

8.1 – Updated Complaints System for Elections

This Union Notes:

This section should include any facts, figures or statements that you believe are relevant to the topic of your policy. Remember in this section clear and effective referencing is important.

1. The current election complaints system used by the Students' Union has several flaws, for example the lack of a right to appeal¹
2. Many other students' unions across the country hold a far more effective election complaints system than the one currently used by the Students' Union
3. That many groups in the community (e.g. On-site vendors, letting agencies, transportation services) could potentially be impacted by student campaigning during Spring and Autumn elections.

This Union Believes:

This section should include opinions or supporting statements for your policy.

1. An effective election complaints system will increase the strength of the democratic structure at Warwick SU
2. That the relationship between Returning Officer and Adjudication Panels should be re-evaluated
3. That community groups can and should feel more involved with the Students' Unions elections and able to provide input on issues that concern them

This Union Resolves:

This section should be about how you want the SU to react, the outcome of this policy. Remember to mandate specific departments/sabbatical officers; this will make things easier for future accountability

1. The appendix attached below should be inserted into Warwick SU's by-laws or elections regulations
2. A Right of Appeal against the decision of the Returning Officer regarding the application of the Election Regulations should be implemented into the By-Laws
3. This Right of Appeal shall only be used in circumstances where it is judged by the complainant that the Returning Officer's decision was not taken in accordance with the Elections Regulations
4. The Democracy Team shall create and implement an online complaints log on the SU website for the purpose of tracking and monitoring potential complaints during SU elections
5. A pathway for community groups to submit elections-specific complaints during Spring and Autumn elections should be implemented and publicised to these groups
6. The Returning Officer shall deal with any complaints made by residents of halls or the local community in relation to the conduct of candidates during canvassing or campaigning.

¹ [Governance \(warwicksu.com\)](http://warwicksu.com)

Policy History		
Action	Body	Date
Carried	Student Council	2022/23 T2 W4
Policy Review	Student Council	2025/26 T2 W4

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Appendix

Elections Complaints

- 1.1 Any student or staff member of Warwick SU may submit an election complaint if they believe that any of Warwick SU's election regulations or bylaws have been broken
- 1.2 Any election complaint and/or requests for interpretation of any election rules or bylaws on the conduct of campaigning or the elections process must be made in writing to the Democracy Team, who will reach a decision with consultation from the Democracy and Development Officer and designated Returning Officer within 48 hours of receipt.
- 1.3 Any candidate affected by an election complaint will receive timely notice of the decision taken on any submitted complaint
- 1.4 The final deadline that election complaints will be accepted will be 7 days after the close of voting, at 12pm
- 1.5 The Democracy Team and Returning Officer have the ability to both reject election complaints if they are deemed to be frivolous or not concerning a breach of the Elections Rules and Regulations, in addition to referring election complaints to relevant Warwick SU or University of Warwick disciplinary processes if relevant
- 1.6 If a candidate is found to have breached the election regulations, the Returning Officer has the power to issue sanctions after consultation with the Adjudication Panel
- 1.7 The Democracy Team and Returning Officer shall deal with any election complaints made by residents of halls or the local community in relation to the conduct of candidates during canvassing or campaigning
- 1.8 Any candidate may appeal the decision taken by the Returning Officer

- 1.9 This election appeal must be submitted within 24 hours of the Returning Officer issuing their original decision to the candidates involved
- 1.10 The appeal must state on which of the following grounds it is sought
 - 1.10 The candidate believes there were procedural irregularities
 - 1.10 The candidate believes that the outcome was wholly unreasonable
 - 1.10 The candidate has possession of evidence that was not provided in the original process due to reasons deemed valid by the Returning Officer or Democracy Team