) The candidates course code and year of study
 - c) The position contested,
 - d) A statement of the candidates past or relevant experience, the reasons for running for election and details of the candidates aims, objectives and policies and how the candidates intends to fulfil them.

- e) The candidates signature
- f) The official stamp of the Students' Union.

- 16) The manifesto must not exceed 2 x A4 pages single sided and **must be typed.**
- 17) The Electoral Commission respects the right of free expression. However, it is hereby declared that all campaigning by verbal, visual or written form must be tasteful and not cause offence to parties with access to the Institute buildings. Offensive or inappropriate material will not be tolerated. Any breaches of this stipulation may result in disqualification of the candidate if the Electoral Commission so decides.
- 18) The Electoral Commission reserves the right to investigate and verify the Proposers student numbers and to verify any material within this document.
- 19) Any breach of the above regulations may result in the candidate's disqualification, if the Electoral Commission so decides.
- 20) As per the DITSU Constitution (Article 11. Section 19), all successful candidates will be required to sign a Contract of Employment at their Inauguration in April 2010, and as such you are contractually obliged to attend an Induction Programme commencing 14th June 2010, for which you will be paid.
- 21) The Elections will take place on the following dates in the following locations:
 - Monday 22nd February 2010 – ONLY Temple Bar & Portland Row from 10a.m. To 4p.m.
 - Tuesday 23rd February 2010 **
 - Wednesday 24th February 2010**
 - Thursday 25th February to 11.00a.m. (all stations)

Polling stations will operate as follows:

** 8.30a.m. To 8.30 p.m in DIT Aungier Street, DIT Bolton Street, Cathal Brugha St. Kevin Street & Mountjoy Square.

** 9a.m. to 5p.m. in DIT Rathmines Road.

The **Election Count** will take place on Thursday 25th February 2010 at 1p.m. Venue to be confirmed.

Inquiries or Complaints:

All inquiries or complaints regarding the elections must be made in writing within three (3) days of the event to:

Mr. Deiric O'Broin
Chairperson,
Electoral Commission,
DIT Students' Union,
DIT Bolton Street,
Dublin 1.