

The Council, 19 October 2026

Returning Officer's Report

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report to Senate the outcome of the election of a Senate Member to Council.

2. Senate members on Council

- 2.1 The Council membership includes places for three members of the Senate. The Regulations of the Council prescribe that not more than two of the three members of the Senate on Council may be Professors.
- 2.2 At the time of the election, Senate positions on the Council were held by Professor Janine Kirby (to 2026), Dr Siobhán North (to 2028), and Professor Mark Strong (to 2027). The ending of Professor Kirby's term created one vacancy. Both Professorial and Non-Professorial members of Senate were eligible to stand in this particular election.
- 2.3 This election was conducted in accordance with the [Election Rules](#), which govern the nomination, candidacy and election of eligible candidates to the Senate, to the Council and to their sub-committees. Following a Call for Nominations, four candidates stood for election: Professor Thomas Baldwin, Jo Marriott, Dr Sam Marsh, and Dr Abigail Parrish. 59 votes were cast in total. The result was the election of Professor Thomas Baldwin as the Senate's nominee for appointment to the Council. Council Nominations Committee were asked to endorse this nomination and recommended that Council approve the appointment. Council then approved these appointments by correspondence in the week commencing 10 August, to enable induction activities to start and members to take up their position at the first meeting of the year.
- 2.5 Therefore, Professor Thomas Baldwin has been appointed by the Council to serve for the period until 31 July 2029, subject to their continuing membership of Senate.
- 2.6 Thank you to all those who stood and congratulations to those duly elected.

3. Issues Raised / Lessons Learned

3.1 Communication of Election results:

In line with the approach agreed when electoral constituencies were first introduced for Senate and previous practice around elections, the Election Rules provide that the full breakdown of results are not communicated to the electorate, only the details of the successful candidate(s). However, individual candidates can be provided with the number of votes they received by request to the governance team.

This year, in both the elections to Senate and to Council, it has been suggested that we should consider providing full details of the election, including the numbers of votes cast per candidate, as part of the announcement of results. This will be considered further in reviewing the Election Rules for elections in 2027 but the views of members of Senate and Council on this point would be welcome.