GSU Sabbatical Election Rules and Regulation.

1. Nomination Details

1.1 A candidates registered name with Trinity College Dublin will be used in the elections.

1.2 All those who nominate an individual must appear on the current register as a current postgraduate student of Trinity College Dublin.

1.3 Nominations open May 31, 2022.

1.4 Nominations close June 2, 2022 at 12:00:00.

1.5 Any names submitted after this time are deemed invalid and are disqualified by the Electoral Commission.

1.6 In the GSU Online Election of 2022/23, the required documents will be the following:

1.6.1 The Nomination from Mi-Voice and a seconder which is the candidate’s campaign manager.

1.6.2 A Completed Declaration & Agreement Form on Mi-Voice.

2. Candidate Meeting to outline Rules

2.1 A meeting of all Candidates and their Campaign Managers will take place on June 27th, 2022 at 7:30 pm. Returning Officer to explain rules and regulations of campaigns.

3. Election Details

3.1 Campaign materials delivered for inspection on 4th July 2022 (15:00:00). The date for withdrawing of candidacy is midnight July 4th 2022. Date of campaign launches and hustings: Tuesday, 5th July 2022. The election shall take place from July 13th 9:00am (09:00am) – July 14th midnight.

3.2 The result of the Election will be delivered by the returning officer on July 15th 2022 – 12:00.

3.4. Campaigning of any kind is prohibited within University grounds due to the pandemic, all campaigning, canvassing etc. shall be conducted online.

3.5. On the days of the election no candidate or their team are permitted to hand someone an electronic device for the purposes of voting.

4. Campaigning Rules and Regulations

4.1 All social media pages must be laid before and go via the Electoral Commission.

4.2 No signage is permitted in Trinity College in this instance due to COVID-19 restrictions.
5. Campaigning

5.1 At no point can candidates seek or tell people to vote for them in the election or campaign in relation to the same until after the meeting where material is sanctioned and campaigning begins.

5.2 Approved political social media pages may only be published after the Candidates gain approval from the Electoral Commission.

5.3 The Union will provide €150 on a vouched receipt basis. Refunds will be by electronic bank transfer only. Candidates must supply bank details via email.

5.4 Campaign posters may not be installed/placed on society pages.

5.5 Any testimonials which are published for the purposes of campaigning must be received from current registered students only and consent for publications must be granted from the student in question.

5.5 Any untrue, defamatory election material is prohibited. If a candidate and/or their campaign team is found to have published defamatory material, they must remove it immediately, publish a correction and give a genuine apology subject to EC approval. The EC requires the correction to be published in such manner as will ensure that it is communicated to all or substantially all those persons to whom the defamatory statement was published.

5.6 Any tagging or negative comments on social media will be reviewed by the Electoral Commission in congruence with this document and in conjunction with the Universities Dignity and Respect Policy which states ‘The University promotes, and is committed to supporting, a collegiate environment for its staff, students and other community members, which is free from discrimination on any of the nine equality grounds (gender, religion, age, civil status, family status, disability, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, membership of the Traveller community), bullying, sexual harassment and other forms of harassment. All members of the University are expected to work to develop and maintain a high degree of respect and civility in our diverse community and to participate in creating a positive environment. This does not affect academic freedom, the values of free open enquiry and discussion of ideas, or humour’.

5.7 Any candidate/union member/lecturer/person sending email(s), as a candidate or on behalf of a candidate, to the Trinity Microsoft Outlook distribution list(s) will be considered in breach of the University’s Email Policy (entitled the ‘Code of Conduct for Users of TCD Computing Resources’). No emails are to be sent by any student promoting a candidate to any student with a @trinity.ie address. This includes asking people to email on your behalf. Class Reps will lose their email privileges if they email their classes endorsing any candidate.

5.8 It is an offence for a candidate to be in receipt of sponsorship, gifts, or benefit-in-kind from vested commercial and/or political interests.

5.9 Current Executive Officers not contesting an election may not campaign for any candidate.
5.10 Candidates must not breach the University’s Code of Conduct or the GSU’s Constitution; if a candidate breaches the code of conduct the EC shall initiate the board's disciplinary powers.

5.11 The Trinity logo and / or the GSU logo, may not be included in campaign material.

5.12 All campaign issues and concerns should be addressed to vicepresident@tcdgsu.ie and any issues on the days of the Election should be addressed to the designated representative from the Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission will only deal with emailed formal complaints.

5.13 R.O.N. material cannot be defamatory towards other candidates and has to be in line with the College’s dignity and respect policy. If the Electoral Commission deems a group is mounting a negative campaign via R.O.N. it will immediately inspect potential for defamatory behaviour and it will consider what course of action to take against the potential candidates.