

# CULA Election Advice Document

## The Order of Elections for Positions

The returning officers should allow candidates to stand for up to three positions with votes held sequentially in the order set out in the Standing Orders. The exception shall be the role of The Women's/Non-Binary Officer for which the election shall be conducted fourth, after the election for Junior Treasurer.

A successful candidate for a position shall be disqualified from any later positions for which they are standing.

## Unfair Election Practices

Candidates must not be involved in vote manipulation or other unfair practices, must not engage in treating, and must in general abide by the spirit of UK national electoral law. If the RO(s) become aware of evidence of such practices, they may exercise powers as they see fit including disqualification. This shall not include, however, the altering of vote tallies after a vote is taken.

## Advice for the Consideration of Absentee Voting

### General Applications

General applications for absentee votes should be accepted in circumstances where prior commitments cannot be reasonably expected to be rescheduled. The intention here is to encourage attendance at the AGM to ensure that candidates are judged on their performance, and are given the opportunity to present their ideas, and to answer questions. A good performance at the AGM should impact a candidate's chances of election, and so we want to minimise the number of proxy votes cast before the election begins. These guidelines are not intended to impose a test of commitment to the society, and so the decision to grant an absentee vote is entirely at the discretion of the RO.

*Examples of cases where an absentee ballot is appropriate:*

- Holidays
- Family events
- Sports matches or other society events (performances, trips)
- Birthdays
- Faculty or College meeting
- Interviews
- Prior immovable commitments to another society
- For alumni who are not based in Cambridge
- Internet connectivity issues (in the case of an online AGM)

*Circumstances that would generally be insufficient:*

- Bop or informal social event

- Essay deadlines
- Attending another society event in a non-organisational capacity

### Emergency Applications

Emergency applications for absentee votes may be accepted at any time before the election starts, in exceptional circumstances. For example:

- Illness, or illness of family or friend
- Bereavement
- Travel disruption
- Unforeseeable research related crisis
- Internet connectivity issues (in the case of an online AGM)