



John Snow College Junior Common Room

Election Rules and Regulations Policy

Introduction

This policy details the expected conduct and operations of elections that occur within the Junior Common Room (JCR), namely those that result in the appointment of JCR members to the JCR Committee. It is supplementary to the University policies and procedures and is in no way meant to be contradictory to them. Where this may occur, the Election Rules and Regulations Policy shall not in any way be interpreted as to overrule the University policies and procedures.

Nomination Procedure

Candidates must be nominated by one JCR member and seconded by one JCR member (serving or previous JCR Officers and Democracy Committee members may not nominate or second a candidate).

Candidates must submit AND email (snow.jcr@durham.ac.uk) the following to the John Snow JCR Office by the deadline specified on the nomination form: a completed nomination form, a manifesto (maximum 250 words) and a manifesto summary (maximum 50 words). They must also email a photograph which is a true likeness of them by the deadline specified.

Hustings

Hustings will take place for each position publicly with JCR members being invited to attend. The order of hustings will be decided by the JCR Chair and each candidate's speech must not exceed 3 minutes. However, candidates running for the position of JCR President can give a speech which must not exceed 5 minutes.

Candidates will be asked to vacate the hustings area whilst other candidates are husting for the same position. Candidates must not make negative references to other candidates during their own speeches.

Candidates will be expected to answer questions from present JCR members after all candidates for a given position have made their husts.

Candidates may only begin campaigning after all speeches have been delivered and the meeting has officially been closed by the JCR Chair.

Candidates must not campaign during hustings nor have campaign materials with them during hustings.

Campaigning

In relation to campaigning, candidates **CAN**:

Place posters on suitable notice boards in college and around campus that cover no more than an area equivalent to three A3 pieces of paper per notice board.

Place posters in accommodation blocks but only where notice boards are present or other posters are regularly displayed.

Display posters on their own bedroom doors and the doors of individuals who have given explicit permission for them to do so.

Place campaign materials on tables in communal kitchens.

NB. If campaign materials are not stamped with the official 'John Snow College' stamp, there is a risk that they will be removed without warning.

However, candidates **CANNOT**:

Use gifts, incentives or giveaways as part of their campaign.

Send emails or text messages to solicit votes, or use lists of contact details such as mailing lists of clubs and societies to communicate with large groups.

Interfere with, alter or damage campaign materials belonging to themselves or other candidates, including the removal or 'covering up' of posters and flyers even if to make space for their own materials.

Make negative reference, implied or explicit, to any other candidate throughout their campaign.

In relation to the social networking website, Facebook, candidates **CAN ONLY**:

Create EITHER a single event OR group to promote their campaign (not both).

Post personal status updates to promote their campaign.

Make GENERIC posts on 'John Snow College JCR (Official Group)' and 'John Snow Freshers (Official Group)' to encourage JCR members to vote in the elections.

Therefore, candidates **CANNOT**:

Send private messages or communicate via 'instant chat' to solicit votes.

Post on any other pertinent events or groups (e.g. sports teams groups).

Post on another person's wall to solicit votes.

Non-candidates **CAN** make an independent personal decision to support one or more candidates via Facebook during the campaign period. However, they **MUST NOT** make such decisions at the request of any candidates.

If a non-candidate makes such a decision, they **CAN ONLY**:

Post personal status updates to promote a candidate's campaign.

This is not an exhaustive list – the evolving and complex nature of Facebook shall be taken into consideration when deciding whether an action constitutes a breach of the rules and regulations. Where possible, a breach of these Facebook rules and regulations will result in the removal of posts as soon as possible in the first instance.

Infringement

If you feel that any of the aforementioned rules and regulations have been breached by a candidate, then you may report the incident either by email to snow.jcr@durham.ac.uk or by speaking with the JCR Chair or JCR President. You should not take any personal action.

If a breach of the rules and regulations (as detailed herein or in the JCR governing documents) is discovered or reported, the Democracy Committee has the discretion to take any action deemed appropriate.

If a candidate feels they have been treated unfairly by the imposition of a sanction, they have the right to appeal.