

# **I00-2016 OUSA Election Rules**

**Category:** Procedural

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## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of these rules are to ensure that the Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) elections are carried out in a fair, efficient and democratic manner, while encouraging maximum participation amongst members.
- 1.2 OUSA recognises that freedom of speech and expression are a guaranteed part of fair and democratic elections, but will ensure all elections are free from harassment, intimidation or abuse and are conducted in a manner free from undue influence.
- 1.3 Nothing in this policy will contradict the OUSA Constitution, nor will any person or persons subject to this policy act in a manner which is inconsistent with the OUSA Constitution.

## 2. Interpretation

- 2.1 In this policy, unless the context otherwise requires –
  - By lot** means the use of objects in making a choice at random.
  - Campaign period** means the period of campaigning from the closing of nominations to the close of voting.
  - Campaigning** means the process of actively or passively promoting a candidate standing for election on the OUSA Executive. This includes any attempt to persuade voters to vote or not vote for a particular candidate.
  - Candidate grouping** means a number of people (two or more) representing a particular brand/political party/shared platform in an election.
  - Casual vacancy** means the situation where any executive position is currently unoccupied, or where there is no person elected to fill a position following any election.
  - Polling booth** means any physical or electronic device made available for the express purposes of voting.
  - Voting period** means the time during which voters are able to cast ordinary votes.
  - Working day** means any day except –
    - a) Saturday, a Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, Labour Day, the Sovereign's birthday, and Waitangi Day;
    - b) Semester holidays prescribed in the University calendar.

## 3. Campaign conduct

- 3.1 You must comply with the instructions of the Returning Officer and other election officials.
- 3.2 You must comply with the instructions of the University and its officers.
- 3.3 You must only supply University recognized names, nicknames and monikers to be listed on the Election Ballot.
- 3.4 Harassment, intimidation or abuse of any candidate or member of OUSA is completely unacceptable and must not be entered into.
- 3.5 You must act in good faith towards your fellow candidates, OUSA, and the wider community.
- 3.6 Any attempt to undermine the legitimacy or integrity of the election is strictly prohibited.

## 4. Campaigning

- 4.1 You must not enter the OUSA office during the voting period without prior express permission of the Returning Officer.
- 4.2 You must not campaign in or allow any of your campaign materials to be present in University Computer labs.

- 4.3 You must not send campaign or spam emails to University email lists.
- 4.4 You must not interfere in any way with the campaign materials of another candidate.
- 4.5 Candidates must respect the integrity, impartiality and privacy of the voting process.
- 4.6 You must not campaign in a manner that is disruptive to the University environment.
- 4.7 You must not interfere in any way with private property without the express permission of the owner.
- 4.8 While the process of campaigning, neither you, nor any of the your campaign materials, can be in the same section of a building as any polling booth, or within twenty metres of a polling booth, during the voting period, without prior express permission of the Returning Officer.
- 4.9 You must use chalk, paint or any other substance that will leave a temporary or permanent mark on the University grounds.

## **5. Candidate groupings (tickets) contesting the OUSA election**

- 5.1 An action by any person will be held to occur on behalf of the candidate grouping to which they belong, unless determined otherwise by the Returning Officer.
- 5.2 This provision will not affect any candidate standing independent of a candidate grouping.

## **6. Campaign volunteers**

- 6.1 You must provide a written list of any person(s) actively supporting your election campaign to the Returning Officer.

## **7. Campaign finance**

- 7.1 Your total campaign expenditure shall not exceed \$500. The full market value of any individual or collaborated campaign material used to promote your campaign must be incorporated into the total costs of your campaign. This does not limit the ability of candidate groupings to campaign, however, any costs incurred by that grouping must be duplicated in all parties' total individual campaign costs, rather than splitting those costs.
- 7.2 You must not use any OUSA resources in the course of your campaign, including but not limited to OUSA related websites and social networking web pages unless specifically authorized by the Returning Officer.
- 7.3 You must not give away any individual item with a market value of more than \$0.50.
- 7.4 You must complete the financial return form (with receipts attached where applicable), and lodge with the Returning Officer no more than 7 working days following the close of voting.

## **8. Endorsements**

- 8.1 You must not campaign in a manner that implies an endorsement by OUSA.
  - 8.1.1 Any campaign support received from a person holding a position as an OUSA executive will be considered legitimate, providing it is made clear that the person is acting as an individual, outside of their official OUSA capacity.
  - 8.1.2 Any campaign materials (including, but not limited to any electronic content/posts, and any physical campaign materials) received from, featuring, or endorsed by a

person holding a position as an OUSA executive must clearly display a disclaimer that their support for the candidate is in no way an endorsement by OUSA.

## **9. Returning Officer**

- 9.1 The Returning Officer must, when required, clarify, interpret or add to these rules during the course of the election in a way which best reflects the integrity and impartiality of the voting process.

## **10. Related Policies, Procedures and Forms**

- 10.1 The Constitution and Rules of the Otago University Students Association Incorporated
- 10.2 OUSA Candidates' Information Sheet
- 10.3 OUSA Elections Rules
- 10.4 OUSA Executive Nomination Form
- 10.5 OUSA Returning Officer's Job Description
- 10.6 OUSA Returning Officer's Election Report
- 10.7 OUSA Candidates' Financial Return Form

