

# LSU Spring Elections – Student Group Endorsement Guidance

During SU Spring Elections at LSU (Part-Time and Executive Officers), student groups can endorse candidates. If a group endorses a candidate in election(s), it means they want that person to win and will likely promote their materials. This will happen if a candidate has a manifesto that would work well with the group's own goals, or the candidate will offer them the best support for their activities.

Below we have answered some questions and given information on how to endorse candidates. However, if you have any queries or doubts, please email [su-elections@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:su-elections@leicester.ac.uk).

## Timeline

<b>Tuesday 27 April 10am</b>	Deadline for manifestos and 200-word submissions. The SU will then prepare the manifesto booklets ready for the beginning of campaigning.
<b>Wednesday 29 April at 10am</b>	<p>Campaigning begins at 10:00am but voting won't open until <b>10am on 30 April</b>.</p> <p>During the campaigning period, <b>student groups</b> can review manifestos and reach out to candidates running for election to let them know that you endorse them. Candidates can use endorsements as part of their campaign.</p> <p>To make the decision on who you endorse, your committee will need to take a vote on which candidates you wish to endorse. To come to this decision, you may want to invite the candidate to a meeting with your committee to introduce themselves and talk about what they would do if elected.</p> <p>The candidate that receives a majority vote from the committee is the candidate you will endorse for that officer position. You can choose whether to endorse a candidate for each role, or just one candidate- the choice is yours.</p>
<b>Thursday 30 April</b>	Voting opens at 10am! Your group members will have until 3pm <b>on Friday 1 May</b> to cast their vote. Individual members of the society are entitled to vote for who they wish despite what the society has endorsed.

## Guidance

***Can student groups endorse a candidate?***

Student Groups can endorse candidates in the election. Approaches by candidates to student groups can be made once the manifestos and candidate list has been released from **10am on Wednesday 29 April**.

**Please Note:** Student Media Groups are unable to endorse any candidates and must remain impartial throughout the Executive and Part Time Officer Elections.

### ***How does a group endorse a candidate?***

Firstly, student groups don't have to! Even if a group does endorse a candidate, this does not mandate ANYONE in the group to vote for that candidate. It is simply a stance the group has taken; individuals can vote however they want.

If a student group wants to endorse a candidate, we only ask they do this in a fair and impartial manner. This basically means giving everyone a chance! Here are some things student groups can do:

1. Group members/committees are given an opportunity to consider statements or manifestos from all the candidates.
2. Once these have been read, run a poll/vote either in the group chat, survey on the SU website, in an email, or via a meeting. Every candidate running for the relevant position/s must be included
3. Once an outcome has been reached the group is able to promote the candidate/s and suggest them to the group's membership. **Remember, they do not have to vote for the candidate endorsed.**

By running a vote and doing things impartially, the group will have evidence to prove that things were run fairly and allowed everyone a chance.

### ***What happens if we promote a candidate in private chats?***

If you're an individual, you are free to use your personal accounts so long as you are also following those sites regulations (i.e. WhatsApp, Facebook). Our main concern is if official group channels are used to endorse candidates outside of the recommended procedure.

Be aware that even personal accounts could cause issues if you are breaking the rules (e.g., promoting a candidate early). Students with evidence (e.g., screenshots) can make a complaint which could cause you disciplinary action or that of the candidate in question. If in doubt, check with [su-elections@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:su-elections@leicester.ac.uk)

### ***What happens if we do not follow the process?***

If you unfairly promote a candidate (whether they know or not), this reflects on the elected committee of the group and could be investigated using the Union's Disciplinary Process. Remember, as a committee member, you are an elected rep and so should follow the same rules as any leader during the election period.

### ***When can we start endorsing a candidate?***

Remember if you as a committee are endorsing a candidate that you are required to follow the election regulations with regards to pre-campaigning which says that prior to **10am on Wednesday 29 April**, which state that the following isn't permitted:

- No public announcements of any kind that you are running as a candidate this includes
  - Online posts on social media saying that you are re-running
  - Lecture Shout-outs including at virtual classes
  - Giving a speech or letting students know that you are running at an event e.g. student group event.
  - Campaigning on virtual events or nights out e.g. at O2 Academy events.
  - Posters/Flyers or any election promotion material appearing in a public place.
  - Face to face campaigning
  - Encouraging students to vote for you in any way
  - Your friends/supporters and Student Groups that you are a member of publicising that you are running.
  - Student Groups publicly endorsing a candidate prior to campaigning starting.
  - Asking student groups for their endorsements prior to the start of campaigning.