

# **ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY ELECTION RULES 2018**

In addition to the election requirements set out in Part 7 of the Adelaide University Law Students' Society Constitution, the Election Rules seek to govern the conduct of candidates running in the annual election. These rules aim to promote fairness and transparency throughout the campaigning and voting periods. These rules also hope to make the election more inclusive of its members.

## **1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

- 1.1. By nominating in the Adelaide University Law Students' Society election, all candidates agree to comply with all of the Society Election Rules.
- 1.2. Names will appear on the ballot paper(s) in random order. The method of determining the order of the names will be determined by the Returning Officer.
- 1.3. The system of voting will be the Hare-Clarke Optional Preference System, which is the same as previous AULSS and AUU elections.
- 1.4. Candidates may only run for one position in the election.
- 1.5. Candidates must run independently. This extends to campaigning, which must only be done as an individual. Group campaigning, whether in person or online, is not allowed.
  - 1.5.1. Group campaigning includes running as a "ticket", campaigning under a substantially identical name or adopting campaign materials that create a reasonable appearance of association between candidates, or any similar conduct as determined by the Returning Officer.
- 1.6. The incumbent AULSS must remain impartial. No member of the incumbent AULSS Executive may endorse or otherwise promote any candidate in the election.

## **2. CANDIDATE STATEMENT**

- 2.1. Candidates running in the election must submit a 'candidate statement' and passport-sized photograph with their nomination which will be used to create an 'AULSS Election Candidates Guide'.
  - 2.1.1. This guide will be created by the AULSS President and Returning Officer and may require the assistance of the IT and Communications Officer.
  - 2.1.2. Candidate statements in the guide will be ordered by position (as per the AULSS Constitution). In the event multiple candidates are running for a position, candidates will be ordered alphabetically by their last name.
  - 2.1.3. Candidates running for an Executive Position can submit a statement of up to 400 words.

- 2.1.4. Candidates running for a Committee Position can submit a statement of up to 200 words.
- 2.2. The Returning Officer may exclude a candidate statement if it is, in the Returning Officer's reasonable opinion, intimidating, insulting, offensive or defamatory.
- 2.3. The AULSS Election Candidates Guide will be distributed to members by the AULSS President at the start of the campaigning period.
- 2.4. The campaigning period shall commence after the close of nominations, at a time decided by the Returning Officer, in consultation with the AULSS President and Faculty Advisor.
  - 2.4.1. The Returning officer must call a meeting with all candidates before the commencement of the campaigning period.
- 2.5. As per Section 68 of the AULSS Constitution, results will be published on all authorised communications platforms no later than three academic days after the election period. Results will be posted on notice boards, e-mailed to candidates and later e-mailed to all students by the AULSS President.

### **3. CAMPAIGNING MATERIALS**

- 3.1. Postering in and around the Ligertwood Building is very limited. Legislation and University rules prohibit posters in stairwells and all walls inside Fire Doors (Fire Regulations), in the student area between the foyer and the door through to the Napier Building, on any painted surface and on the portico entrance to the Law School. That only leaves the single pillar between the foyer and the student area, brick areas (and posters on that surface must be attached by blu-tac) and the notice boards outside the lecture theatres and on the wall by the route to the stairs down to the Napier Building and the staff car park.
  - 3.1.1. Postering space will be determined by the Returning Officer at a meeting with all candidates.
- 3.2. Nominees may only distribute acceptable campaign materials. Acceptable campaign materials are:
  - 3.2.1. Any material deemed to be accepted by the Returning Officer;
  - 3.2.2. Facebook marketing; or
  - 3.2.3. Flyers and Posters no larger than A4 in size.
- 3.3. All posters, flyers and pamphlets must contain the words "Published by [name], [Student ID number]. Approval from the Returning Officer is not needed. However, defamatory or unacceptable material, as determined by the Returning Officer, will be removed.
- 3.4. Any posters, banners, or other visual media larger than A4 paper are not allowed.

- 3.5. A nominee's individual campaign must not be, and must not include threats of conduct that would be, intimidating, insulting, offensive, defamatory or discriminatory.
- 3.6. Any form of campaigning, in person or online, before the campaigning period is not allowed.
- 3.7. Only students running in the election can campaign.
- 3.8. Candidates are responsible for removing their posters and other materials at the end of the elections.

#### **4. CAMPAIGNING IN PERSON**

- 4.1. All candidates acknowledge that the Adelaide University Law Students' Society and the Adelaide Law School accept no responsibility for any statements or comments made by candidates during the election period.
- 4.2. No candidate shall provide any benefit (such as BBQ, soft drinks, alcohol, money or prizes) to an eligible voter in order to solicit votes or otherwise influence the election.
- 4.3. Candidates can approach students and ask them to vote. Candidates must not make defamatory statements or comments when telling people why they should vote for them.
- 4.4. Candidates must not stand in people's way. Please leave a clear path for people to walk through the Law School.
- 4.5. Candidates must not harass people who are not interested and do not want to talk to you. Please remember that not everyone who uses the Ligertwood Building is a Law student.
- 4.6. A candidate must not engage in any dishonest practice in relation to the election.

#### **5. POLLING**

- 5.1. Where possible, voting will be held in Rooms 1.08 and 1.09 of the Ligertwood Building of the University of Adelaide's North Terrace Campus. On election days no canvassing or handing out of how-to-vote-cards is permitted anywhere along that corridor. But 'how to vote' cards can be left in the polling rooms.
  - 5.1.1. In the event polling occurs in a different area, the Returning Officer must inform all candidates and students.

#### **6. BREACHES OF ELECTION RULES**

- 6.1. The Returning Officer may impose a penalty on any candidate who breaches any of these rules, or any reasonable direction issued by the Returning Officer, including (but not limited to):

- 6.1.1. Requesting a candidate issue a formal statement;
  - 6.1.2. Suspending the candidate from campaigning;
  - 6.1.3. Disqualifying the candidate from running in the election.
- 6.2. Candidates who would otherwise be elected unopposed can be disqualified.
  - 6.3. Any candidate or member may submit a written complaint to the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer must acknowledge the complaint within 24 hours.
  - 6.4. The Returning Officer must report any breaches to the President of the AULSS.
  - 6.5. When considering disciplinary action, the Returning Officer shall consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to:
    - 6.5.1. Proportionality of the punishment to the breach of the Election Rules;
    - 6.5.2. Damage done to the reputation of the candidate;
    - 6.5.3. The severity of the breach.

## **7. TIMING OF ELECTION**

- 7.1. As per Section 58(1) of the AULSS Constitution, “the elections of the Society shall be called at any time after 31 July in any calendar year, upon advice of the President to the Returning Officer”.
- 7.2. As per Section 58(2) of the AULSS Constitution “the election must take place before the end of week 10 of semester 2 of the academic year”.
- 7.3. There must be at least 14 calendar days between the calling of the election and the commencement of the election period.
- 7.4. The Returning Officer will call the election in accordance with these timing requirements. An email will be sent to all students.
- 7.5. At the discretion of the AULSS President, information about the AULSS Election will be made available on as many authorised communication platforms as possible.

## **8. SPENDING**

- 8.1. Candidates may not pay for sponsored posts on Facebook or any other social media platform.

## **9. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

- 9.1. The Returning Officer will, to the best of their efforts, ensure polling rooms are as accessible as possible.
- 9.2. The Returning Officer will clearly advertise the polling rooms in the Ligertwood Foyer during the election period.

- 9.3. If a Candidate needs assistance drafting their Candidate Statement, they may contact the AULSS Equity and Wellbeing Officer who will refer them to an appropriate service (e.g. The University of Adelaide Writing Centre).
- 9.4. If a Candidate has an accessibility request, they may contact the AULSS President and Equity and Wellbeing Officer, in conjunction with the Returning Officer, to best accommodate this request (e.g. Assistance putting posters up).