

University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) election 2023

# Prospective candidates' information session

These slides are excerpted from a presentation on

**Thursday 3rd August 2023**

A recording of the presentation is available on the Election Website.

# Housekeeping

- This session is being recorded and we'll upload it to the website
- Ask a question by:
  - using the chat at any time, or
  - Zoom's hand-up feature when we call for questions

# What's happening this meeting

- We'll tell you things about the election process
  - ~45 mins
- UMSU have organised a separate meeting with some student reps at **7pm** so you can ask questions about the actual roles

# Who we are



**Stephen Luntz**  
Returning Officer



**Goldie Pergl**  
Deputy Returning Officer



**Patrick Clearwater**  
Deputy Returning Officer

## Other staff

Poll clerks  
Admin assistants  
Spies

approx. 13 staff through  
the course of the election



**Jaimie Adam**  
Deputy Returning Officer  
(election week only)

# What we do

- The **Returning Officer** is responsible for the conduct of the election
  - we run the election logistically
  - make decisions and rulings
  - manage candidate behaviour and complaints
  - point of contact if you have questions

# What we aren't

- We are not employees of UMSU or the University
  - we answer only to UMSU's Electoral Tribunal
- We aren't on your side, or anyone else's
- We will help as much as we can, but it's your responsibility to comply with rules & deadlines

# Nomination process

- Nomination form is online:

(our students.)

Once you're ready to nominate:

## Nomination form

[Complete the online nomination form here.](#)

The deadline for nominations is **noon** (Melbourne time), **Friday 11th August 2023**. Late nominations cannot be accepted; the deadline is written in to the Electoral Regulations. Don't leave it to the last minute – we can check your nomination for problems if it's submitted in advance.

[umsu.unimelb.edu.au/elections](https://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/elections)

# Nomination process

- The form has six pages:
  1. position you're applying for
  2. your details
  3. OPTIONAL: ticket you're running on
  4. OFFICER POSITIONS ONLY: if you're running jointly
  5. 100 or 300 word policy statement
  6. declaration



# Nominations: conflict of position

- If you're not running for multiple positions, zone out for this slide
- If you are running for multiple positions **that can't be held concurrently**, you **must** submit a conflict of position form by either:
  - answering the “conflict of position” question on the last page of the nomination form, or
  - submitting a separate form (see website)
- Form is due by **nomination deadline**

# Nominations: conflict of position

- Consequences for not submitting:
  - ***all*** of your nominations are invalid, even ones that don't clash
- This is required by the Electoral Regulations

# Nominations: eligibility declaration

- For some positions you need to submit a **separate** form declaring you are eligible
- These are: Queer, Women's, Students with Disabilities, Students of Colour positions; and jointly-held Officer positions (see website for full details)
- **Deadline:** Monday 14th. If unsure, ask or submit form.

# Nominations: deadline

- Deadline: nominations must be received by **12noon Friday 11th August 2023** (Melb. time)
- Can late nominations be accepted?
  - No
- Can the deadline be extended?
  - No

# Why you should nominate early

- Nominations are open now
- If you nominate early, we will review your nomination
  - you will have an opportunity to fix any problems

# Ticket registration

- What is a ticket?
  - group of students running on a common platform
- Ticket registrations are also due noon, 11th Aug
- Requires signatures of 15 general members of UMSU

# Ticket registration: process

- **Option A:** paper form
  - download from election website, obtain signatures, scan and send
- **Option B:** online registration
  - process entirely online

# Tickets: other details

- Re-registering a previous ticket?
  - Need permission from the previous registrant
- Name overlaps with an UMSU club?
  - Need permission from the club (e.g. motion of committee) certified by Pres/Sec
- Non-English name?
  - Need English translation



# Tickets

- Tickets are not compulsory
- Ticket registrants and candidates on a ticket are expected to take responsibility for the entire ticket
- **Start your registration well in advance of the deadline** (noon, 11th August; same as nominations)

# Policy statements

- You can submit a policy statement of up to:
  - 1,000 words: a ticket
  - 300 words: Officer positions
  - 100 words: all other positions
- (Not sure what a word is? Ask or *[slide truncated]*)

# Policy statements

- Policy statements are submitted:
  - for candidates: with nomination
  - for tickets using online process: with application
  - for tickets using paper form: separately by email
- Changes: by email, **up to the nomination deadline**
- We print Them exactly as recieved withot fixing grammer, spalling, or fact checking

# Candidate photos

- You can submit a candidate photo (by email)
- Must be received by Monday 14th August
- Detailed guidance on website:
  - <https://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/make-difference/elections/2023-elections/for-candidates/#election-guide>

# Election guide

- Policy statements & photos go in *Farrago's* election guide
- We will make the guide available on the website, at polling places, and with the voting link

# New this year: online management

- We are rolling out a self-serve platform for candidate and ticket management
- Expect an email with a link a few days after your nomination
- Up to you if you use it, or if you submit forms by email

# Voting process

- All students who are eligible will receive a voting link on **Monday 4th September**.
- They must vote by 5pm Friday 8th.
- Don't forget to vote yourself!

# Voting process

- Voting is preferential
  - For single-member positions: number 1, 2, 3 etc
  - For multi-member positions: can number all candidates (“below the line”); **OR** can number tickets (“above the line”)
- ATL: no ticket preferences



# Polling help points

- We will have polling booths (branded “polling help points”) staffed on the Parkville (4–5 sites), Southbank and Burnley campuses
- Tablets and privacy screens for voters

# Campaigning: basics

- You are allowed (encouraged!) to campaign to people to convince them to vote for you
  - can be online
  - or in person
- You must follow certain rules in the Electoral Regulations

# Campaigning: rules

- (Not all rules are covered here)
- Must submit copies of all material to us
- Must not act dishonestly or deceptively
- Must **not** campaign to someone in the process of voting, or “help” them find the voting link

# Campaigning: rules

- We will organise a campaigning information session the week before the election
- We will have a detailed guide on the website
- Not sure? **Ask.**
- Final word: the Electoral Regulations.

# Electoral Regulations

- Cover all aspects of how the election is run
- We didn't write them
- They are rules binding on us as well as you
- Available on election website

# How to get in touch

- **Quickest:** [returningofficer@union.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:returningofficer@union.unimelb.edu.au)
- **In person:** our office is on 4th floor Building 168.  
Office hours start next week and will be posted on the website
- **By phone:** see election website
- **By snail mail:** contact us in advance

# Summary

- **Deadline:** 12noon Friday 11th August
- We are only a little bit scary so get in touch
- Many details on the election website



[umsu.unimelb.edu.au/elections](https://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/elections)