

## Future Senate Elections

### Summary

Senate is asked to consider arrangements for future Senate elections.

Improvements to the election process were identified in discussion with colleagues following the 2016 election and were recently discussed and endorsed by AGC at their April meeting. The proposals are as follows:

- The call for nominations period should be at least 2 weeks.
- The voting period should be at least 2 weeks.
- The election should take place in the Summer Term in advance of the last Senate meeting of the academic year.
- The contact details of the College Secretary and the SES should be circulated to academic staff so they may make enquiries about the Senator role before putting themselves forward.

In addition to the above, AGC considered the use of election data following election results. By way of background information, a Freedom of Information (FOI) request was received requesting publication of the full 2016 Senate election results. City's response was that voting figures could be provided, but that the data would be anonymised, on the basis that the information requested was 'personal data' under the terms of the Data Protection Act and that it would not be 'fair' to release it under the terms of Section 40 of that Act. No indication was given when seeking nomination for Senate elections that the detailed results would be published. Candidates had no 'reasonable expectation' that their personal data would be released as nominees were unaware of how the election data relating to them would be used.

Permission to release the data was sought following the request with a written note sent to all nominees. In addition, all nominees were given the opportunity to learn their own results under the Subject Access Request provisions of the Data Protection Act. However, one nominee objected to the release of their data and therefore the full results were not released.

AGC agreed that the results of future elections should be released on request. AGC did not wish to deter potential candidates from standing and therefore also recommended that the results should not be widely publicised. However, it is acknowledged that once results are in the public domain the information may be distributed more extensively. All nominees would be made aware that data relating to the election results may be released following the election.

Senate is asked to consider the proposed arrangements.

One action required.

### Recommended Action

Senate is asked to **consider** the proposed arrangements for future Senate elections.

**Publication: Open**