

Transcript



Title: 2021 Swinburne Elections Information Session

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Welcome to this year's University Elections. Today we'll cover topics including the benefits of becoming a board or committee member, the election process, where to find information and details around campaigning.

Swinburne statutory elections are held each year to fill student and staff positions on the University Council, Academic Senate, UniSuper Consultative Committee, Swinburne Student Life Board and Student Consultative Committees.

Being a member of a Board or Committee will give you valuable insight into how these bodies operate. The skills learnt will benefit you in your working life and will help increase your networks. Student and staff input into Boards and Committees give management insight into what is important to students and staff and can help guide future strategies.

The election process can be broken down into three key stages – nominations – voting – and the election results. During the nomination period, candidates have the opportunity to self-nominate, if there is only one nominee for a position this is deemed to be an uncontested position. If there is more than one nominee for a position, then an election is held online. The electorate votes and the candidate with the most votes wins the election for that position.

One of the most helpful resources you can access throughout the election is the Swinburne elections website. The site includes the -

- Notice of election
- The election process
- How to nominate
- And vote
- And there is a Frequently asked questions section

You can navigate to the site via the URL swi.nu/elections which appears at the bottom of each slide.

And scrolling further down the page ...

- the election results and
- Board member commitments

The Notice of election serves to notify staff and students of the election dates for nominations and voting. It also provides details of the vacant positions included in the election for that specific year. It is a live site that will move through 3 stages during the election cycle.

Initially it will advertise the vacant positions. Once nominations close it will include details of the candidate names for each position. And finally it will include the results of the successfully elected candidates, along with the vote count

The Board member commitments page provides information to gain a better understanding of what each position entails. There is a section for each University Body that details anticipated time commitments, provides links to useful reading and contact details should you have further questions.

Students and staff nominating for positions in the elections must meet certain eligibility criteria, these are outlined in the Election Regulations.

In summary students must be 18 years or older at nomination; studying the equivalent of 50% or more of a full time load; living in Australia; attending the University solely or primarily as a student rather than as an employee; and satisfies probity requirements.

And staff must hold a 0.5 or more on-going or fixed-term appointment; be living in Australia; attending the University solely or primarily as a staff member rather than a student; have completed their probationary period of employment; and satisfy probity requirements.

Throughout the election cycle you can expect to receive communications via email and On Course. Emails are sent from Swinburne Elections and the University's election provider BigPulse The BigPulse emails contain the unique links required to submit self-nominations and to vote.

If you're looking for these emails, try one of the following searches. If you still experience difficulties locating the emails, contact the Returning Officer who will assist you further.

Campaigning is an important part of the election process and candidates are encouraged to campaign during the election period. All candidates are required to prepare a nomination statement with their photo to promote their candidacy during the voting period and may use flyers, talk with fellow staff and students, plus utilise online platforms.

Elections shall be conducted in a manner befitting a professional organisation, including campaigning and electioneering within responsible, sensible limits. Ensuring a spirit of cooperation and essential fairness prevails.

If you have concerns, an official complaint can be lodged through the online complaints process.

To recap, the elections web site is a great go to reference during the election period. The notice of election contains details of nomination and voting periods, positions being filled by election and live updates of the candidate names and the results. The site provides guidance on how to nominate and vote, what each position entails and who to contact if you have further questions.

Thanks for your time and good luck to all candidates for this year's election.

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