

UMSU Electoral Tribunal – Summary of Decision on Appeal

Election: 2025 UMSU Annual Elections

Date of decision: 14 October 2025

Members of the Electoral Tribunal: Sarah Morgan, Michael Gronow, Peter Lithgow

Parties:

Appellant: Dylan Moody; Growth for UMSU; Activate-Left Action

Respondent: Community for UMSU (Community)

Nature of appeal:

Appellants had concerns around electoral integrity, and alleged that this was not being observed by the Community ticket.

Decision:

The appeals are upheld.

Summary of reasons:

- It is the responsibility of each candidate to understand the Electoral Regulations, and to reach out to the Returning Officer if it is unclear.
- Community’s submission demonstrated systemic behaviour of downplaying allegations to be not as serious as suggested.
- The Returning Officer may incorporate in their proposal that future polling booths be in the view of CCTV.

Outcome:

1. All three appeals were upheld.
2. The candidates provisionally elected as Environment Officers are not elected.
3. The Returning Officer is instructed to redistribute preferences.
4. The mode for next year’s UMSU election will be changed, as the current mode has serious integrity issues. The Tribunal would be grateful for suggestions put forward by next year’s Returning Officer quotes.
5. Voter conduct for the self-identified ballots was a result of the definition in the UMSU Constitution and Electoral Regulations. Self-identification is a subjective test, not objective test. The Tribunal is bound to follow the UMSU Constitution, including the way “self-identify” is currently defined in the Constitution.
6. The Tribunal accepted that all major tickets were involved in various Regulation breaches, but Community was especially severe. Due to the nature and frequency of events, the Tribunal thinks that the conduct was a systemic issue, but will not

invalidate the whole election as a result. Re-running the election would be costly, and appellants did not ask for it.