

## Principles governing campaigning by candidates for student and staff elections to University Council and the Academic Board

### Introduction

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1. This document sets out the principles to govern campaigning by candidates for student and staff elections to the University Council and the Academic Board.
2. All candidates for election to these positions must comply with these requirements.

### Purpose and authority

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3. Participation, fairness and transparency are vital to any democratic process. The University carries out its elections consistently with these values to ensure that candidates, staff and students are involved, treated impartially and are fully informed of the electoral process.
4. Regulations 6C and 15 of the Monash University (Council) Regulations (available at: <https://www.monash.edu/legal/legislation/current>) authorise the University Council to establish principles to govern campaigning by candidates for student and staff elections to the University Council and the Academic Board.

### Campaign conduct requirements

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5. Candidates will at all times conduct their candidacy in a respectful, ethical and collegial manner, being mindful of their overarching responsibility to act in the best interests of the University.
6. Candidates will comply with all of the University's regulations, policies and procedures including those in relation to integrity and respect.
7. When communicating campaign material by email, candidates must ensure that:
  - a. all mailing lists are self-generated by the candidate; and
  - b. emails including campaign material are sent only by the candidate personally.
8. Candidates may use social media for campaigning purposes but only in accordance with:
  - a. paragraphs 9 and 10 below; and
  - b. the University Social Media Policy as in force at the time the election is called.
9. The Returning Officer may establish internal social media channels for the express purpose of campaigning in student or staff elections to the University Council or the Academic Board. Candidates may use such channels for individual campaigning only and may only use such channels for the duration of the relevant campaign period, as determined by the Returning Officer.
10. Candidates must not engage in any of the following activities in the course of campaigning:
  - a. Posting, exhibiting or distributing any campaign material on any property owned or occupied by the University (including any website, noticeboard or similar interactive medium) unless it has been expressly designated for the purposes of campaigning in student or staff elections;
  - b. Badging or branding personal websites to look like official University websites;
  - c. In respect of staff, conducting campaigning activities during time which would ordinarily be used for the discharge of academic or professional duties;
  - d. Disrupting normal University activities through excessive noise, disruptive behaviours, or physical obstructions;
  - e. Damaging or defacing University property or facilities in the course of campaigning;
  - f. Interfering with the campaign material of other candidates;

- g. Disrupting the campaign activities of other candidates;
  - h. Accessing contact details of Monash staff or students that are not available:
    - i. for a staff candidate, to all staff; and
    - ii. for a student candidate, to all students;
  - i. Requesting another staff member or student to access, use or copy information from bulk emailing systems or mailing lists on the candidate's behalf;
  - j. Campaigning in any physical or virtual class or study areas (including but not limited to libraries, computer or other laboratories and classrooms);
  - k. Without limiting sub-paragraph j above, using collaboration and interaction tools available within University platforms (such as those contained within the Google suite or Moodle) for purposes of campaigning;
  - l. Using any means to apply pressure to, threaten, intimidate or entice a person to vote, or to vote for or against a particular candidate;
  - m. Without limiting sub-paragraph l above, soliciting votes by means of providing a mobile electronic device (including but not limited to laptops, tablets, iPads and phones) to enable voting in the presence of the candidate or the candidate's supporter;
  - n. Publish untrue, defamatory or discriminatory statements;
  - o. Malign other candidates; and
  - p. Engage in any form of harassment, intimidation, bullying, vilification or discrimination.
11. Candidates must comply with any reasonable direction of the Returning Officer in relation to campaign conduct or campaign material.
12. For the purpose of these requirements, campaign material that is published or campaign conduct carried out by any person in support or on behalf of a candidate's campaign for election is taken to be campaign material or campaign conduct of that candidate if:
- a. the candidate knew, or ought reasonably to have known, of the material or conduct; and
  - b. the candidate did not take all reasonable steps to disclaim the material or conduct.

### Consequences of non-compliance

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13. The Monash University (Council) Regulations permit the Returning Officer to declare an election void if the Returning Officer is satisfied that there has been a non-compliance with these requirements and the non-compliance compromised the outcome of the election.

### Definitions

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"Campaign conduct" means all conduct of a candidate or any other person in relation to a candidate's campaign during an election process, including advocacy or advertising of a candidate, public or private verbal statements directed at voters in the election, distribution of written material, posting of signs, stickers or flyers, and use of electronic media and communications.

"Campaign material" means any communication in relation to a candidate during an election process, and includes communication via:

- a. Social media sites and posts (for example, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, Snapchat or similar);
- b. Websites;
- c. Posters; and
- d. Emails and e-newsletters.

"Returning Officer" means the returning officer appointed by the University Council under the Monash University (Council) Regulations in respect of the election.

### Related information

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14. The Monash University (Council) Regulations (available at: <https://www.monash.edu/legal/legislation/current>) outline the relevant eligibility requirements pertaining to elected members of Monash University Council.
15. Social Media Policy.