

Motion 3

An MCR Motion to amend the MCR Constitution to correct the length of voting periods in MCR Committee Elections.

Proposer: Lily Harris, on behalf of the MCR Committee

Secunder: Joseph Davies

This MCR notes that:

This MCR notes that when the MCR Constitution was last amended, the provisions governing the schedule of elections (section 44) were amended to clarify in which week nominations were to be open, hustings were to take place, and polls were to be open, in light of the Common Room's practice of holding meetings on Sundays, and that the university calendar regards Sunday as the beginning, rather than the end, of the week.

The resulting amendments stipulate that hustings should occur on the Sunday of fifth week of terms in which elections take place, but that polls should close at the end of seventh week.

Elections conducted using the Oxford University Students Union (hereafter 'OUSU') can only have results tallied during the working hours of OUSU's permanent staff members responsible for overseeing OUSU's voting system.

Therefore, the current schedule of elections makes it impossible for results to be published before eighth week of term. Consequently, the handover process between committees cannot start earlier than eighth week, and frequently runs over into the Christmas vac in a partially complete state.

This MCR believes that:

This MCR believes that providing adequate handover is essential to the long-term well-functioning of the MCR.

This MCR believes that one week is ample time for members to cast votes in common room elections, and that by shortening the voting period to the week as in previous versions of the constitution, the benefit of an additional week spent handing over committee functions far outweighs any potential harms of a shorter voting period.

This MCR therefore resolves that:

This MCR therefore resolves that section 44(9) of the constitution shall be amended by replacing the word 'seventh' with the word 'sixth'.

Section 44(9) shall therefore read:

'Subject to any delays on the part of the SU, voting will close at the end of the sixth week of the relevant term, and the results will be announced immediately.'