

Court Chair Report
A paper by the Court Chair

Elections

In all elections the Court is the final appellate body for all election disputes with the day to day running of elections delegated to an Elections Committee and a Returning Officer. During the sabbatical elections the Court was asked to rule on two complaints. A panel of three members (Jaimie Henry (Deputy Chair, Faculty of Medicine), Andy Heeps (Life Member, ex-ICU President) and Thomas Cosnahan (Faculty of Engineering) convened on 16 April 2012 to conclude on these complaints.

The first was regarding the use of iFrames on candidates websites linking to the voting software. The Court upheld the decision of the Returning Officer and Elections Committee to ask the candidate to remove this feature but did not consider any further action to be appropriate.

The second complaint stemmed from the fact that one candidate's manifesto was not uploaded to the Elections website for a period of ten hours following the commencement of voting. The Elections Committee took the decision to set aside all votes cast in the Deputy President (Welfare) election from the start of voting to 10am but this decision was overturned by the Court on the basis that this was unconstitutional. An order has been made to ensure that all future elections are started when technical errors can be rectified immediately, either during office hours or having an individual "on-call" during the elections period to rectify any errors.

All election results have now been released.

Constitutional Amendments

Under Para 22.4 of the Constitution the Court is required to provide an opinion on the propriety, efficacy and fairness of any proposed constitutional or regulatory amendment to the Trustee Board. As major changes are proposed this term, the Court is currently in the process of arranging a meeting to discuss these when a draft is available. The Court will also offer this opinion to Union Council who is required to approve all amendments prior to them being considered by the Board.

Membership

The Court is currently recruiting to fill vacancies for the 2012/13 academic year.

Actions Required

The Executive Committee have been asked by the Court to update the Election Regulations to reflect changes in technology for presentation to Union Council.