**UWTSD Students’ Union**

Deputy Returning Officer – 2023 Autumn Elections Report

**Preamble:**

This report is to provide those in attendance at the Annual General Meeting an overview of the 2023 Autumn Elections. The Autumn Elections took place between the 9th of October and the 3rd of November 2023. There were two weeks of nominations, and voting was open for four days. It was overall a successful election, with a new record of voters engaged in the process, and high numbers of nominations and candidates, reflecting an increase in engagement.

**Nominations and Candidates:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Number** |
| Total Nominations (Individual Nominations in Election) | 68 |
| Total Nominations (Individual People in Election) | 62 |
| Ineligible Nominations | 8 |
| Withdrew After Nominating Themselves | 10 |
| Removed Due to Non-Engagement | 4 |
| Withdrew After Becoming a Candidate | 1 |
| Final Number of Candidates (Individual Nominations in Election) | 41 |
| Final Number of Candidates (Individual People in Election) | 35 |

In total there were 68 nomination submissions across all positions. It is important to note that there were multiple candidates that nominated themselves for more than one role. In total there were 62 individuals who nominated themselves. However, a number of individuals did not transfer from nomination to candidate. The most common reasons for this were due to being not eligible for the role (e.g. not being a student for the required duration), opting to withdraw from the process, or being removed for not engaging with the process throughout the candidate journey.

The Elections Team provided numerous opportunities for potential candidates to engage with the process and express their continued interest in running in the election. The Elections Team continued to follow the approach first modelled in the 2023 Spring Elections where candidates were removed for non-engagement to help avoid a large number of students going through the process without engaging, and thus, hoping to have a pool of candidates that are not only engaged in the process, but more likely to engage in their role if successful.

**Candidates by Position:**

Each of the below tables in this section represents the number of candidates for each role.

Roles Open to all Students:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Number** |
| Union Chairperson | 8 |
| NUS UK Rep | 13 |
| NUS Wales Rep | 9 |

Please note that this year the terminology changed from NUS Delegate to NUS Rep. However, some materials produced for the elections had been created ahead of this change. Candidates were informed of the change but consistent terminology was applied for the purpose of clarity.

Carmarthen Part-Time Officer Roles:

Unfortunately, there we no nominations for any of the available Part-Time Officer Candidate roles for Carmarthen Campus.

Lampeter Part-Time Officer Roles:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Number** |
| Mature Students’ Officer | 1 |
| Societies Officer | 1 |
| Sports Clubs Officer | 1 |
| Student Engagement Officer | 1 |
| Welsh Language Officer | 1 |
| Women’s Liberation Officer | 1 |

Swansea Part-Time Officer Roles:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Number** |
| Disabled Students’ Officer | 1 |
| Postgraduate Students’ Officer | 1 |
| Sustainability Officer | 1 |
| Wellbeing Officer | 1 |
| Volunteering & RAG Officer | 1 |

**Candidate Results:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Name** |
| Union Chair Person | Billie Payne |
| NUS UK Rep | Natalie Beard |
| NUS UK Rep | Bogdan Draghici |
| NUS UK Rep | Taya-George Gibbons |
| NUS UK Rep | Rhobyn Grant |
| NUS UK Rep | Billie Payne |
| NUS Wales Rep | Redhwan Al-Amri |
| NUS Wales Rep | Natalie Beard |
| NUS Wales Rep | Taya-George Gibbons |
| NUS Wales Rep | Caitlin Regola |
| NUS Wales Rep | Gurinder Singh |
| NUS Wales Rep | Dru Sutherland |
| NUS Wales Rep | Yan Zhang |
| Lampeter Mature Students’ Officer | Shite Li |
| Lampeter Societies Officer | Narantsatsralt Ganbaatar |
| Lampeter Sports Club Officer | Shaun Cheatle |
| Lampeter Student Engagement Officer | Nathan Topham |
| Lampeter Welsh Language Officer | Ellis Williams-Huw |
| Lampeter Women’s Liberation Officer | Lilly York |
| Swansea Disabled Students’ Officer | Cai Howes |
| Swansea Postgraduate Students’ Officer | Selena Wong |
| Swansea Sustainability Officer | Helena Cuciureanu |
| Swansea Wellbeing Officer | Fan Wang |
| Swansea Volunteering & RAG Officer | Shwen Zeng |

**Voting:**

This election saw a record number of voters vote in the election with 1,044 students casting their vote for at least one position. A total of 6,578 votes were cast by the 1,044 voters.

This represents 6.32% of the UWTSD student population eligible to vote.

**Comments:**

This election, overall, was a success, with an increase in engagement up from the previous autumn election. The election represents the 4th cross campus election that has taken place with the compacted timeline first used in the Autumn 2022 elections. It is worth noting that there are areas where there is a consistent lack of engagement, which is being monitored, and will be highlighted as an area to research in the upcoming Democracy Review that UWTSD Students’ Union is embarking on.