

Election Etiquette and Campaigning Guidelines

UNSA and the University have an expectation that all candidates and their supporters will observe the University's Code of Conduct, adhere to the Guidelines, and enter into the spirit of the election with good grace and respect for other candidates.

Candidates cannot refuse direction of the RO or DRO and must work co-operatively and collaboratively with the RO (or nominee) to resolve any conflict.

Should a Candidate or their supporters be found to be acting contrary to these Guidelines, and in line with the signed Acknowledgement contained in the Nomination Form, the Candidate's nomination will become invalid.

The overarching principle of these Guidelines is for all candidates to run a positive campaign:

- Candidates should not “tear each other down” nor be detrimental to the reputation of other students;
- Campaigning should be about the candidate, what they have done, what they will do - comparing policies, not people; and,
- If a Candidate has grievances they should reach out to the elected members and raise their issues directly – candidates should not use campaigning as a platform.
- Tickets are not permitted - candidates must nominate and run as individuals. Refer to page 2 for detail.
- If candidates wish to actively campaign on campus, the candidate and their supporters should at all times ensure that they do not unduly influence or intimidate any of the electorate or the University community during the voting period. This includes disruptive or inappropriate behaviour in or around the Student Hubs, libraries, offices, laboratories, teaching places and similar venues.
- Candidates and their supporters must not use loudspeakers, amplification or cameras inappropriately on campus during the voting period.
- Candidates may not induce the vote of any elector (for example, by giving any gift or benefit, including those of a token kind), to obtain votes.
- Candidates and their supporters must observe the University's health and safety guidelines including those around COVID-19 compliance.
- Freedom of expression, such as the use of posters and banners is allowed, providing that the fabric of the campus is preserved and protected, and natural environment is not impaired. Candidates are responsible for ensuring their materials are maintained in good order during the election period and must remove all election related material at close of business on the last day ballots are open.
- Candidates must not pay for advertising, including sponsored social media posts, nor permit this to be undertaken on their behalf.
- All candidates will be given equal access to campaign via a range of student media channels and on-campus events.
- All Candidates will be provided funding for the production of posters and flyers – these will be printed and verified by UNSA to ensure all candidates adhere to the predetermined limit.

- Candidates and their supporters must not publish or promulgate sentiment that brings UNSA, UNSA's staff or UNSA's representatives into disrepute.
- Candidates (and by inference their supporters) must not deface, remove, or otherwise interfere with the campaigning materials of other candidates.
- All students, including candidates, are subject to the rules, policies and guidelines of the University – this also includes the appropriate use of the internet, social media and email. Campaigners will be conscious of privacy considerations, and the inappropriate use of any mailing lists using details obtained from any source.
- Communications between candidates must be via the RO or DRO – unsolicited contact is not permissible. Communications between a Candidate and a sitting member who is also a Candidate must be related to their current responsibilities as a member of the SRC, it cannot be related to the election.

What are “tickets”?

In local, state and federal politics tickets are a coordinated method of securing seats for a specific political party.

Tickets enable several candidates to endorse one another. They may make joint appearances and share advertising with the goal of securing their party's candidates in as many offices/roles as possible. Often this will involve coordinating a nominee for each role being elected in an attempt to exclude the other parties and/or candidates.

In Australia tickets are a feature in some student union/student association elections – colloquially known as “stupol”. Students running as a ticket is contrary to UNSA's objectives.

Apolitical and Nonpartisan

UNSA is an apolitical and nonpartisan organisation – that means UNSA is not involved in politics, has a lack of affiliation with, and lack of bias toward, any given political party.

In the case an issue arises in the external political landscape that impacts on the tertiary sector or the education or wellbeing of students, it is within UNSA's remit to respond to these issues.

It should be noted that while elected representatives may have political interests outside of the University, these interests/affiliations should have no bearing on their focus or work to represent their student cohorts. If these external interests do influence an elected represented this is a conflict of interest – all representatives are elected to act in the best interest of UNSA and the students of the University of Newcastle.

As an example, if a political party offered to sponsor a candidate to support their campaign in purchasing additional campaigning materials, this is a conflict of interest. Students are not elected to the Student Representative Council to further the interests of any political party.

What would tickets look like in an UNSA elections?

Two or more students running a symbiotic, co-dependant campaign. This may be reflected in visuals (ie their posters, fliers and social posts), promotional materials, their campaigning activities (coordinated or complimentary), or even slogans and/or common themes across their campaigns.

Candidates must run as individuals, not run co-dependent and integrated campaigns and must not work collaboratively with other Candidates.

One Candidate endorsing or supporting another Candidate (or their policies) also constitutes ticketing.