

Griffith University Student Representative Council Election Rules - 2020

1. General Information for the Griffith University Student Representative Council Elections

- 1.1. Voting will be via electronic ballot.
- 1.2. Voting will be on a first-past-the-post basis.

2. Nominations

Nomination Period

- 2.1 The nomination period will be open for a period of one working week, being from Monday 9am of that week to Friday 5pm of that same week.
- 2.2 The week of the nomination period will be determined by the Griffith University Student Representative Council Board. The Returning Officer will provide an email notification for opening of the elections on the date which the nomination period begins.
- 2.3 After close of the nomination period, the Returning Officer will liaise with the university administration to determine that every person who has submitted a nomination or is an authoriser of an election team is a currently enrolled student. Where the Returning Officer determines that they are not a currently enrolled student, or the student is otherwise ineligible, that person will not be a candidate for, or be elected to the Griffith University Student Representative Council.

Nomination of Candidates

- 2.4 Every currently enrolled student of Griffith University is eligible to nominate as a candidate for election at their particular home campus, subject to rules 2.11, 2.12 and 2.13.
- 2.5 The Returning Officer will, during the nomination period, accept the nomination of an eligible student where the student has submitted in writing:
 - 2.5.1 a nomination from another eligible student currently enrolled at the same SRC Campus;
 - 2.5.2 the eligible nominee accepting the nomination;
 - 2.5.3 a statement from two other students currently enrolled at the same SRC Campus seconding the nomination (“the seconders”); and
 - 2.5.4 evidence of current enrolment for themselves and the seconders by providing their student number and degree in which they are enrolled.
- 2.6 The student may, where under rule 2.8 a request for authorisation has been or is to be sought for an election team, submit the name of an election team with their nomination.
- 2.7 The student may amend the name of the election team prior to the closing of nominations.

Nomination of Election Teams

- 2.8 The Returning Officer will, during the nomination period, authorise an election team, where two or more currently enrolled students of Griffith University (the 'authorisers') submit the following information (the 'request for authorisation') in writing:
- 2.8.1 their names and student numbers;
 - 2.8.2 the name of their election team;
 - 2.8.3 a logo of the election team;
 - 2.8.4 a list of authorised candidates for the election team, including the name and student number of those candidates; and
 - 2.8.5 where a proposed election team name and/or logo is identical or substantially similar to the name or logo of an election team which has already been submitted to the returning officer, the returning officer must notify the election team which submitted their identical or substantially similar team name and/or logo that they will be unable to campaign under that team name and/or logo. An election team may seek to nominate another team name and/or logo only during the nomination period.
- 2.9 The name of an election team will be displayed next to a candidate's name on the electronic ballot if:
- 2.9.1 the Returning Officer has accepted the student's nomination;
 - 2.9.2 the candidate submitted the name of the election team with their nomination;
 - 2.9.3 the Returning Officer has authorised the election team; and
 - 2.9.4 the candidate's name appears on the list of authorised candidates for the election team.
- 2.10 Inclusion on a list of authorised candidates under section 2.8 does not count as a nomination.

Eligibility of Nominees

- 2.11 Students who have breached the Griffith University Student Academic Misconduct Policy within the last two (2) years are ineligible to nominate for, be a candidate for, or be elected to the Griffith University Student Representative Council.
- 2.12 Students who have breached the Griffith University Student Charter within the last two (2) years are ineligible to nominate for, be a candidate for, or be elected to in the Griffith University Student Representative Council.
- 2.13 Students who have breached the Griffith University Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying Policy within the last two (2) years will be ineligible to nominate for, be a candidate for, or be elected to the Griffith University Student Representative Council.

Register of election teams

- 2.14 Once the Returning Officer has determined the eligibility of nominees, the Returning Officer will prepare a register of election teams which includes the names, logos and candidates of election teams.
- 2.15 The Returning Officer will ensure that the register of election teams is promptly distributed to all authorisers of election teams and the Student Associations Manager after the close of nominations.
- 2.16 The Student Associations Manager will keep the register of election teams for the purpose of future elections.

3. Election campaign

- 3.1 For the purposes of these election rules, “campaigning” means any activity designed to influence the vote of a student in the Griffith University Student Representative Council elections (the ‘elections’), whilst on the premises of a Griffith University Campus.
- 3.2 Online Campaigning
 - 3.2.1 Campaigning may occur online as long as campaign material is approved in accordance with section 3.6
- 3.3 Campaigning must be conducted in a way that ensures:
 - 3.3.1 the safety of students;
 - 3.3.2 that students are not intimidated;
 - 3.3.3 that the views of students are respected; and
 - 3.3.4 that the reputation of the University and the SRC are not brought into disrepute.
- 3.4 A person must not display the logo of an election team or purport to be a representative of that election team without the permission of the authorisers of that election team.

Campaign material

- 3.5 “Campaign material” means any material produced for the purpose of campaigning.
- 3.6 All campaign material must be submitted to the Returning Officer for approval in person or by email before it is distributed to students.
- 3.7 If campaign material is provided to the Returning Officer for approval, the Returning Officer must record a written authorisation on the campaign material, unless the campaign material:
 - 3.7.1 is discriminatory;
 - 3.7.2 vilifies persons on the grounds of race, gender, disability or sexuality; or
 - 3.7.3 recommends a way of voting that is not secret.
- 3.8 Students must not distribute campaign material unless it includes the written authorisation of the Returning Officer.

Conduct of campaigns

- 3.9 A person may only campaign if they are a currently enrolled student of (an SRC Campus), Griffith University and display a current Griffith University Student ID.
- 3.10 Campaigning must not occur after 6pm or before 8am in the voting week.
- 3.11 Campaigning must not occur at or in residential colleges, libraries or lecture theatres/teaching spaces located on the precinct of a Griffith University Campus.
- 3.12 Should tablet devices or other portable computers be used to collect votes from students, it is acceptable that, should they be asked, campaigners are allowed to provide reasonable assistance to students in helping them cast their votes as long as it does not breach election rule 3.13.3, which prohibits engaging in any conduct which prevents a student from voting in secrecy.
- 3.13 Before a student is to vote in elections, they are either given a flyer or referred to a visible poster which informs them of the need to vote in secret and not to allow a campaigner to vote for them. This poster or leaflet should also include the Returning Officer's contact details so that they can inform the Returning Officer immediately if this has been breached.

Prohibited conduct

- 3.14 Notwithstanding anything else in these election rules, the following is "prohibited conduct":
- 3.14.1 providing false information to the Returning Officer;
 - 3.14.2 interfering with the Returning Officer in the performance of their duties;
 - 3.14.3 engaging in any conduct which prevents a student from voting in secrecy;
 - 3.14.4 campaigning, unless a student;
 - 3.14.5 campaigning after 6pm or before 8am in the voting week;
 - 3.14.6 paying a person to campaign;
 - 3.14.7 offering free gifts and services, and items and services at less than cost price which, in the opinion of the Returning Officer, can be related in any way to campaigning or an inducement to vote for a particular candidate or election team;
 - 3.14.8 damaging SRC or University property;
 - 3.14.9 distributing campaign material that does not display the written authorisation of the Returning Officer;
 - 3.14.10 engaging in conduct or distributing material that vilifies persons on the grounds of race, gender, disability or sexuality;
 - 3.14.11 physically intimidating or assaulting a candidate or campaigner;
 - 3.14.12 engaging in conduct which makes students unsafe;
 - 3.14.13 using current SRC assets for the purpose of campaigning;
 - 3.14.14 campaigning at or in residential colleges, libraries or lecture theatres/teaching spaces located on the precinct of a Griffith University Campus;
 - 3.14.15 failing to comply with a decision of the Returning Officer or ruling of the Electoral Tribunal;
 - 3.14.16 the use of photographs or videos be limited to the particular campaigner or election team as a positive and not used to video those from another team and then posted on any social media in a negative way; and
 - 3.14.17 students not to follow around those campaigning in the hope of 'catching them out' on video as this is intimidating and harassing behavior.

3.14.18 Campaigning in close proximity to SRC events.

3.15 The SRC Board reserves the right to hire security guards to ensure the elections are free, fair and the rules are abided by.

4. Enforcement of election rules

Returning Officer

4.1 The Returning Officer is responsible for the enforcement of these election rules.

4.2 Where a person or election team engages in prohibited conduct, the Returning Officer may:

- 4.2.1 direct the person or election team to cease the prohibited conduct;
- 4.2.2 report the person to the University;
- 4.2.3 prohibit the person from campaigning for a period of up to 2 years; and/or
- 4.2.4 disqualify the candidate or election team, as the case may be.

4.3 The person or election team to whom a decision of the Returning Officer applies must comply with the decision.

Appealing decisions of the Returning Officer

4.4 Any decision by the Returning Officer may be appealed to the Electoral Tribunal by an aggrieved person.

4.5 The aggrieved person is required to provide written reasons for their appeal to the Student Associations Manager, who will promptly notify the members of the Electoral Tribunal.

4.6 The Returning Officer has the power to correct a decision of the Returning Officer.

4.7 For the purpose of this section, a decision includes a ruling or omission.

4.8 Any appeals to the Electoral Tribunal must be made by an aggrieved person within 7 days of the Returning Officer's decision and up to a maximum of 7 days after the close of the polls.

Electoral Tribunal

4.9 For the general elections held in 2019, the Electoral Tribunal will consist of three (3) individuals appointed by the SRC Board.

4.10 For elections held after the general elections held in 2019, the Electoral Tribunal will remain the Electoral Tribunal until they resign, or another person is appointed.

4.11 The Electoral Tribunal will:

- 4.11.1 promptly determine appeals pursuant to rules 4.4 and 4.5;
- 4.11.2 adhere to the principles of fairness and equity; and
- 4.11.3 attend to its decisions in a minimum of form.

Meetings of Electoral Tribunal

- 4.12 The Electoral Tribunal may meet by conference, telephone or communicate by any other electronic means.
- 4.13 Any meeting of the Electoral Tribunal must take place as soon as practicable after an appeal is submitted.
- 4.14 Where the Electoral Tribunal determines that it is unnecessary that a meeting be held, the Election Tribunal may, without meeting, give their decision by unanimous resolution in writing.
- 4.15 Except as otherwise provided by these election rules, the Electoral Tribunal will regulate its own proceedings.
- 4.16 Where possible, the Electoral Tribunal will invite relevant persons to attend its meetings.
- 4.17 Any person invited to attend a meeting of the Electoral Tribunal is entitled to have one student attend and speak on their behalf. No other representation will be permitted.

Power of Electoral Tribunal

- 4.18 The Electoral Tribunal may determine to:
 - 4.18.1 uphold the decision of the Returning Officer; or
 - 4.18.2 substitute a different decision.
- 4.19 Any determination of the Electoral Tribunal will be final.
- 4.20 Where the Electoral Tribunal members cannot agree, the decision or ruling of the Returning Officer will stand.
- 4.21 In the event that a member of the Electoral Tribunal is unavailable to determine an appeal, the other members of the Electoral Tribunal may determine the appeal and any determination of that Electoral Tribunal member will be final.

5. Election Timing

- 5.1 Elections must be conducted by the specified date outlined in the SRC Constitution.
- 5.2 The nomination period will be open for a period of one working week, being from Monday 9am of that week to Friday 5pm of that same week.
- 5.3 A period of five business days will be used between the nominations closing and elections starting to ensure student rolls are in order and that candidate's statements can be collated and the on-line voting system set up correctly.
- 5.4 The voting period will be open for a period of one working week, being from Monday 9am of that week to Friday 5pm of that same week.