

# RETURNING OFFICERS REPORT SU OFFICER ELECTIONS 2020

## Returning Officers' Report: SU Officer Elections 2020

### Contents

1. Summary of Election and Results
2. Election Support
3. Election Schedule
4. Voter Turnout
5. Candidates
6. Election Rules and Incidents
7. Recommendations

Appendix A: Election Rules

Appendix B: Full Tables of Results

### 1. Summary of Results

Between **9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020** elections for the following positions were held concurrently:

- All eight Students' Union Officers
- Two Elected Student Trustees
- One Honorary President
- One Referendum

The full results for each election can be found in the appendices. The final results of these elections were:

<b>President:</b>	Beth Eyre (elected, out of 4 candidates, in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> round)
<b>Activities Officer:</b>	Joel Kirk (elected, out of 2 candidates, in the 1 <sup>st</sup> round)
<b>Education Officer:</b>	Ellie Lynas (elected, out of 3 candidates, in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> round)
<b>International Students' Officer:</b>	Iuri Montenegro (elected, out of 7 candidates, in the 5 <sup>th</sup> round)
<b>Sports Officer:</b>	Matt Graves (elected, out of 2 candidates in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> round)
<b>SU Development Officer:</b>	Jordan Weir (elected, out of 4 candidates, in the 4 <sup>th</sup> round)
<b>Welfare Officer:</b>	Holly Ellis (elected, out of 4 candidates, in the 4 <sup>th</sup> round)
<b>Women's Officer:</b>	Lily Grimshaw (the only candidate standing, elected in the 1 <sup>st</sup> round)
<b>Elected Student Trustees:</b>	Mark Ayad (elected, out of 2 candidates, in the 1 <sup>st</sup> round) Janice Azu (elected, out of 2 candidates, in the 1 <sup>st</sup> round)
<b>Honorary President:</b>	Stormzy (elected out of 3 candidates, in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> round)
<b>Referenda:</b>	
	The question was asked ' <b><i>Should Sheffield SU remain affiliated to the National Union of Students?</i></b> '
	The proposal <b><u>passed</u></b> by the required simple majority vote in favour.
	<b>Yes</b> 2388
	<b>No</b> 450
	<b>Abstain</b> 682

## 2. Election Support

The **Returning Officers** were responsible for deciding on any matter relating to the conduct of the election. This includes the power to penalise or exclude candidates in respect of any breach of election regulations. The Returning Officers for these elections were:

**Beren Maddison** (Welfare Officer)  
**Martha Evans** (Activities Officer)  
**Alex Adams** (Geography Councillor)

The **Senior Returning Officer** was responsible for advising the Returning Officers on serious breaches of the Election Rules. The Senior Returning Officer for these elections was:

**The National Union of Students**

The **Elections Committee** advised on the promotion and organisation of the election, on regulations for publicity and on the rules for candidates. The Elections Committee for these elections was:

**Beren Maddison** (Welfare Officer)  
**Nadja Horvat-Markovic** (Mature Students' Councillor)  
**Chesna Wu** (Human Communication Studies Councillor)  
**Matthew Luk** (Music Councillor)  
**Rachel Ye Qin Tan** (International Students' Councillor)

The **Elections Working Group** consisted of Students' Union staff and the SU President. The group was responsible for planning and delivering all operational aspects of the election, in line with the steer provided by the Elections Committee and the decisions of the Returning Officers. The Elections Working Group for these elections was:

**Jake Verity** (SU President)  
**Kathryne Fraser** (Deputy Director of Membership Engagement)  
**Amy Thornton** (Head of Department Student Groups Support)  
**Chris Howett** (Digital Producer)  
**Phoebe Clarke** (Marketing Executive)  
**Sarah Pugh** (Democracy Coordinator)  
**Becky Sliwa Webb** (Media and Performance Coordinator)

## 3. Election Schedule

This year's election period schedule was as follows:

<b>Nominations open:</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 (10am)
<b>Nominations close:</b>	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020 (5pm)
<b>Candidate training:</b>	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020 (day) or Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 (evening)
<b>Campaigning starts and candidates' names are announced:</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2020 (10am)
<b>Deadline date to formally withdraw from election:</b>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (10am)
<b>Candidate Rest Day:</b>	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (12am - 11:59pm)
<b>Voting opens:</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (10am)
<b>Voting closes:</b>	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (5pm)
<b>Results announced:</b>	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (from 7.30pm)

#### 4. Voter Turnout

'Voter turnout' refers to the total number of eligible students who voted in the elections. Voter turnout in these elections was 9383 students. This is the highest number of unique voters ever recorded in Officer Elections at Sheffield Students' Union and is an increase in turnout of 1113 voters from the 2018/19 Officer Elections. Voter turnout was approximately 30% of the student population, increasing from 27.8% in 2019/20.

Voter turnout and student population during the past 10 sets of Officer Elections are as follows:

<b>Election Year</b>	<b>Student Population</b>	<b>Voter Turnout</b>	<b>Percentage turnout</b>
2010/11	24319	7692	31.6%
2011/12	24916	8543	34.2%
2012/13	25805	8996	34.8%
2013/14	24767	9209	37.1%
2014/15	27230	7029	25.8%
2015/16	27947	6599	23.6%
2016/17	28848	8605	29.8%
2017/18	29666	8065	27.1%
2018/19	29717	8270	27.8%
2020/21	(approx.) 31500	9383	30%

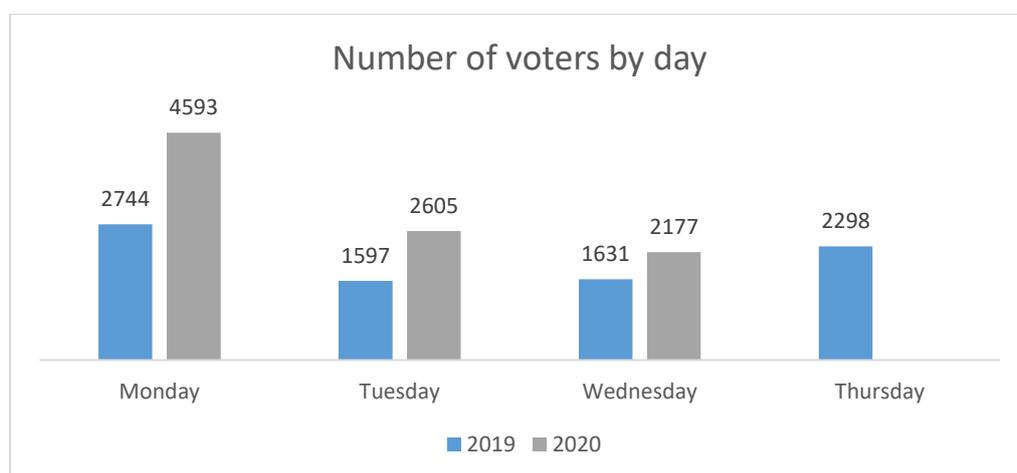
The voter turnout in per election was as follows:

<b>Election</b>	<b>Voter Turnout</b>
SU President	7186
Activities Officer	4814
Education Officer	4260
International Students' Officer	5522
Sports Officer	4717
SU Development Officer	4912
Welfare Officer	4494
Women's Officer	4303
Elected Student Trustee	3250
Referenda	3520
Honorary President	3902

<b>Voter Turnout across all Elections</b>	<b>9383</b>
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Following a recommendation from the Returning Officers for the 2018/19 Officer Elections to delay the announcement of results to one day after the close of voting, a shorter voting period was trialled this year, with voting reduced from four days to three.

As can be seen below, the previous trend for peaks in the number of voters on the first and last day of voting was reversed in 2020. Instead, there was a large peak on Monday, as usual, and then the number of voters decreased every subsequent day.



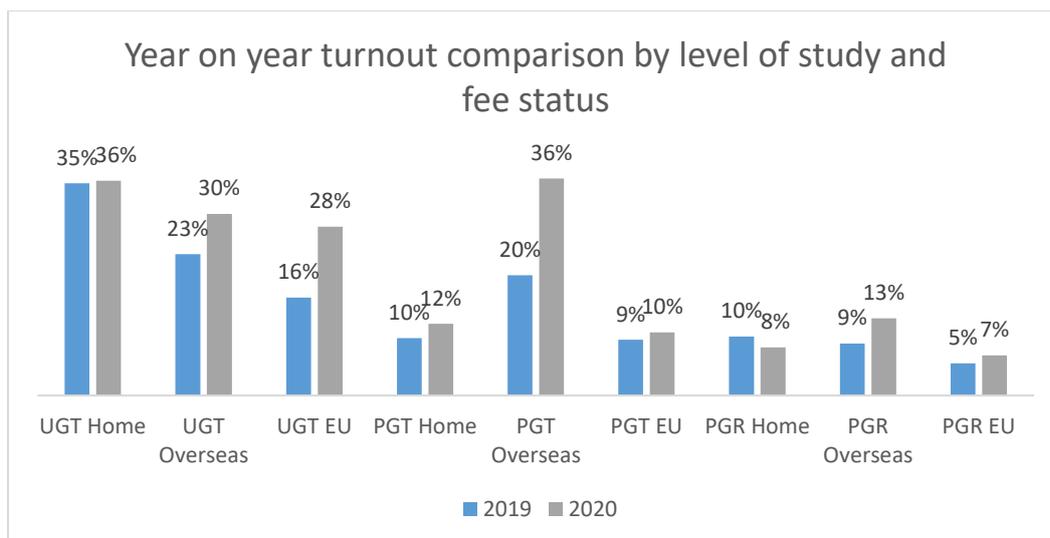
Voter turnout is separated by level of study and fee status, below:

Level of study	Fee status			Grand Total
	Home	Overseas	EU	
UGT	5607	1069	44	6720
PGT	365	1939	31	2335
PGR	130	165	25	320
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6102</b>	<b>3173</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9375</b>

*\* Please note that the 8 SU Officers' votes are not included in these figures*

The increase in turnout this year appears to have been led by the overseas student population, with turnout among overseas Postgraduate Taught students increasing from 20% of the eligible population in 2019 to 36% in 2020. This brings overseas Postgraduate Taught students' turnout into line with home Undergraduate students' turnout, who previously have consistently had the highest voter turnout of any demographic group. There was also a large increase in turnout from overseas Undergraduate students.

The chart below shows the compares turnout by level of study and fee status in 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.



The increase in voter turnout and engagement from overseas students is a particular success as the elections took place alongside industrial action resulting in less students being on campus during the election period.

## 5. Candidates

The number of candidates, in comparison to the previous year, were as follows:

Position	2020 Number of Candidates	2019 Number of Candidates	Difference (2020 vs 2019)
President	4	4	0
SU Development	4	2	+2
Sports	2	3	-1
Activities	2	11	-9
Welfare	4	3	+1
Education	3	4	-1
International	7	6	-1
Women's	1	5	-4
Student Trustee	2	18	-16
Honorary President	3	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>-24</b>

There was a significant decrease in candidates during these elections compared with 2018/19, with 24 less candidates across all elections. However, in the 2018/19 elections the positions of Activities Officer and Elected Student Trustee saw unusually high numbers, 11 and 18 respectively.

A standard objective for all cross campus elections is that each position is contested (has at least 2 candidates where there is 1 vacancy). This objective was achieved for all positions except for Women's Officer, which was uncontested with only one candidate standing, and Elected Trustee which was uncontested with two candidates standing for two positions.

Nominations for 6 delegates to NUS Liberation Conference were opened alongside the Officer and Elected Student Trustee Elections. Two nominations were received and pursuant to **Bye Law 16 1.6** "All elections, except for elections of delegates to the Annual Conference and Extraordinary Conferences of the National Union of Students, shall provide the opportunity to vote for "Reopen Nominations", in preference to one or more candidates", these nominees were appointed to the roles of delegates. The remaining 4 positions remain vacant following the elections period.

## 6. Election Rules and Complaints

The Election Rules (Appendix A) were approved in advance in line with the Students' Union Constitution and Bye-Law 16 Election Regulations. Students were required to agree to these rules upon submitting a nomination and were required to attend a rules briefing prior to campaigning.

Previous elections had shown a trend towards higher complaints and appeals which required significant staff, Officer and student resource. However this trend has not continued in to the 2020 Officer Elections.

The Returning Officers received 10 complaints during the elections. This is in comparison with 24 complaints being received during the 2019 Officer Elections. The Returning Officers met at least once per day during the campaigning period and made rulings on all complaints within 1 working day. Of the 10 complaints, 3 were dismissed and 7 upheld. Sanctions ranged from warnings to candidates to temporary campaign bans. A standby Election Appeals Committee was convened, pursuant to the Students' Union Constitution, but there were no appeals to Returning Officer decisions.

### **SU Officer Elections 2019/2020 Summary of Complaints:**

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Complaints Received</b>
<b>Supplementary Election Rules 2.4.1</b> (candidates and campaigners may not) Undertake and public campaigning activity, as defined by section 2.1 of these rules, before candidates' names are announced at 10am on Monday 2nd March 2020.	5
<b>Supplementary Election Rules 2.4.3</b> (candidates and campaigners may not) Obscure, tamper with or remove the publicity of any other candidates.	1
<b>Bye-Law 16 5.3</b> Members who are ineligible to serve as a Trustee or unwilling to sign the declaration may not stand for election as a Students' Union Officer.	1
<b>Supplementary Election Rules Timetable</b> Undertaking campaigning on candidate rest day	1
<b>Supplementary Election Rules 2.4.4</b> (candidates and campaigners may not) Make any "false statement of fact" in relation to a candidate's personal character, manifesto or conduct.	1
<b>Supplementary Election Rules 2.4.5</b> (candidates and campaigners may not) Engage in behaviour that may harass, intimidate, abuse, threaten and/or discriminate	1

## 7. Recommendations of the Returning Officers

### 7.1 Student Group Endorsements

**Issue:** In the 2020 Officer elections student groups were permitted to endorse the candidates for the first time in many years.

The Elections Committee did not reach a consensus on the topic of student group endorsements, so deferred the decision to Students' Union Council. SU Council could not take this decision as its meeting due to take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 was inquorate and did not go ahead. The decision was therefore taken by the Student Executive Committee, who voted in favour of permitting society endorsements in the SU Officer Elections 2020.

**Consideration:** Of the 10 complaints received during the elections, 2 concerned society endorsements in relation to campaigning before the announcement of candidates. One of these complaints was upheld as a breach of campaigning rules, but not as a breach of guidance around student group endorsements.

**Recommendation:** The Returning Officers agreed that should student group endorsements continue to be permitted in future elections, then greater clarity should be given to groups and candidates, specifically regarding when in the election candidates may approach groups to seek endorsements. The Returning Officers also recommend that further development of such a rule takes place following thorough consultation with student groups.

#### 7.2 Delay in announcing results

**Issue:** For the previous two Officer Elections periods, due to the level of complaints and appeals to Returning Officer decisions, it was not possible to return and announce all elections concurrently. To manage the risk of again being unable to return an election on results evening the Returning Officers for the 2018/19 Officer elections recommended a delay the announcement of results to one day after the close of voting.

This recommendation was implemented for the 2019/20 Elections, and the voting period was reduced from four days to three to allow results to still be announced on a Thursday.

**Consideration:** The level of complaints received during these elections was a significant decrease on the previous year, and no appeals took place at any point in the elections period. This delay in the announce of results was nevertheless a benefit to all involved in the elections as significant time and resource is required by staff, Officers and students throughout the elections period.

**Recommendation:** The Returning Officers recommend that a 24 hour delay between the close of voting and announcement of results continues to be implemented in future elections.

**The elections were agreed by the Returning Officers to be fair and properly conducted.**

**Beren Maddison** (Welfare Officer)  
**Martha Evans** (Activities Officer)  
**Alex Adams** (Geography Councillor)  
April 2020

#### Appendix A: Election Rules

##### **Supplementary Rules to Bye-Law 16 Elections Regulations**

Pursuant to Bye-Law 16, clause 4.2, these rules were agreed on 20/02/20, for application to the SU Officer Elections 2020

The Election officials for this election are:

<b>Returning Officers</b> Responsible for the conduct of the election.	Activities Officer Martha Evans, Welfare Officer Beren Maddison, Geography Councillor Alex Adams
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<p><b><u>Senior Returning Officer</u></b> To advise the Returning Officers where necessary.</p>	The National Union of Students
<p><b><u>Counting Officer</u></b> Responsible for the counting of the elections.</p>	Jaki Booth (Students' Union Chief Executive) or their nominee.
<p><b><u>Advisory Staff</u></b> To advise on all aspects of SU Elections, including Elections Regulations.</p>	Kathryne Fraser (Deputy Director of Membership Engagement) Amy Thornton (Head of Student Groups Support) Sarah Pugh (Democracy Coordinator)

The timetable for these elections is as follows:

<b>Publication of Notice</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2019
<b>Nominations Open</b>	10am Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
<b>Nominations Close</b>	5pm Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
<b>Candidate Training and Support</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February – Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2020
<b>Candidates Announced and Campaigning Begins</b>	10am Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2020
<b>Online only campaigning</b>	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (12am-11.59pm)
<b>Candidate Rest Day</b>	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (12am-11.59pm)
<b>Voting Opens</b>	10am Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>Voting Closes</b>	5pm Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
<b>Results Announced</b>	7pm onwards Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2020

*Always use your common sense and try to resolve issues with other candidates through compromise, courtesy and respect, and ask where you are unsure about a campaigning rule or if you are not sure if something is permitted.*

General queries, not complaints, can be directed to the Returning Officers via [elections@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:elections@sheffield.ac.uk).

## **1. GENERAL RULES**

- All election candidates and their campaign team members agree to abide by the following election rules as a compulsory requirement. Candidates are responsible for all those acting in support of them and their campaign.
- Bye-Law 16, and these supplementary rules shall be interpreted and enforced by the Returning Officers in response to any matter relating to the election. The Returning Officers shall be guided by the principles of reasonableness and proportionality in applying all election rules.
- No candidate in the elections, nor anyone involved with their campaign, shall hold a position involved in the planning, administering, overseeing or providing coverage of the elections for the duration of the election period.
- During an election, all candidates, their campaigners, and all members of the Union shall act in the interests of a fair and properly conducted election, in which all members are able to cast a vote, by secret ballot, for their preferred elected leadership, without influence or pressure from any other individual or group, and in which all candidates will have a fair chance of contesting, and being elected to their position.

## **2. CAMPAIGNING AND CANVASSING**

1. Though not exhaustive nor exclusive, “campaigning” or “canvassing” will mean any of the following, through which an intention to run for a position in SU Elections is made evident:
  - 2.1.1 Distributing physical materials, such as posters or leaflets, in public locations
  - 2.1.2 Public communications including via social media
  - 2.1.3 Public interviews with any news or media outlet
  - 2.1.4 Acting in any other way so as to solicit votes in the SU Elections, as determined by the Returning Officers.
  
2. It is the candidate’s responsibility to obtain permission to carry out campaigning activities in public or University spaces. Campaigning around the concourse area of campus is permitted, but please note that materials which are likely to cause damage to buildings and structures are not permitted. This will include, but not be limited to, stickers and sellotape.
  
3. All publicity must state the name of the candidate producing the publicity, and the position they are standing for.
  
4. Candidates and members of campaign teams may not:
  1. Undertake and public campaigning activity, as defined by section 2.1 of these rules, before candidates’ names are announced at 10am on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020.
  2. Seek to influence or deliberately observe a member who is engaged in the act of voting on any device, nor provide voters with a voting platform (e.g. a smartphone, tablet, etc.)
  3. Obscure, tamper with or remove the publicity of any other candidates.
  4. Make any “false statement of fact” in relation to a candidate’s personal character, manifesto or conduct.
  5. Engage in behaviour that may harass, intimidate, abuse, threaten and/or discriminate. This will usually mean unwanted behaviour which violates another’s dignity or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for them.
  6. Continue to engage with a member once a request for them to cease has been made.
  7. Induce or gain votes through any financial means, meaning the offering, giving, solicitation or the acceptance of any inducement or reward including, but not limited to, the use of currency in any form, physical or digital payment or benefit. (e.g. amazon vouchers, pop tarts tickets, random prize draws of money or goods)
  8. Be endorsed, nor seek to be endorsed, or receive any material support or donation from any of the following:
    - a. Students’ Union Officer
    - b. Students’ Union Councillor
    - c. Working or Representative Committee
  
5. The above rules shall not interfere with the freedom of all candidates to express lawful views and opinions that may offend, shock or disturb. Freedom of speech and expression, within the law, is a human right which underpins a democratic society. It is not an absolute right and can be restricted in circumstances where it is legitimate and proportionate to do so.
  
6. Candidates may not exceed the agreed spending limit for the position for which they are a candidate. All candidates must provide all proof of expenditure related to their campaign by 5pm on the day of the close of voting, which will be scrutinised by the Returning Officers following the close of voting. Items freely available to any and all students at no cost do not need to be accounted for in declaration of expenditure.

7. Reasonable adjustments to permitted spending may be provided to candidates with a disability in order to facilitate their engagement with the election process. Such adjustments will be proportionate to the resources available to run the elections as a whole.

8. The above are neither exclusive nor exhaustive, and the Returning Officers have the right to deem any method of campaigning inappropriate.

### **3. ELECTION COMPLAINTS PROCESS**

3.1 Any election related complaint will only be considered when submitted using the Elections Complaint Form: <https://forms.gle/4XNMaPfPr9SxKvrP6>. Candidates must not attempt to submit complaints by any other means. Incomplete complaint forms will not be considered by the Returning Officers.

**3.2** All election rules will only be enforced based on the available facts and supporting evidence provided as part of a complaint.

3.3 The Returning Officers shall usually make rulings on any properly submitted complaint within one working day of receipt.

3.4 In addition to being able to penalise or exclude candidates and postpone or nullify the result of an election, The Returning Officers may also apply the following penalties:

3.4.1 Issue a caution to a candidate,

3.4.2 Require a specific action by a candidate (e.g. a formal apology, the removal of certain campaign materials etc.)

3.4.3 Issue a formal warning, which may be made public to all candidates and voters,

3.4.4 Apply a campaign ban for a specified period,

3.5 At any point during the elections the Returning Officers may seek advice from the Senior Returning Officer, the Counting Officer or Students' Union advisory staff.

**3.6** Any appeal against a decision of the Returning Officers must be submitted in writing according to the following time restrictions:

**3.6.1** Before the opening of polling: within 24 hours of the decision being communicated.

**3.6.2** During polling: within 5 hours of the decision being communicated.

3.7 The University Secretary will be notified of serious breaches of the Elections Regulations.

### **STUDENT GROUP ENDORSEMENT GUIDELINES:**

1. Student Groups may endorse candidates standing for election at Sheffield SU in the 2020 Officer Elections.
2. Endorsements may be made in line with the elections timeline set out in the Supplementary Election Rules.
3. Decisions by groups to endorse a candidate should be made via a democratic decision of the Committee, and there should be evidenced proof that this has happened. Groups are advised that this record may be requested by the Returning Officers at any time. [Evidence may be submitted voluntarily](#), but this is not compulsory.
4. If a member of your committee has a conflict of interest, (i.e. they are running in the election) they should not take part in making the decision.
5. Student Group funds must not be used to support a candidate's campaign.
6. Student Groups may endorse as many or as few candidates as they wish across all elections. Groups are not obliged to endorse any candidates standing for election.

## ELECTION REGULATIONS

### 1. GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 1.1 Students' Union Council shall have overall responsibility for all elections and shall be empowered to rule on any matter relating to the conduct of elections.
- 1.2 The President shall be responsible to Students' Union Council for the organisation of elections held by cross-campus ballot. Students' Union Council shall appoint up to 3 Returning Officers, to be responsible for the conduct of these elections, and a Senior Returning Officer, who shall not be a Full Member of the Students' Union and who shall have relevant experience.
- 1.3 Elections shall only be held on weekdays during the academic terms defined by the University Senate.
- 1.4 Single vacancy elections shall be held by the Alternative Voting (AV) system and multi-vacancy elections normally be conducted by the X-voting system, with the number of votes equal to the number of vacancies. Elections Committee may also decide to hold multi-vacancy elections by the Single Transferable Voting (STV) system.
- 1.5 Elections of delegates to the Annual Conference of the National Union of Students shall normally be conducted by the Single Transferable Vote system.
- 1.6 All elections, except for elections of delegates to the Annual Conference and Extraordinary Conferences of the National Union of Students, shall provide the opportunity to vote for "Re-open Nominations", in preference to one or more candidates.
- 1.7 If insufficient nominations have been received to fill all vacancies at the close of nominations, the election shall proceed as normal.
- 1.8 The Counting Officer shall be responsible for all matters relating to the counting of elections and shall be the Chief Executive or their nominee.

### 2. DUTIES OF THE SENIOR RETURNING OFFICER

- 2.1 To satisfy themselves, on the basis of information provided by the Returning Officers and the Counting Officer, that the conduct of elections and referenda is in accordance with this Bye-law and is guided by the Representation of the People Acts as appropriate.
- 2.2 To advise the Returning Officers and Students' Union Council on any matter as they deems necessary.

### 3. DUTIES OF THE RETURNING OFFICERS

- 3.1 To decide any matter relating to the conduct of the election, subject to Students' Union Council. This shall include the power to penalise or exclude candidates in respect of any breach of election regulations and to postpone or nullify the result of an election in respect of any irregularity.
- 3.2 To ensure that the election is conducted in accordance with this Bye-Law and any regulations specified by Students' Union Council, and to be guided by the Representation of the Peoples Act on any other issue.
- 3.3 To seek advice from the Senior Returning Officer on any matter of interpretation of this Bye-Law or on the application of the Representation of the People Acts.

### 4. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

- 4.1 Students' Union Council shall appoint an Elections Committee for each set of cross-campus elections. The Committee shall consist of up to 5 members elected by Students' Union Council (or by the Student Executive Committee for the election of Students' Union Council).
- 4.2 The Elections Committee shall consider and advise on the promotion and organisation of the election, on the regulations for publicity and on the rules for candidates.
- 4.3 Members of the Elections Committee shall not be candidates in any election for which they are responsible.

### 5. ELIGIBILITY TO STAND AND VOTE

- 5.1 All Full Members shall be eligible to stand as candidates and vote in all elections, except as specified below.
- 5.2 Members shall not seek election for more than one post of Students' Union Officer, as constituted under Bye Law 4, or more than one post of Councillor, in any set of elections. Members who have stood for one post of Students' Union Officer in an academic year may not stand for any other post in that year, except where such a post is newly created or has been substantially changed and can be reasonably seen to being open for election for the first time.
- 5.3 Candidates for Students' Union Officer posts shall be required as part of the nomination process to sign a declaration that they are eligible and willing to serve as a Trustee of the Students' Union. Members who are ineligible to serve as a Trustee or unwilling to sign the declaration may not stand for election as a Students' Union Officer.
- 5.4 The right to vote and stand as a candidate for Representative Committees shall be limited to students from those groups represented by each Committee, as defined in Bye-Law 6.
- 5.5 The right to vote and stand as a candidate for NUS Women's Conference shall be limited to women students.
- 5.6 The right to stand as a candidate for the posts of International Students' Officer and Women's Officer shall be limited to international students and women students respectively

## **6. ELECTION TIMETABLES**

### **6.1 Ordinary Elections**

- 6.1.1 Elections shall be held by cross-campus ballot for the Students' Union Officers, Students' Union Council, NUS Conference delegates
- 6.1.2 Elections shall normally be held in accordance with the following timetable

#### **Students' Union Council**

Semester 1, Week 1

Publication of notice opening nominations and outlining the election timetable by 12 noon on Monday.

Semester 1, Week 2:

Nominations close at 5.00pm on Friday

Semester 1, Week 3

Publication of nominations by 5.00pm on Tuesday.

Semester 1, Week 4:

Publication of candidates' election statements by 12 noon on Monday.

Polling on 3 days, other than Monday.

Publication of full results by 5.00pm on Friday

Students' Union Council shall be empowered to vary this timetable, subject to publishing an amended timetable before the end of Week 15 of Semester 2.

#### **Students' Union Officers and NUS Conference**

Semester 1, Week 15:

Publication of notice opening nominations and outlining the election timetable by 12 noon on Friday.

Semester 2, Week 1:

Nominations close at 12 noon on Friday.

Semester 2, Week 2:

Publication of nominations at 5.00pm on Friday.

Semester 2, Week 3:

Hustings of candidates for the Students' Union Officers

Semester 2, Week 4:

Publication of candidates' election statements by 12 noon on Monday  
Polling on 3 days, other than Monday.  
Publication of full results by 5.00pm on Friday.

Students' Union Council shall be empowered to vary this timetable, subject to publishing an amended timetable before the end of Week 13 of Semester 1.

## **7. REGULATIONS FOR ELECTIONS BY CROSS-CAMPUS BALLOT**

### **7.1 Notice of Elections**

7.1.1 The President shall give notice of elections, which shall include:

- Details of posts for election;
- The election timetable, in accordance with this Bye-Law;
- The places for the collection/return of nomination forms and for polling.

7.1.2 This notice shall be published in the Students' Union Building, on the Students' Union website, in any regular publication of the Students' Union, and in such other places as Students' Union Council may determine.

### **7.2 Nominations**

7.2.1 Nominations shall be made on a nomination form which shall require:

- The title of the post to be contested;
- the registered name, current address, Registration number and signature of the candidate; except where a nomination form is submitted electronically it shall be submitted from the Candidate's University email account, but shall not require a signature;
- Alternative preferred name (by which the candidate is commonly known);
- A passport photograph bearing a genuine likeness of the candidate, as on their Students' Union card;
- A slogan of up to 6 words which the candidate may have placed by their name on the ballot paper;
- An election statement of no more than 100 words, or 250 words for candidates for Officer's posts. In addition to this statement. any candidate who will be absent from the University for a period exceeding 30 days during the period of office of the post to which they are seeking election shall add a statement specifying the dates and reason for such absence;

7.2.2 If any nomination is deemed to be invalid, in accordance with the Constitution and Bye-Laws the President shall inform the person nominated within one day, and publish the details at the time of publishing nominations.

7.2.3 Any Full Member may challenge the validity of a nomination, within 2 days following the publication of nominations, on the grounds that it does not comply with the Constitution and Bye-Laws. The Returning Officers shall rule on the challenge and their decision shall be final.

7.2.4 Any candidate may withdraw from an election, no later than 3 days prior to voting, only by writing to the President.

7.2.5 Candidates may specify an alternative preferred name, by which they are commonly known, on the nomination form, which may then be used on the voting paper and in any election publicity. The Returning Officers shall have discretion to rule on the appropriateness of any specified alternative names. If candidates do not specify an alternative preferred name, or if the Returning Officers rule that the name specified is inappropriate, then the candidate's registered name shall be used on voting papers.

7.3 Delegates to the Annual Conference of the National Union of Students (NUS) shall be elected by a ballot of all students, with the exception of the President who shall be an ex-officio delegate. An election shall be held for the full permitted number of delegates, conducted in accordance with Bye-Law 17. In the event of an insufficient number of delegates being elected, no further election shall be held and no other members appointed to the delegation. The President-elect shall be entitled to attend the Conference as an observer.

### **7.4 Election Campaigns**

- 7.4.1 All candidates shall act in accordance with the regulations contained within this Bye-law and with any other regulations approved by Students' Union Council, and shall be required to sign an undertaking to this effect.
- 7.4.2 No Students' Union Officer, as defined in Bye-Law 4, Students' Union Council or Representative Committee as defined in Bye-Law 6, shall endorse any candidate for election to any of the posts outlined in Clause 4 above in any written or published material.
- 7.4.3 Students' Union Council shall determine regulations for publicity, and arrangements for financial assistance towards publicity costs.
- 7.4.4 Hustings shall be arranged for the elections for Students' Union Officers, and for other elections as deemed appropriate, as determined by Students' Union Council.
- 7.4.5 Any Representative Committee may request a statement from any candidate for a post of Students' Union Officer on issues specific to that Committee. Such a request shall be submitted in writing and copied to the Returning Officers. Any statement produced in response to such a request shall not exceed 100 words, and shall be published on the Students' Union website by the Returning Officers within two days of its receipt.
- 7.4.6 Any complaints regarding the conduct of the election campaign shall be submitted in writing to the Returning Officers before the start of the count. The Returning Officers shall decide on any complaints, subject to Students' Union Council.
- 7.4.7 All student media provided by working committees constituted under Bye-law 7 shall ensure that their coverage of elections and referenda is unbiased and balanced. All published material or broadcasting plans shall be submitted to the Returning Officers for approval prior to publication or broadcast. The Returning Officers may require whatever action they deem necessary to be taken to prevent the publication or broadcast of any item that conflicts with this requirement.

## **8. POLLING**

- 8.1 **Location:** Polling stations shall be situated in the Students' Union Building and other places as determined by Students' Union Council.
- 8.2 Polling for ordinary elections shall be held over at least:
- 3 days for elections for Students' Union Officers and Students' Union Council.
  - 2 days for other elections.
  - Polling for ordinary elections shall take place for at least 8 hours on each day in the Students' Union Building except on the final day of elections when polling shall take place for at least 6 hours.
- 8.3 Students' Union Council shall determine the location and duration of polling for bye-elections. Polling for referenda shall be conducted in accordance with Bye-Law 2: Referenda.
- 8.4 Polling dates shall be published before, and may not be altered after, the start of polling.
- 8.5 **Polling Officers:** Each polling station shall be staffed by at least one Polling Officer, who shall be responsible for ensuring the proper conduct of polling at their station. Polling Officers may appoint Assistant Polling Officers.
- 8.6 **Entitlement to vote:** On presentation of their Students' Union membership card every Full Member shall be entitled to cast votes in elections open to all members, and in other elections as appropriate.
- 8.7 **Polling Records:** Each Polling Officer shall record the name and Registration number of every voter, and this record shall be reconciled with the votes cast at that polling station, to the satisfaction of the Returning Officers.
- 8.8 **Voting papers:** Shall specify the registered name or alternative preferred name (subject to Clause 6.2.5), of each candidate, and slogan if submitted, in an order determined by lot, and shall explain the method of election.
- 8.9 **Election Statements:** The Polling Officers shall display election statements of all candidates close to the polling station.
- 8.10 **Canvassing:** The Polling Officer shall ensure that there is no publicity relating to an individual candidate, or favouring/opposing a Referendum proposal within a 5 metre radius of the polling station, with the exception of the election/referendum statements. There shall be no canvassing within a 5 metre radius of the polling station, and the Polling Officer shall report any incident of canvassing to the Returning Officers.

- 8.11 **Special Voting Arrangements:** The Returning Officers may make such arrangements as they deem appropriate to enable Full Members studying abroad or away from Sheffield to participate in the elections, and shall report to Students' Union Council on any such arrangements.
- 8.12 **Postal Ballots and Electronic Voting:** Returning Officers may arrange for a postal ballot and electronic voting for all, or any section of, members in any election, subject to publishing the arrangements for such a ballot as part of the notice for elections. Such arrangements shall be in line with the general provisions of this Bye-Law.
- 8.13 **Complaints:** Any complaints regarding the conduct of polling shall be submitted in writing before the start of the count. The Returning Officers shall decide on any complaint, subject to appeal to Elections Appeals Committee and Students' Union Council.
- 8.14 **Elections Appeals Committee:** The Elections Appeals Committee shall consist of up to five full members of the Students' Union. The Appeals Committee members shall be drawn by lot from a randomly selected pool of available full members. The complainant or the respondent may appeal against a decision of the Returning Officers to the Elections Appeals Committee on any ground.
- 8.15 **Appeals to Students' Union Council:** The complainant or the respondent may appeal against a decision of the Elections Appeals Committee to Students' Union Council, but only on one of the following grounds:
- There was a procedural irregularity which rendered the process leading to the decision unfair;
  - The penalty was inappropriate to the offence for which the respondent was found responsible;
  - New evidence which could not reasonably have been available at the time of the appeal hearing.

## 9. REGULATIONS FOR REFERENDA

- 9.1 Referenda shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations in this Bye-Law and Bye-Law 2, except where otherwise specified in this clause.
- 9.2 Voting papers shall provide for votes for, against and in abstention on a proposal or complementary proposals. Where there are more than 2 alternative proposals, voting papers shall provide for transferable voting, including the opportunity to vote against all proposals. The Returning Officers shall rule on any dispute on the method of voting and their decision shall be final.
- 9.3 All Full Members shall be able to vote.
- 9.4 Referenda shall be held concurrently with elections, whenever possible.
- 9.5 Proposers of a Referendum may not withdraw their names after it has been submitted to the President.
- 9.6 The proposers of a Referendum shall be entitled to produce a statement of not more than 200 words, and proposers of amendments a statement of not more than 100 words, supporting their proposals. Opponents of a proposal, or of amendments shall be given equal opportunity to state their case. The Returning Officers shall rule on which Full Member(s) shall produce the statement, in case of any dispute. The statements shall be published as election statements.

## 10. ELECTIONS AT STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

- 10.1 Students' Union Council shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair, from within its membership, at the first meeting.
- 10.2 Students' Union Council and Committees may elect other Full Members from within their membership for specific duties as they determine.
- 10.3 Notice of such elections shall be circulated with the notice of the meeting at which the election is to be held.
- 10.4 Nominations shall be taken at the meeting.
- 10.5 The meetings may decide to invite candidates to speak in support of their nominations.
- 10.6 Voting for Committee Chairs and Representative Committee representatives to Students' Union Council shall be conducted by secret ballot under the Alternative Voting System.

- 10.7 Voting in other elections may be by show of hands or secret ballot, as decided by the meeting.

## **11. REGULATIONS GOVERNING COUNTING**

- 11.1 The Counting Officer shall be responsible to the Returning Officers, for the conduct of the count. They shall appoint Assistant Counting Officers, who shall not be candidates or have associated themselves in any way with the campaign of any candidate.

- 11.2 Each candidate shall be entitled to attend the count, or to appoint a Full Member as an agent to attend the count on their behalf.

- 11.3 Only the Returning Officers, the Counting Officer, Assistant Counting Officers and candidates or their agents shall be entitled to attend the count. The Counting Officer shall be empowered to exclude any person who conducts themselves in a way which might interfere with the conduct of the count.

- 11.4 In considering complaints, or the reconciliation of voting papers and polling records, the Returning Officers shall be empowered to order the withdrawal of one or more candidates, or exclude one or more ballot boxes from the count, or deem an election invalid and suspend the count.

- 11.5 Any ballot paper which is marked in any way other than to indicate a preference shall be deemed to be spoilt and invalid.

- 11.6 'Re-open nominations' shall be considered as a candidate for counting purposes, and no other candidate shall be elected unless they obtain a higher vote than 'Re-open Nominations'.

- 11.7 The count shall be held within one day of the close of voting.

### **11.8 Alternative Voting System**

The Counting Officer shall ensure that elections under the Alternative Voting System are conducted as follows:

- (a) Sort the voting papers according to first preferences, setting aside any invalid papers.
- (b) Count the voting papers, to determine the first preferences cast for each candidate and, hence, the total valid vote.
- (c) If a candidate has an overall majority of the valid votes cast at this stage, they shall be deemed elected.
- (d) If no candidate has an overall majority of the valid votes cast, the candidate with the least votes shall be eliminated and their transferable votes shall be identified.
- (e) The transferable votes of the eliminated candidate shall be distributed between the remaining candidates, at full value, according to the second preference indicated on the voting paper. Such voting papers shall be transferred to the remaining candidates' identifiable bundles.
- (f) If a candidate has a majority of the valid votes cast at this stage, they shall be deemed elected.
- (g) If no candidate has a majority of the valid votes cast, the remaining candidate with the least votes shall be eliminated. Their transferable votes shall be identified from first preference votes, as in (e) above, and from transferred bundles according to the third preference indicated on the voting paper.
- (h) If a candidate has a majority of the valid votes cast at this stage, they shall be deemed elected.
- (i) If no candidate has a majority of the valid votes cast, the procedure outlined above shall be repeated until an overall majority is achieved for one candidate, and that candidate shall be deemed elected
- (j) Publish an election result sheet.

### **11.9 X-Voting System**

The Counting Officer shall ensure that elections under the X-Voting System are conducted as follows:

- (a) Sort the voting papers to exclude any invalid papers.
- (b) Count the votes cast for each candidate.
- (c) Rank the candidates in order of votes cast.
- (d) Deem to be elected the highest placed candidates sufficient to fill the vacancies.

(e) Publish an election result sheet.

**11.10 Single Transferable Voting System**

The Counting Officer shall ensure that any elections under the Single Transferable Voting System are conducted in accordance with the rules laid down by the Electoral Reform Society.

**11.11 Tied Votes**

If the Returning Officers deem a vote to be tied at any stage of the counting process it shall be resolved by tossing a coin or by random electronic selection.

**11.12 Glossary of Terms**

- (a) **First preference:** the number '1' placed against only one candidate on a voting paper.
- (b) **Second and subsequent preferences:** the numbers '2', '3', etc., each placed against only one candidate on a voting paper.
- (c) **Valid voting paper:** a voting paper on which a preference or 'X' is unambiguously expressed.
- (d) **Invalid voting paper:** a voting paper on which the same preference is expressed for more than one candidate, more 'X's are expressed than the number of vacancies available or the intention of the voter is uncertain. Voting papers containing comments contrary to Clause 2.2 of the Constitution shall also be deemed invalid.
- (e) **Transferable paper:** a voting paper on which a next available preference for a continuing candidate is unambiguously expressed.
- (f) **Election result sheet:** a sheet showing the vote credited to each candidate and the non-transferable vote at each stage of the count.
- (g) **Stage of the count:** the determination of the first (or subsequent) preferences expressed for each candidate.
- (h) **Overall majority:** a majority over all other candidates.

Appendix B: Full Tables of Results

<b><u>HONORARY PRESIDENT</u></b>							
Results							
Round	Greta Thunberg	Vanessa Nakate	Stormzy	RON	Exhausted	Surplus	Threshold
1	1143	976	1436	347	0	0	1951
	Count of first choices. The initial quota is 1951.00. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.						
2	1174	1034	1486		208	0	1847
	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating RON. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 1847.00. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.						
3	1625		1859		418	117	1742
	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating Vanessa Nakate. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 1742.00. Candidate Stormzy has reached the threshold and is elected.						
<b>Winner is Stormzy</b>							

<b>REFERENDUM - Should Sheffield SU remain affiliated to the National Union of Students?</b>						
Results						
Round	No - I disagree with this proposal	Yes - I agree with this proposal	Abstain from voting on this proposal	Exhausted	Surplus	Threshold
1	450	2388	682	0	628	1760
Count of first choices. The initial quota is 1760.00. Candidate Yes - I agree with this proposal has reached the threshold and is elected.						
<b>Winner is Yes - I agree with this proposal</b>						

<b>ELECTED STUDENT TRUSTEE</b>						
Results						
Round	Mark Ayad	Janice Azu	RON	Exhausted	Surplus	Threshold
1	1187	1778	285	0	798.32	1083.34
Count of first choices. The initial quota is 1083.34. Candidates Mark Ayad and Janice Azu have reached the threshold and are elected.						
<b>Winners are Mark Ayad and Janice Azu</b>						

<b>SU PRESIDENT</b>								
Results								
Round	Fleur Delugar	Beth Eyre	Dom Fairbrass	Josh Glicklich	RON	Exhausted	Surplus	Threshold
1	1757	2252	1413	1604	160	0	0	3593
Count of first choices. The initial quota is 3593.00. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.								
2	2114	2751		1896		425	0	3380.5
All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating Dom Fairbrass and RON. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 3380.50. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.								
3	2536	3452				1198	458	2994
All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating Josh Glicklich. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 2994.00. Candidate Beth Eyre has reached the threshold and is elected.								

**Winner is Bethany Eyre**

<b>EDUCATION OFFICER</b>							
Results							
Round	Sam Calderbank	Micha Farrell	Ellie Lynas	RON	Exhausted	Surplus	Threshold
1	1569	783	1750	158	0	0	2130
	Count of first choices. The initial quota is 2130.00. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.						
2	1934		1990		336	28	1962
	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating Micha Farrell and RON. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 1962.00. Candidate Ellie Lynas has reached the threshold and is elected.						

**Winner is Ellie Lynas**

<b>INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' OFFICER</b>											
Results											
Round	Jack Gong	Jing Li	Iuri Montenegro	Hania Mousa	Lu Shan	Saya Uotani	Helen (Chi) Zhang	RON	Exhausted	Surplus	Threshold
1	1261	97	1814	378	395	968	516	93	0	0	2761
	Count of first choices. The initial quota is 2761.00. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.										
2	1283		1837	397	417	986	533		69	0	2726.5
	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating Jing Li and RON. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 2726.50. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.										
3	1313		1934		444	1048	556		227	0	2647.5
	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating Hania Mousa. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 2647.50. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.										
4	1606		2071			1228			617	0	2452.5
	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating Lu Shan and										

	Helen (Chi) Zhang. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 2452.50. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.									
	1875		2654					993	389.5	2264.5
5	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating Saya Uotani. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 2264.50. Candidate Luri Montenegro has reached the threshold and is elected.									

**Winner is Luri Montenegro**

<b><u>WOMEN'S OFFICER</u></b>					
Results					
<b>Round</b>	<b>Lily Grimshaw</b>	<b>RON</b>	<b>Exhausted</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>Threshold</b>
	3813	490	0	1661.5	2151.5
1	Count of first choices. The initial quota is 2151.50. Candidate Lily Grimshaw has reached the threshold and is elected.				

**Winner is Lily Grimshaw**

<b><u>DEVELOPMENT OFFICER</u></b>								
Results								
<b>Round</b>	<b>Tara Kimberlee</b>	<b>Sophie McGinley</b>	<b>Ciara O'Sullivan</b>	<b>Jordan Weir</b>	<b>RON</b>	<b>Exhausted</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>Threshold</b>
	1120	1046	1286	1358	102	0	0	2456
1	Count of first choices. The initial quota is 2456.00. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.							
	1134	1057	1296	1372		53	0	2429.5
2	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating RON. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 2429.50. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.							
	1364		1565	1634		349	0	2281.5
3	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating Sophie McGinley. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 2281.50. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.							
			2105	2192		615	43.5	2148.5
4	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating Tara Kimberlee. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 2148.50. Candidate Jordan Weir has reached the threshold and is elected.							



Round	Jordan Frith	Matt Graves	RON	Exhausted	Surplus	Threshold
1	2227	2278	212	0	0	2358.5
	Count of first choices. The initial quota is 2358.50. No candidates have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next round.					
2	2285	2323		109	19	2304
	All losing candidates are eliminated. Count after substage 1 of 1 of eliminating RON. Transferred votes with value 1.00. Since no candidate has been elected, the quota is reduced to 2304.00. Candidate Matt Graves has reached the threshold and is elected.					

**Winner is Matt Graves**