

STUDENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN CODE OF CONDUCT

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Pursuant to clause (44) and (45) of the *Elections Policy*, this Student Election Campaign Code of Conduct (“**Code**”) applies to all students involved in the conduct of elections or election campaigns held in respect of elections for student positions on Western Sydney University governance committees.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Code is to promote fairness and preserve the integrity of student elections and election campaigns while at the same time encouraging candidates and their supporters to maintain a spirit of friendly competition and respect for the election process.

2 General principles

- 2.1 The University expects all people involved in election campaigns (including candidates, returning officers, scrutineers, campaign officials, candidates’ supporters and voters) to conduct themselves in an ethical and honest manner and not to engage in any behaviour that causes or could cause unreasonable disruption to, or compromise the integrity of, an election or election campaign, including through use of social media.
- 2.2 Any campaign materials or activities must conform to this Code.
- 2.3 Directions of the returning officer must be followed at all times.

3 Campaign materials

- 3.1 Election campaigns can be conducted through use of electronic and non-electronic campaign materials. Examples include web pages, emails, social media, posters, brochures, flyers and chalking. The returning officer may issue directives on what is acceptable and unacceptable in relation to campaign materials and may require that campaign material is submitted for approval prior to dissemination or publication.
- 3.2 The University may impose additional requirements for campaign materials, including size, placement and distribution volume.
- 3.3 Posters may only be placed in or affixed to general University notice boards and display areas in foyers of University buildings. Only materials such as “Blu Tack” may be used to affix posters to painted surfaces (sticky tape and other bonding materials are not permitted as they can damage painted surfaces).
- 3.4 Pamphlets or flyers may only be distributed by hand or left in common areas within the University, provided they are not left in an area or a manner where they can be blown away or disturbed.

- 3.5 Posters, brochures or flyers or other hard copy campaign materials must not be placed or affixed:
- (a) in areas used for teaching or research activities, such as lecture theatres, laboratories, libraries and so on at entrances to campuses;
 - (b) to any external fixtures (such as gates or poles) or landscape features (such as trees);
 - (c) on glass (such as windows and doors);
 - (d) tables, benches, or seats;
 - (e) on motor vehicle windscreens.
- 3.6 Chalking is only permitted on external paths and roadways within a campus. Chalking is not permitted on any internal or external walls, floors, ceilings, fixtures or fittings of any University building.
- 3.7 Campaign materials must not be distributed to University students by electronic means, unless an individual student has first given their consent to a candidate to send them campaign material to their email address. The University does not provide lists of University student email addresses.
- 3.8 If students wish to use the internet (ie. web pages, emails, social media) to help with their campaign they are not permitted to suggest any representation of the University. Specifically, the Western Sydney University's name and/or logo may not appear anywhere on the website or in the message. Phrases like 'Vote Jane for Academic Senate' are permissible.
- 3.9 Candidates must not, while campaigning and during the election generally, release any materials containing statements or inference that:
- a. they knew, or ought to have known, to be untrue
 - b. is, or is likely to be, misleading or deceptive
 - c. is discriminatory on the basis of ethnicity, disability, race, religion, sex, or sexuality, or
 - d. is defamatory.
- 3.10 For electronic ballots, campaigns may not create new voting front ends or provide links directly to the ballot.
- 3.11 Campaign materials may not be distributed or brought inside any polling booth.
- 3.12 All campaign materials (including chalking materials) must be removed within three days of close of voting.

4 Conduct of campaigns

- 4.1 Only a Western Sydney University student may campaign or (if permitted) act as a scrutineer on behalf of a candidate.
- 4.2 University funds or resources must not be used to produce campaign materials or to promote or support any candidate or group of candidates.
- 4.3 Non-electronic campaigning (such as distribution of pamphlets) is not permitted outside the boundaries of a University campus, including at nearby railway stations, bus stops and other places where students congregate.
- 4.4 Any campaigns conducted on campus must be done in a manner that does not cause any obstruction or unreasonable disruption to others. Unauthorised removal, defacing or pasting over campaign materials of other candidates is strictly prohibited.
- 4.5 Campaigning in classes is not permitted unless the individual lecturer or staff member in charge of that activity first gives his/her express consent. Any consent is conditional upon the campaign not interfering with the running of the class and may be withdrawn at any time.
- 4.6 Campaigning is expressly prohibited in any libraries, computer laboratories and any designated study areas of the University.

5 Canvassing votes

- 5.1 The following behaviours are strictly prohibited:
- (a) using any means (including bribes, bullying, harassment or threats) to induce or intimidate a student to vote for a particular candidate or group of candidates;
 - (b) canvassing votes within six (6) metres (or, if specified, another distance stated in the relevant election procedures) of a designated polling booth or a computer facility provided by the University to enable students to cast electronic votes; or
 - (c) canvassing votes from students by giving them an electronic device (such as a laptop or mobile phone) to enable them to vote (although this does not prevent candidates and their supporters from directing students to a polling booth or a computer facility provided by the University).

6 Breaches of this Code

- 6.1 In addition to any investigation by the returning officer under the Elections Policy or any other policy or regulation governing student elections, any allegations of breaches of this Code may also be investigated and dealt with under the University's *Student Misconduct Rule*.

7 Further information

[WSU Elections Website](#)

[Elections Policy](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Acceptable Use of Digital Services Policy](#)

[Student Misconduct Rule](#)

[Bullying Prevention Policy](#)

[Discrimination, Harassment, Vilification and Victimisation Prevention Policy](#)

For Advice, contact the Returning Officer: returningofficer@westernsydney.edu.au

