

Ruling (1) of the Returning Officer

I have received evidence that allegations have been made against the Clubs and Societies Department, which in our determination are baseless and have been made at least in part for political gain.

I will not publish those allegations here because I do not wish to assist in their spread.

Distribution of false claims is prohibited under the election regulations at several points, notably Reg 44.1 and Reg 44.5(c) and when the claims are as harmful and baseless as this, the severity is greater.

Although it appears likely these claims were circulated by multiple people, at this stage we have only confirmed the identity of one of them: Eason Gu.

Consequently, we are banning Eason, who is not a candidate this year, from all involvement with the election other than voting.

In addition we received an email from Daniel Motika, Registering Officer of the ticket COMMUNITY FOR UMSU, claiming that any suggestion Community was involved with spreading these allegations was “false and defamatory” and there was no evidence for this. Daniel knew, or should have known, that the claim was wrong and that Community is a leading, possibly the only, source of these baseless allegations.

It is important that the Returning Officer be able to place reliance on the words of ticket Registering Officers. Consequently, I have asked Daniel to step down as Community Registering Officer.

He has done so, and passed the role over to Yashesvi Verma. In future, unless the matters concern Daniel directly, correspondence between Community and the Returning Officer should go through Verma, or any assistant registering officers she appoints.

Stephen Luntz
Returning Officer
31/8/2026