

## Determination (1) of the Returning Officer

1. **Electoral Regulation 12.7(d)** — This Regulation prohibits (among other things) use of mailing lists for campaign purposes. This prohibition includes email lists, including ones compiled from the University student directory. While it is permissible (subject to other Electoral Regulations) to email friends to campaign to them individually, we regard it as a breach of this rule if a mailing list is used, even if emails are sent manually one-by-one.
2. **Deadline for candidate statements and photographs** — I set a deadline of 8pm Monday 11 May for candidate statements and photographs.
3. **Nominator and seconder** — The Electoral Regulations are clear that nomination and seconding are required before a candidacy is accepted. This year, we have a process where each candidate must have their nominator and seconder confirm, via email, that they performed the nomination/seconding. I rule:
  - a. Those confirmations must be received by 8pm Monday 11 May.
  - b. While a candidate can change nominator/seconder up to the nomination deadline (9am Monday 11 May), this is **not possible** after that deadline. That is, the grace period is only for the Returning Officer to be satisfied with the nomination/seconding process, not an extension of time to find an eligible nominator/seconder.
4. **Campaigning in academic spaces** — Campaigning during active teaching activities, including tutorials, lectures, workshops, colloquia, laboratories, classes, practicals and seminars is prohibited. Short campaign announcements (“lecture bashes”) at the beginning or end of an activity are permitted only with written permission from the teacher, such permission which must extend to all candidates on a fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory basis, and a copy of which must be provided to the Returning Officer.
5. **Registration of material** — Material registration is by email to the Returning Officer (contact details on election website). Material will be accepted for registration only if it carries the words “Published by [*name of candidate/campaigner who takes responsibility for the material*] ([*student number*])”. We will review submissions as quickly as practical; material may be shared prior to our review, at candidates’ own risk, but we encourage controversial or widely-disseminated material to be registered well in advance.
6. **Social media** — Previously, the Electoral Regulations prohibited (re-)sharing campaign material on social media other than by candidates and registered campaigners. Electoral Regulation 12.5 changes this. Going forward:
  - a. Students, who are not candidates/registered campaigners, may reshare social media in the platform’s usual way, as long as no substantial material is added with the

reshare, such resharing is not part of an organised course of conduct, and is not solicited by the candidate or their campaigners.

- b. As a general guide, anyone repeatedly resharing material, altering material, or targeting material at specific groups or audiences will be viewed as high-risk of breaching this rule.
  - c. All material on social media must be prepared in a way that, when reshared, the name and student number of the publisher remains on or clearly linked with the material.
7. All times in this determination are Melbourne time.

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