UWTSD Students' Union

Deputy Returning Officer – 2025 Autumn Elections Report

Preamble

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the 2025 Autumn Elections. The Autumn Elections took place between October 13 and November 14, 2025. Nominations were between October 13 and October 24, voting took place between November 10 and November 13, with the results being announced on November 14.

Overall, it was a successful election, and the second election demonstrating the changes in the Union's officer structure, particularly with the Democracy Review seeing changes of having Part-Time Officer representation on every campus.

Nominations and Candidates

To note: In the 2025 Spring Elections, 3 Part-Time Officer roles were already filled in London, and 2 in Swansea for the current academic year. All remaining roles were available to nominate for during the 2025 Autumn Elections.

Category	Number
Total Nominations (Individual Nominations in Election)	79
Total Eligible Nominations	54
Total Ineligible Nominations	25
Withdrew After Nominating Themselves	3
Removed Due to Non-Engagement or Not Completing Paperwork	12
Withdrew After Becoming a Candidate	0
Final Number of Candidates	51

In total there were 79 nomination submissions across all positions. Several candidates nominated themselves more than once, and/or for more than one role. After nominations closed, the Elections Team communicated with individuals that had nominated themselves for more than one role that they would only stand for one role in the election. Of the 79 nominations, 54 were eligible, with 25 being ineligible due to various reasons, e.g. not being a student for the required duration of the role, study workload, or, 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 for the election. This included Candidate Briefing sessions, drop in opportunities, as well

as frequent email communication outlining support available and expectations of both the process and the role. Two candidate briefing sessions were held for potential candidates at varying times and dates, and a recorded version of the session was made available to candidates that had stated they could not attend a session, however, were still invested in engaging in the process.

Candidates by Position

The below table represents the number of candidates for each role at the end of the voting period. Please note, for the purpose of this report, Re-Open Nominations is not included as a candidate, however, R.O.N. was included as a candidate for each role during the voting period to ensure that each role was contested.

Position	Number of Candidates
International Officer (Birmingham)	9
Multicultural Officer (Birmingham)	12
Volunteering and RAG Officer (Birmingham)	1
Wellbeing Officer (Birmingham)	11
Women's Officer (Birmingham)	7
Multicultural Officer (Cardiff)	1
Wellbeing Officer (Cardiff)	1
Ethics and Environment Officer (Carmarthen)	2
Gender Identity Officer (Carmarthen)	2
Students with Disabilities Officer (Carmarthen)	1
Wellbeing Officer (Carmarthen)	1
Welsh Language Officer (Carmarthen)	1
LGBT+ Officer (London)	6
Students with Disabilities Officer (London)	12
Ethics and Environment Officer (Swansea)	5
Welsh Language Officer (Swansea)	1
Women's Officer (Swansea)	6

We did have a candidate for the role of Volunteering and RAG Officer in Birmingham, unfortunately, they were removed from the election before the count due to not having completed all necessary paperwork.

Candidate Results

| Role	Winner
International Officer (Birmingham)	Tarikul Islam Tarek
Multicultural Officer (Birmingham)	Harwinder Kaur
Wellbeing Officer (Birmingham)	Patrick Dickinson
Women's Officer (Birmingham)	Samantha Westwood

Multicultural Officer (Cardiff)	Laura Minea
Wellbeing Officer (Cardiff)	Kelly Harrington
Ethics and Environment Officer (Carmarthen)	Flitt (Amber Cole)
Gender Identity Officer (Carmarthen)	Clover Logar-Witts
Students with Disabilities Officer (Carmarthen)	Omar Mabrouk
Wellbeing Officer (Carmarthen)	Lily Stradling
Welsh Language Officer (Carmarthen)	Rhys Williams
LGBT+ Officer (London)	Luca Gerardi
Students with Disabilities Officer (London)	Galina Bleidere
Ethics and Environment Officer (Swansea)	Julia Rees
Welsh Language Officer (Swansea)	Rhys Evans
Women's Officer (Swansea)	Hina Tokeer

Voting

This election saw a positive turnout in student voting in the election with 698 voters casting their vote for at least 1 position. A total of 5,703 votes were cast by the 698 voters, representing approximately 3.4% of the UWTSD student population eligible to vote.

Below is a graph depicting the trends of the number of voters and the number of votes cast throughout the voting period for the 2025 Autumn Elections.
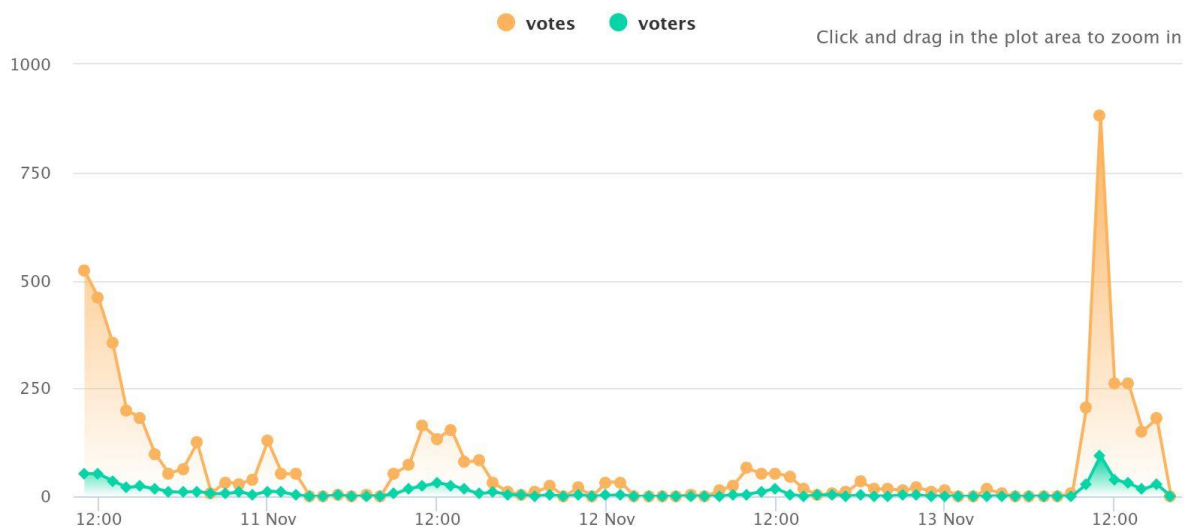
Election Issues

The Elections Team received no complaints during the 2025 Autumn Election. A few queries came in about the use of mailing lists which were addressed.

One candidate reached out after the close of voting and the count to query why they had been removed from the election, and both the Elections Team and the Deputy Returning Officer reviewed the timeline and concluded that the candidate had not met the requirements by the appropriate time. No further correspondence was received from this candidate after the fact disputing this or requesting any additional information.

Comments

This election was a success, filling a further 17 Part-Time Officer positions under the new officer structure as outlined in the Democracy Review process completed last academic year. There was good engagement, showcasing building interest by the student population in the elections process, in particular, the nominations showing a recorded increase in interest on Birmingham and London campuses, with the availability of representation now available there. It is important to note that there continue to be areas where there is a consistent lack of engagement, which is being monitored, and hopefully in the next round or two of elections, the change in officer structure will correlate with an increased interest on those campuses.

The Design and Communications Team did an outstanding job using targeted emails throughout the nominations process and used email communication on the first and final day of voting to prompt students with a reminder to vote. The voting chart and data displayed spikes in both when nominations were received, and when votes were cast, correlating with that correspondence. Social media was also used to promote the elections, as well as share information about the process and how students can engage with it. The new elections pages created by the Design and Communications Team for the 2025 Spring Election continued to make the candidate journey a smoother process.

The results broadcast was once again done as a pre-recorded event, launched on YouTube Premiere at a designated time, which allowed for better flow, clearer content, and ensured the results were presented in a professional and engaging manner.

Below is a list of suggestions for the Elections Team to consider for future elections at UWTSD Students' Union; these cover the administrative side of the elections process as well as the continued development of the experience for the candidates:

- Elections Timetable: maintain having at least two weeks between the close of nominations and the opening of voting to ensure candidates are

appropriately supported, and enough time is available for eligibility checks, preparations for voting week, and any development opportunities available.

- Student Status: this continues to be an issue when doing eligibility checks for students, especially students studying at the Institute for Inner-City Learning (IICL); multiple start dates and the inclusion of weekend students means that the Elections Team needs to continue to consider how to ensure we are representing as many of our students as possible with our democratic processes, both for potential candidates, and for those having the opportunity to engage and vote.

- University Staff Support: this continues to develop each year, and the Students' Union is grateful to all staff that already support the process, from support with timetabling, to being able to do lecture drop-ins, to encouraging their students to not only nominate but also vote, however, more can be done to clearly establish timelines and share information consistently throughout the academic year so that it is not a surprise during key times when we reach out for support with access and encouraging engagement in various manners.

- Candidate Promotional Materials: it is worth the Students' Union considering how to support candidates promoting themselves on campuses where they are not a student, as well as having the support necessary to be able to provide bilingual campaign materials, whilst clarifying strongly how candidates can and cannot promote themselves, e.g. not using mailing lists that other students do not have access to, etc.

- Election Administrative Tasks: continue to firm up the language around candidate nominations and eligibility, collaborate with colleagues around availability and support with pop-up activity, etc.

- Candidate Information and Journey: candidates are provided resources as part of their candidate journey, with information shared in a variety of ways to try and accommodate individuals as much as possible throughout the elections period; continuing to provide clear principles and simple guidelines for candidates to follow, from paperwork deadlines, minimum engagement requirements, confirmation of understanding the candidate briefing and 'do's and don'ts' to support available to develop their key priorities if elected, will be a focus for the Elections Team for the 2026 Spring Election.

Links:

- [Notice of Nominations: Student Elections Autumn 2025 @ UWTSD Students' Union](#)
- 🎉 [Results: Autumn Student Elections 2025 @ UWTSD Students' Union](#)

The Elections Team would like to take this opportunity to thank the wider UWTSD Students' Union staff team for their support and assistance throughout the elections period, but especially during voting week. The time and effort put in by the wider staff team across all campuses has made it possible to have representation everywhere during the voting period, including having onsite support for candidates as the Students' Union continues to develop support for the officer representation structure now existing across all campuses.