



ELECTION CAMPAIGN CONDUCT GUIDELINES

These Guidelines are published by the Returning Officer under the authority of sections 6(1) and (18) of the [Council Regulation](#) for the guidance of all those participating in the election for a student member of Council.

Candidates and campaigners must comply with all applicable laws, University statutes, regulations and policies, and any reasonable direction of the Returning Officer in relation to campaign conduct or campaign material.

Candidates are expected to conduct themselves with integrity and in a manner consistent with the standards of the University community and with University policies and guidance, including the:

- [Student Charter](#): expresses the key principles underpinning the partnership between students and the University.
- [Student Conduct Policy \(MPF1324\)](#): ensures student behavioural standards and expectations are defined and met, including the expectations of students with regard to how they treat others.
- [Provision and Acceptable Use of IT Policy \(MPF1314\)](#) and the [Rules for Student Email](#): covers the responsible use of University systems and resources.
- [Guidelines for placing posters or chalking](#): setting out where these activities can take place on campus.

Candidates can nominate up to four representatives who may campaign on their behalf. 'Campaigning' includes all activity designed to promote the interests of any candidate or influence the result of the election, including but not limited to, the production of any written or electronic campaign material. Candidate representatives must be students appearing on the electoral roll and must not be paid for campaigning. Only the candidates themselves and their nominated representatives may campaign in the election.

Nominated representatives must be registered with the Returning Officer at least 24 hours prior to the time when they begin campaigning. The list of candidate representatives will be published online by the Returning Officer when the ballot opens and updated when required. Candidates are responsible for the conduct of those campaigning on their behalf.

All campaign material must be authorised in writing by the Returning Officer prior to its use and must include the words 'Registered with the Returning Officer', and the words 'Published by [name and student number]', with the name and student number of the candidate. Copies of approved campaign material will be retained by the Returning Officer.

Campaigning is only permitted during the ballot period.

Activities which may contravene campaign conduct expectations or breach acceptable use of IT include:

- Using student or other University mailing lists to send campaign material.
- Unauthorised use of the University brand, or UMSU, UMSU International, or GSA brands, or that of any University club or society, including on websites.
- Interfering with the campaign activities of other candidates, including covering up the posters of others. To preserve space, a limit of six A3-size posters per approved poster bollard per candidate will be enforced.
- Publication of campaign material that is untrue, misleading, defamatory, deceptive or discriminatory.
- Engaging in any form of harassment, intimidation or bullying.

- Infringing or attempting to infringe the secrecy of the ballot in any way.
- Using any means to apply pressure on a person to vote, or to vote for or against a particular candidate. This includes soliciting votes from voters by means of providing mobile electronic devices (including but not limited to laptops, tablets, iPads and phones). Votes cast in these circumstances may be invalidated.
- Offering any inducement, whether financial or otherwise, to encourage a student to vote or to vote in a particular way.
- Campaigning in a way that disrupts University activities or University operations. This includes campaigning in teaching spaces, during classes (including online), in libraries, or in other study spaces.

The Returning Officer may exercise discretion in making determinations or taking any action considered necessary to ensure the fairness and integrity of the election. Penalties may be applied to candidates or campaigners found to be in breach of the rules governing the election, including but not limited to, bans from campaigning either generally or for a set period of time, taking down of campaign material for a set period of time, and in the most serious cases, disqualification of candidates. The Returning Officer may refer allegations of student general misconduct to the Academic Registrar under the [Student Conduct Policy \(MPF1324\)](#).

The Returning Officer may require the retraction or amendment of any material that has been found to be misleading, and may issue their own amendments or clarifications to inform voters in such cases. The Returning Officer may also prohibit the use of specific online sites or social media services for campaign material.

The [Elections Policy \(MPF1146\)](#) and the [Council Regulation](#) apply to this election.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring a fair, transparent and respectful election process.

Dr Nancy Huggett
University Secretary and Returning Officer
uni-elections@unimelb.edu.au