

Campaign Guidelines

Election of Student Member of Senate

1. Purpose and Background

The election of the student member of Senate (student senator) is conducted in accordance with the provisions of Statute 8.1 – Elections to the Senate.

Statute 8.1.7 provides that “Campaigning for the position of Student Member of Senate shall be in accordance with any Campaign Guidelines (as issued from time to time) and in compliance with relevant University policies including those in relation to conduct and discipline”.

The purpose of these Campaign Guidelines is to promote fairness and to maintain the integrity of the democratic election process.

2. Application

These Campaign Guidelines apply to all students involved in the conduct of the election of the student senator.

3. Relevant ACU Policies

- Acceptable Use of IT Policy
- Discrimination and Harassment Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Student Complaint Management Policy and Procedures
- Student Conduct and Discipline Policy and Procedures

4. Campaigning and student conduct

During campaigning, all students will conduct themselves in a manner which is consistent with the Mission and Values of the University and is respectful of candidates, students, and staff.

Candidates are encouraged to campaign and develop their leadership skills. Accordingly, **candidates may:**

- create a social media site exclusively for the purpose of campaign promotion prior to election and advise the Returning Officer of the web address;
- seek assistance with campaigning which may include establishing a small campaign team of other students;
- introduce themselves to other students around campus to promote campaign themes and disseminate campaign flyers; and
- attend student social events to informally network, raise profile and/or promote campaign themes.

At the same time, candidates are required to take responsibility for ensuring campaign material (in any format) is not prejudicial toward other candidates, is appropriate in content and reflects the nature of the student senator role.

Candidates must be mindful of other candidates and shared space. Campaign posters must only be displayed on student boards and not distributed elsewhere e.g. telegraph poles or on buildings.

Specifically, candidates (and students assisting candidates) **should not**:

- produce campaign material which is misleading or may be considered defamatory or offensive to other candidates or students;
- attempt to influence students as to how to vote where this behaviour may be considered intimidating, coercive or more generally inappropriate e.g. the harassment of students to vote as they go about their regular activities on campus;
- attempt to incentivise or induce student votes through unfair means e.g. holding an expensive social event with the intent of unduly influencing student voting;
- cause unreasonable disruption to individuals on campus including communal study areas;
- campaign during learning activities;
- contact students using email distribution lists which were established for a different purpose e.g. societies or sporting groups; or
- assist students to vote on-line using an electronic device.

5. Support

Candidates are encouraged to liaise with the Directorate of Governance in order to seek further clarification about the role of student senator prior to, or during, campaigning.

The University will support candidates by promoting the election to the student population by appropriate means such as electronically distributing a consolidated list of candidacy statements, publishing news articles on the student portal and/or displaying promotional material on campus. Such promotional material will be general in nature and will not endorse any particular candidate.

Contact: Governance.Elections@acu.edu.au

6. Raising Concerns

Any matters relating to the conduct of individuals (including a candidate) during an election should be referred to the Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer will consider and/or make further enquiries depending on the specific nature of the concern.

If, in the opinion of the Returning Officer, an individual has failed to act in accordance with these Campaign Guidelines, the Returning Officer may take appropriate steps depending on the circumstances. These may include:

- Issue a warning
- Request the removal of campaign material
- Disqualify a candidate from the election
- In instances of alleged misconduct, initiate processes in accordance with the student conduct and discipline policy and procedures