

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Code of Conduct for Election Candidates

This Code of Conduct supplements the [University of New England By-law 2005](#) governing elections for members of the University of New England Council. All candidates are bound by the By-law and the Code of Conduct.

Any breach of the Code of Conduct may result in the withdrawal of the candidate's eligibility to stand for election as determined by the Returning Officer.

a. Purpose of the Code of Conduct

a.1. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is:

- a) To maintain the public confidence in the electoral process by promoting conditions conducive to the conduct of free and fair elections; and
- b) To provide general guidance to candidates on what is considered fair and reasonable conduct in elections, thereby ensuring candidate know what is required of them.

a.2. The Code of Conduct applies to all candidates for UNE Council elections.

a.3. The Code of Conduct binds candidates personally. The use of agents is not permitted.

b. Election Candidates Conduct

b.1. Candidates will conduct themselves and their campaigns so as to maintain and strengthen trust and confidence in the democratic election process; and promote integrity in our electoral system.

b.2. Candidates' conduct should be fair and reasonable. This requires that a candidate will:

- a) Act honestly in making representations about the candidate's own claims for elections;
- b) Refrain from knowingly acting dishonestly in making representations about the claims of other candidates for election;
- c) Avoid making public statements which the candidate knows, or ought to know, are untrue, about any matter and especially an opponent's personal affairs;
- d) Avoid making vexatious complaints against an opponent during a campaign;
- e) Avoid conduct which is contrary to Federal, State, Local Government and University legislation, regulations or policy including but not limited to racial and religious vilification offences; breaches of the UNE Privacy Policy; or Criminal Code offences; and
- f) Avoid conduct which would tend to compromise a free and fair election process.

c. Campaigning Guidelines

Election material is any publicity material utilised by a candidate, or any material that directly supports any candidate and has the purpose of influencing the election of any candidate. Printed election

material is hard copy material that includes but is not limited to posters, flyers, letters, advertisements and how to vote cards.

All election material produced, published or issued by or on behalf of a candidate should follow the principles as set out below.

Candidates may not use the University infrastructure, name, logo or funds as part of their campaign.

Candidates are not permitted to interfere with the campaign activities of other candidates or publish untrue, defamatory or discriminatory statements or engage in any form of harassment, intimidation or bullying toward other candidates, UNE representatives or staff or students.

Election material:

- a) Shall include a statement that the material has been authorised by the candidate;
- b) Shall not be misleading or deceptive;
- c) Shall not be false;
- d) Shall not be defamatory;
- e) Shall not disclose confidential information;
- f) Shall avoid bringing the University into disrepute; and
- g) Shall not expose the University to legal proceedings or prosecution.

Candidates must abide by the following campaigning guidelines:

- a) All printed campaigning material issued by a candidate must be emailed to returning_officer@une.edu.au and approved by return email from the Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer prior to distribution.
- b) Any unapproved election material may be removed from the University campus. If a candidate receives a request from the Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer to remove campaigning material from the UNE campus, UNE website or social media, the candidate must remove the campaigning material as soon as possible.
- c) Printed campaigning material must not be placed anywhere on the University campus but noticeboards, bus shelters and in locations of buildings authorised by a UNE staff member working within or responsible for the building.
- d) Candidates must avoid littering or usage of any form of graffiti on the University campus. Any litter or graffiti may be removed from the University campus.
- e) Candidate information statements will be available on the UNE website under the relevant election page. Candidates may submit a photograph and other approved campaign material (such as a short video) which may be posted on the UNE website.
- f) The content of the material used by candidates in the election will be monitored by the Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officer. If content is determined to be inappropriate for any reason, it will be removed.
- g) Candidates must not send campaigning material by mail or email to UNE staff or students without approval from the Returning Officer.
- h) All candidates must promptly remove their printed campaigning material from the UNE campus at the conclusion of the election.
- i) Candidates **must not** utilise the media, including social media, for campaigning unless pre-approved by the Returning Officer.
 - i. Candidates may share approved material on and from their personal social media accounts only.

- ii. Candidates may post to Facebook *groups* of which they are a member but not Facebook *pages* other than their own personal profile page.
- iii. Any posts must align with the UNE Code of Conduct.

Approved
Returning Officer