

## **Hustings / Candidates Questions all students welcome**

**Date** – Monday 16 November 2015 9pm

**Venue** – Room MAL B35 Malet Street

**Time** – 9pm (room available), 9:15 hustings starts

**Presiding Officer:** A nominee of the Returning Officer

**Hustings** – or question time for candidates – is a chance for the voters to hear each candidate's election address (a statement or speech outlining what they would like to do if elected) and then a chance to ask the candidates questions about their policies.

**The provisional schedule** (always subject to attendance by both candidates and voters!) will be each candidate speaking for up to two minutes. After all candidates (or in the absence of a candidate their proposer or recognised representative) have spoken, there will then be questions for candidates.

### **Order of speeches**

Order of speaking is determined by lots of those present at the start of the hust. The order of posts will be as set out below:

1. NUS National Delegates
2. NUS London Area Delegates
3. Portfolio Officers in alphabetical order by post
4. GSA and USSSA candidates (time permitting)
5. Union Councillors alphabetical by School (time permitting)

Latecomers will speak in order of arrival if the hustings is still ongoing, otherwise they shall forfeit this opportunity. A proposer may stand-in for a candidate at the hustings and represent them. Other stand-ins need to be advised in advance to the Deputy Returning Officer.

### **Format of Election Speeches / Addresses**

Each candidate will be invited to speak to the audience for up to two minutes. The content of the speeches is unmoderated, however all candidates are reminded to follow the Code of Conduct for Members which binds all members to follow the Safe Space Policy (which is also known as the Dignity at Work & Study Policy as approved by the College and the SU).

Candidate speeches are a time when student reps and Union Officers (including trustees), may be criticised or otherwise “held to account” by any candidate that is speaking – the Students’ Union is a democracy and is accountable in a variety of ways to the members of the Union. All persons attending the hustings are asked to stay within the bounds of responsible free speech – this will mean therefore that you are subject to the Code of Conduct. The Students’ Union will not tolerate any threats or violence or allow any breeches of the Students’ Union’s constitution and equal opportunities and diversity policy to take place. The hustings, like any Students’ Union event, is a safe space. Anyone who breaks the Code may be excluded without further comment by the Presiding Officer.

Any person attending the event (which includes posting or writing on associated social media groups and the SU website) that is found to have broken the safe space policy, will be asked to leave the event and may face disciplinary action.

## **Format of Questions**

Questions can be oral from the floor or in writing. Offensive questions are not allowed. Questions that make unsubstantiated allegations will be ruled-out-of-order (but of course will probably end up being asked and then complained about by one or more voters/candidates).

### **Opening Questions can be directed to:**

- a) All the candidates; or
- b) Candidates just for one of the posts;

These questions must be applicable to all candidates (or candidates for one post if stipulated).

### **Supplementary Questions can then be used to follow-up after Opening Questions:**

- a) They may be directed to individual candidates;
- b) They must relate to Opening Questions or candidate answers to Opening Questions;
- c) The presiding officer will rule-out any supplementary question that is not completely in line with these requirements.

## **Recording of the Hustings**

Ordinary Members (students at Birkbeck) are allowed to record and capture the proceedings at the hustings, which includes photography and filming. Those recording elements of the proceedings are requested to state that it is a snap-shot or extract from the hustings. Those who are recording are asked not to make a nuisance of themselves by being obtrusive or obstructive to the general proceedings and running of the event. All rulings of the presiding officer must be followed by all attendees at the hustings.

**Rob Park**  
**Deputy Returning Officer**  
26 October 2015