



## **THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION (SUPRA) ELECTORAL REGULATIONS.**

### **Preamble:**

These Electoral Regulations cover the General Election, Supplementary Elections, and elections for Offices as prescribed in the Constitution, and include the election of Equity and General Councillors. These policies may be provided for any other election held during the year. In no way shall any of these rules of order be interpreted to contravene the Constitution.

### **01: DEFINITIONS**

- 01.01: 1) This document uses all definitions used in the SUPRA Constitution.
- 01.01: 2) The General Election shall refer to the annual election for the members of General Council.
- 01.01: 3) An Equity Election shall refer to any election for a position of an Equity Officer through an equity network.
- 01.01: 4) A Supplementary Election shall refer to any election occurring outside of the General Election, and serves to fill a General Council or Equity vacancy.
- 01.01: 5) The Returning Officer shall be any person appointed to supervise and conduct the ballots and nominations of any election. The Returning Officer shall

also be any person appointed to supervise and arbitrate any disputes between candidates during the election.

01.01: 6) The Electoral Arbiter shall be any person appointed to arbitrate any disputes relating to the result of the election.

01.01: 7) A Candidate shall refer to any person who is standing for any SUPRA election.

01.01: 8) A Nominator shall refer to any person who is nominating a Candidate.

01.01: 9) An Electoral Meeting shall be any meeting that includes in its agenda the election of one or more positions.

01.01: 10) A Ticket shall refer to a slate of candidates running together in the election, under one ticket name.

## **02: RETURNING OFFICER**

### **02.01: Duties and Powers**

02.01: 1) The Returning Officer shall:

- 1.a) ensure the fair and efficient conduct of the election;
- 1.b) act in a fair and impartial manner at all times;
- 1.c) act in accordance with and apply the provisions of the Constitution and these Regulations;
- 1.d) not be a Candidate or Nominator of a Candidate;
- 1.e) be responsible for securing a location at which to conduct the count;
- 1.f) ensure that all ballot papers received are stored securely until the counting of votes begins; and
- 1.g) in the instance of the General or Supplementary Elections be independent of the Association and its staff.

02.01: 2) The Returning Officer shall observe the Schedule of Election to ensure that phases of the Election are conducted across proper intervals.

02.01: 3) The Returning Officer shall reject any nomination which:

- 3.a) has not been delivered to the designated address by the date and time specified in the notice of election; or

3.b) does not comply with the Constitution or these Regulations.

02.01: 4) If the Returning Officer rejects any nomination, they shall immediately notify the Candidate of that decision and the reasons for rejection within two (2) days of their decision.

## **02.02: Appointment**

02.02: 1) The Returning Officer for General and Supplementary Elections shall be an external nominee appointed by a motion of Council:

1.a) no later than the 7<sup>th</sup> of March of the General Election;

1.b) no later than twenty-eight (28) days prior for an Extraordinary General Meeting;

1.c) no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> of April for any Supplementary Elections;

1.d) during any meeting of Council for the appointments of casual vacancies; or

1.e) during any meeting of an Equity network for the election of their Equity Officer. The Returning Officer for an Equity election shall be of that Equity Network.

02.02: 2) At the same time that a Returning Officer is appointed, an Electoral Arbiter shall be appointed, whereby the Arbiter is subject to the same conditions as the Returning Officer under Article 02.01: 1.a) – 1.c).

02.02: 3) Council shall ensure that the Returning Officer has the necessary resources, administrative, and technological support to ensure that election is conducted efficiently.

## **03: ELECTORAL ORGANISER**

03.01: 1) The Electoral Organiser shall be appointed to act as a logistical coordinator between the Returning Officer and candidates as well as SUPRA Council.

03.01: 2) The Electoral Organiser will be appointed from one of SUPRA's staff, as the Electoral Organiser must neutral in the election, and must not have a Conflict of Interest with the nominees.

## 04: SCHEDULE OF ELECTION

### 04.01: Timing of the Election

- 04.01: 1) The schedule of election for any Council term shall take place between the months of March and May immediately preceding that term's commencement.
- 04.01: 2) The General Election shall commence no earlier than the Monday of the second week of the first semester as stipulated for the main campus Masters degrees and Diplomas website.
- 04.01: 3) The General Election shall be concluded by the Annual General Meeting.

### 04.02: Phases of Election

- 04.02: 1) The Schedule of the General Election shall be conducted across suitable time intervals, which shall include:
- 1.a) fourteen (14) days between the notice of nominations and close of nominations;
  - 1.b) two (2) days between the close of nominations and announcement of Candidates;
  - 1.c) seven to fourteen (7 – 14) days between the announcement of Candidates and the issue of postal ballots;
  - 1.d) sixteen (16) days between the issue of postal ballots and the close of polling;
  - 1.e) two (2) days between the opening of polling and close of polling;
  - 1.f) fourteen to twenty-one (14 – 21) days between the close of polling and the day of the Annual General Meeting;
  - 1.g) where possible, the SUPRA General Election should avoid overlapping with the USU Board election, and Council should take steps to prevent this overlap to its best ability;
  - 1.h) where possible, the SUPRA General Election should avoid overlapping with postgraduate coursework exam periods, and Council should take steps to prevent this overlap to its best ability.

### **04.03: Schedule For Equity Elections**

- 04.03: 1) All Equity Elections must be held one (1) week after the notice of Equity Elections, and conclude before the completion of the General Election.
- 04.03: 2) Those intending to run for Equity Officers must indicate their nomination for equity.
- 04.03: 3) Any Equity Election that has been duly called, but failed, to convene and elect an Equity Officer, shall satisfy the requirements of 06.04: 1) of the Constitution as having been held.

## **05: NOTICE OF ELECTION**

### **05.01: Constitutional Requirements**

- 05.01: 1) Notices for the General Election shall comply with Articles 05.04: 3), 4) & 5) of the Constitution.
- 05.01: 2) Notices for the Supplementary Election shall comply with Articles 05.04: 7) & 8) of the Constitution.

### **05.02: Drafting of Notices**

- 05.02: 1) The President or Secretary, or delegated authority from amongst the Executive, shall draft a notice of the General or Supplementary Election, which shall be approved by the Returning Officer.
- 05.02: 2) The President or Relevant Equity Officer shall draft a notice of any Equity Elections.
- 05.02: 3) The notice of any election shall contain at least the following information:
- 3.a) the number of positions to be elected;
  - 3.b) criteria for who is eligible to nominate and vote;
  - 3.c) where nomination forms may be obtained;
  - 3.d) where a copy of these Regulations may be obtained;
  - 3.e) the means through which nominations will be accepted;
  - 3.f) when nominations will open, close, and who returned to; and

3.g) the process and timing for voting for Candidates; the electoral system under which the votes will be counted; when the outcome of the election will be declared; and by whom.

05.02: 4) The notice of the election will inform the postgraduate student body that they must be SUPRA members in order to vote in the election. It will inform students that only students who have become SUPRA members by the close of nominations will receive postal ballots and it will inform students how they can become members of SUPRA.

### **05.03: Publication Of Notices for All Election**

05.03: 1) Circulation of General of Supplementary Elections shall be published as per 05.04: 4) of the Constitution.

05.03: 2) Notices of Equity Elections shall be:

2.a) advertised through the relevant Equity Networks;

2.b) circulated via email to all Members of the Association that are also members of that Equity network;

2.c) may be published through relevant Equity student groups or publications across campus.

## **06: NOMINATION FOR ELECTION**

### **06.01: Call for Nominations**

06.01: 1) Calls for nominations are subject to Articles 05.04: 4), 05.08: 2) & 9), and 06.08: 2) of the Constitution.

06.01: 2) A call for nominations may be requested from the Floor during the Electoral Meeting for Equity Elections, casual vacancies, and vacant positions where a call for nominations or deadlines for the close of nominations were not published.

### **06.02: Closed Campus Elections**

06.02: 1) The SUPRA General Election is a closed campus election:

1.a) only SUPRA members can run in the SUPRA elections;

1.b) only Members who can vote in the SUPRA elections can campaign for themselves, or for other SUPRA candidates. Hence, undergraduate students may not assist or be request to assist;

- 1.c) only SUPRA members can donate money to a candidate or a ticket;
- 1.d) only SUPRA members can donate material and help with on ground support and public representations;
- 1.e) individuals campaigning for a candidate, a group of candidates, or a ticket must be able to provide evidence that they are currently enrolled at the University of Sydney to the Returning Officer;
- 1.f) a current and valid postgraduate student card is sufficient evidence for proof. Other evidence will be accepted at the discretion of the Returning Officer;
- 1.g) the candidate or group of candidates on whose behalf any non-postgraduate student from the University of Sydney was campaigning for, may be held responsible at the discretion of the Returning Officer;
- 1.h) Persons who are not students at the University of Sydney cannot engage or assist with campaigning on behalf of SUPRA candidates. This includes:
  - i) Assisting or promoting a candidate or ticket by speaking publicly, distributing leaflets, wearing campaign t-shirts or other paraphernalia, and fundraising or providing candidates with revenue.
  - ii) Participating in any other form of campaigning, which violates this section.
- 1.i) Candidates are protected from the following:
  - i) No-one will be punished for receiving advice;
  - ii) No-one will be punished for privately promoting a friend in a private space;
  - iii) No-one will be punished for giving or receiving unsolicited online support;
  - iv) No-one will be punished for logistical support.
- 1.j) The Returning Officer shall caution any candidate found to be in breach of this section and may take discretionary action against the candidate including disqualification from the election. The Returning Officer will have regard to the seriousness of the breach and level of fault of the candidate in making his or her decision.

### **06.03: Candidate Eligibility**

06.03: 1) Eligibility for nomination is subject to Subsections 05.05., 05.05., & 06.01: of the Constitution.

06.03: 2) Candidates who nominate fro the Floor shall only be eligible:

- 2.a) when they are present at the Electoral Meeting; or
- 2.b) have provided suitable apologies and notified the Chair or Secretary of their intention to nominate in writing.

#### **06.04: Nomination Forms**

- 06.04: 1) Nominations for any Election to Council shall be made on the appropriate SUPRA nomination form.
- 06.04: 2) Nomination forms shall be available on the day of the election.
- 06.04: 3) Nominations shall be accepted at:
  - 3.a) a locked box located at the SUPRA Offices;
  - 3.b) the Returning Officers direct e-mail account and/ or fax number;
  - 3.c) other locations specified by the Returning Officer in the election notice.
- 06.04: 4) Nomination forms of all Candidates shall:
  - 4.a) include written instructions which clearly define eligibility of a candidates and a candidate's postgraduate nominators;
  - 4.b) be signed by no fewer than two (2) nominators, and up to four (4) nominators who must be SUPRA Members;
  - 4.c) no more than four (4) nominators so two (2) back-up nominator can exist;
  - 4.d) include space for candidate statements;
  - 4.e) include a disclosure statement informing candidates of their responsibility of sitting on the governing body of non-incorporated association; and
  - 4.f) be typewritten or written legibly.
- 06.04: 5) If the Returning Officer discovers information on the nomination form that renders the candidate inelligible, the Returning Officer will grant two (2) days for the candidate to fix the form.

#### **06.05: Tickets**

- 06.05: 1) Nominations may be presented as a ticket for any election.
- 06.05: 2) Tickets should be comprised of no less than two (2) candidates, and no more than fifteen (15) candidates.



## **06.06: Ticket Naming Policy**

06.06: 1) Ticket names must:

- 1.a) be between one (1) and five (5) words;
- 1.b) not include the SUPRA name, logo, brand, trademark, colour scheme;
- 1.c) not include explicitly known brands ( such as products, moves, or other copyrighted material) in their names;
- 1.d) not include or allude to any concept that is discriminatory, defamatory or generally offensive.

06.06: 2) Should the Returning Officer deem any ticket name unsuitable, then the members on that ticket shall have two (2) days to fix the name, or lose the opportunity to run on a ticket with a name.

## **07: QUORUM FOR ELECTORAL MEETINGS**

### **07.01: Supplementary Elections**

07.01: 1) The quorum for any Supplementary Election shall be the quorum for that Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting as per Subsection 04.03: of the Constitution.

### **07.02: Equity Elections**

07.02: 1) The quorum for any election of an Equity Officer at a meeting of their Equity network shall be:

- 1.a) five (5) Members who identify as women to elect the Women's Officer;
- 1.b) five (5) Members who are international students to elect the International Student Officer;
- 1.c) five (5) Members who identify as queer to elect the Queer Officer;
- 1.d) three (3) Members who are Aboriginal and/ or Torres Straight Islander to elect the Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander (ATSI) Officer;
- 1.e) three (3) Members who have a disability to elect the Disability Officer;
- 1.f) three (3) Members living in Rural or Regional areas to elect the Rural and Regional Officer.

## 08: STATEMENTS OF NOMINEES

### 08.01: Candidate & Ticket Written Statements

- 08.01: 1) Candidates and tickets shall be required to provide either a written statement to their nomination, or in the case when nominating from the floor, a spoken statement to their nomination.
- 08.01: 2) Candidates and tickets are allowed to have written statements, provided that:
- 2.a) written statements from tickets are no more than two hundred (200) words outlining a platform and intention;
  - 2.b) written statements from candidates running on tickets are no more than one hundred (100) words, which briefly states their background, platform, and reason for running;
  - 2.c) all written tickets from candidates running independently are no more than two hundred (200) words outlining their background, platform, intent and reason for running.
- 08.01: 3) All written statements shall be:
- 3.a) received from candidates and tickets before the close of nominations;
  - 3.b) submitted to the Returning Officer at the postal or electronic address specified by them on the nomination form; and
  - 3.c) organised by the Returning Officer who will collate the statements with the ticket statements where relevant, and if cost effective, distribute them with ballots.
- 08.01: 4) All written statements shall be made available:
- 4.a) at least three (3) days before any Electoral Meeting; or
  - 4.b) at least ten (10) days before the opening of polling;
  - 4.c) at the polls for voters to browse; and
  - 4.d) in postal ballots. If mailing candidate and ticket statements with ballots is too costly, a one page statement stressing the important of the statements, and where to find them online, should be included with the ballots.

## **08.02: Candidate Spoken Statements**

08.02: 1) If the Candidates are not required to provide a written statement, they may be granted an opportunity to provide spoken statements at the relevant Electoral Meeting where candidates may nominate from the floor.

08.02: 2) The Chair of any Electoral Meeting may allow for Candidates to give a spoken statement where:

2.a) necessary for the purposes of the election; or

2.b) upon the request of the membership of the Electoral Meeting.

08.02: 3) The time available for Spoken Statements and relevant questions at any Electoral Meeting shall be no greater than five (5) minutes per Candidate.

08.02: 4) The method of questioning shall be determined by the Electoral Meeting or its Chair and shall:

4.a) be fair and equitable for all Candidates; and

4.b) provide a reasonable opportunity for all Candidates to reply to questions directed at them.

# **09: PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BALLOTS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION**

## **09.01: Preparation of Ballots**

09.01: 1) Council shall determine what kind of ballot method to use prior to the call for nominations.

09.01: 2) The Returning Officer or nominee must prepare ballot papers or electronic notification of how to access a secure internet voting system that contains:

2.a) unambiguous instructions for completing the voting paper, in clear English;

2.b) the names of all candidates for election, arranged in an order determined by drawing lots; and

2.c) any ticket name.

## 09.02: Distribution of Ballots & Electronic Notification

- 09.02: 1) The Returning Officer or nominee must distribute to eligible voters a ballot paper or notification of how to access a secure electronic voting system:
- 1.a) eligible voters must be SUPRA Members prior to the close of polling;
  - 1.b) the Returning Officer must receive the list of eligible voters from the Electoral Organiser, and a copy of the enrolled postgraduate students from the University of Sydney;
  - 1.c) SUPRA members of voters must be confirmed by the Returning Officer on the 5<sup>th</sup> full day the close of nominations;
  - 1.d) two (2) day of on-campus voting must be allowed.
  - 1.e) any person eligible for membership of SUPRA who becomes a member prior to the close of polling in a General Election shall be eligible to receive a ballot in that election;
  - 1.f) postal ballots shall only be distributed to eligible voters who have that status at the time postal ballots are issued.
- 09.02: 2) The Returning Officer or nominee must distribute to eligible voters a notice describing:
- 2.a) how the ballot paper or electronic voting must be completed;
  - 2.b) the date and time by which the ballot paper must be returned to the Returning Officer or the electronic voting system completed;
  - 2.c) the address where the ballot paper is to be returned to the Returning Officer;
  - 2.d) in the case of electronic voting, the website from which Candidates' statements may be obtained or a paper copy of Candidates' policy statements;
  - 2.e) a declaration form requiring the voter to state their name and that they are eligible to vote; and
  - 2.f) in the case of a postal ballot, two (2) envelopes, one marked 'Voting Paper' and the other a reply paid returning envelope addressed to the Returning Officer.

# 10: BALLOTS

## 10.01: Ballot Method

10.01: 1) A ballot shall be considered distinct from motions and general voting of Council, such that where a ballot is conducted during a meeting, the Chair shall

be allowed to vote in the ballot in the manner of an ordinary member of the meeting.

10.01: 2) The method of voting and counting the ballots shall be by single transferable vote as set out in the Schedule 1 of the Constitution, with optional marking of preferences.

### **10.02: Remote Ballots**

10.02: 1) When a postal ballot has been lost, stolen or damaged, an individual can request a replacement ballot, and the Returning Officer shall ensure that replacement ballots are sent expediently.

10.02: 2) When an in-person paper ballot is used, the Returning Officer is to offer a postal vote to all Members by application, to ensure that access is made available to as many people as possible.

10.02: 3) Where an electronic system is used, the Returning Officer is to ensure the secure hosting of the ballot, and the collection of the results in a manner that reduces fraudulent voting.

### **10.03: Informal Elections**

10.03: 1) Excepting for the General or Supplementary Election, any other Electoral Meetings shall hold a ballot in a manner determined by the meeting excepting that all ballots shall:

1.a) be conducted in secret;

1.b) be presided over by the appointed Returning Officer;

1.c) be conducted using the optional preferential system of voting; and

1.d) include a No Candidate option.

### **10.04: Polling Booths**

10.04: 1) In the instances of a personal paper ballot, polling booths for voting shall be set up and staged from 11am to 7pm on each day of polling.

10.04: 2) A day of polling may not be a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday, and must be at a time when Coursework students are on campus.

10.04: 3) At least one voting booth shall be set up in the SUPRA Officer during the electoral period, and Council may set other voting booths up as appropriate.

## **10.05: Return of Postal Ballots**

10.05: 1) Postal ballots must be sent by post, or be delivered, to the Returning Officer such that they shall receive it no later than the closing date for ballots specified in the electoral notification issued by the Returning Officer.

10.05: 2) Postal ballots must be sealed by two envelopes, where:

2.a) the inner envelope encloses the ballot, and is itself labelled 'Voting Paper';  
and

2.b) the outer envelope encloses both the inner envelope, and a signed declaration of the eligibility of the voter.

# **11: COUNTING AND SCRUTINY OF VOTES**

## **11.01: Counting of Votes**

11.01: 1) The Returning Officer shall commence the counting of the first preferences of any election when:

1.a) the ballot boxes have been opened; or

1.b) when the electronic votes have been accessed.

11.01: 2) The Returning Officer shall devise a method of clearly labelling parcels of votes transferred at each count.

11.01: 3) A ballot shall be accepted as formal if:

3.a) it is legible;

3.b) it is authorised in a verifiable way by an eligible voter; and

3.c) it expresses a preference for at least one Candidate.

11.01: 4) In the instance of a paper ballot, the signature of its voter shall verify the ballot.

11.01: 5) In the instance of an electronic ballot, a unique login and password of its voter shall verify the ballot.

11.01: 6) For any ballot demonstrating preferential voting to be formal it must:

6.a) express a preference for as many of the Candidates as have been nominated; and

6.b) express an order of preference with numbers in a descending order of preference for Candidates starting from one onwards.

11.01: 7) In the instance that a ballot using preferential voting does not meet the requirements of a formal ballot as per Article 11.01: 6), the first preference shall be considered formal and recognised to the extent that the voter's intention is clear.

11.01: 8) In the instance that a ballot contains ticks, crosses, or other markings, the vote shall not necessarily be considered informal and recognised to the extent that the voter's intention is clear.

## **11.02: Scrutiny of Votes**

11.02: 1) Each Candidate shall be entitled to having a Scrutineer present through the counting of votes.

11.02: 2) Scrutineers must:

2.a) be notified to the Returning Officer; and

2.b) not be Candidates for the election.

11.02: 3) Scrutineers may:

3.a) ask to see any ballot papers; or

3.b) challenge the inclusion or exclusion of any ballot paper.

11.02: 4) Scrutineers shall not:

4.a) physically handle or interfere with any paper;

4.b) cause any undue noise, disturbance or obstruction during the counting of the votes.

11.02: 5) Scrutineers who are in persistent contravention of Article 11.02: 4) shall be excluded from the counting room.

# **12: DECLARATION OF ELECTIONS**

## **12.01: Being Declared Elected**

12.01: 1) The Returning Officer shall issue the declaration of Candidates and their nominees:



1.a) no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the close of nominations; but

1.b) before any Electoral Meeting or the opening of polling.

12.01: 2) The Returning Officer shall issue the declaration of election results no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the close of a ballot or polling.

### **12.02: Election by Default**

12.02: 1) If the number of valid nominations is equal or less than the number of vacancies in a General or Supplementary Election, the Returning Officer shall declare those Candidates(s) duly elected.

## **13: FORBIDDEN PRACTICES**

### **13.01: Fraudulent Conduct**

13.01: 1) A person shall not engage in any dishonest practice in relation to an election.

13.01: 2) A person in relation to an election, shall not make, cause or permit anything to be printed, published or distributed containing a statement that is:

2.a) untrue, misleading or deceptive;

2.b) discriminator or offensive; or

2.c) misrepresents or defames the personal character or conduct of a Candidate.

13.01: 3) A person shall not:

3.a) vote more than once in the same election; or

3.b) record a vote to which they are not entitled.

### **13.02: Candidate and Campaign Conduct**

13.02: 1) During the Campaign:

1.a) nominees or tickets shall not plagiarise in their campaign correspondence and materials;

1.b) nominees or tickets may not act in ways that slander, discriminate or vilify.

### **13.03: Misconduct**

13.03: 1) A person shall not:

1.a) interfere with any ballot paper without the consent of the Returning Officer;  
or

1.b) hinder the Returning Officer, a Deputy Returning Officer or any other person appointed to assist the Returning Officer in the execution of their duties.

13.03: 2) No person shall cause damage or defacement to any public or private property inside or outside the University for the promotion of any Candidates in the election.

13.03: 3) For the purpose of 13.02: 2), damage or defacement shall be taken to include stickers, posters and chalking that cannot be removed with water, and shall include spaces inside or outside of buildings, steps, handrails, footpaths, trees, poles, bins, signs or any part of the University and its surrounds not specifically set aside for such purposes.

13.03: 4) No person shall remove promotional material of another Candidate where it has been placed in accordance with Subsection 13.04: and University regulations.

13.03: 5) No person shall hide or cover over the promotional material of another Candidate where it has been placed in accordance with Subsection 13.04: and University regulations.

13.03: 6) A person shall not engage in physical or verbal intimidation (particularly abuse of a racist, sexist, ageist, or homophobic nature) of Candidates, campaigners or electoral staff during the election.

### **13.04: Expenditure of Elections**

13.04: 1) No Candidates shall incur, or cause to be incurred, expenditure exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) for any purpose in connection with the Election.

13.04: 2) Candidates must include all donations, contributions and gifts to them, excepting labour, as expenditures.

13.04: 3) Donations, contributions and gifts, except paper and printing, are to be valued at their cost of purchase in the general market.

13.04: 4) Donations, contributions or gifts of paper and printing are deemed to cost the rate charged by the general market.

13.04: 5) A person may be required by the Returning Officer to provide evidence that the total expenditure which they have incurred, or cause to be incurred, did not exceed the relevant limit under this Subsection.

### **13.05: Election Materials**

13.05: 1) Any publication commenting in any way on any election held under these regulations shall carry on it the name, faculty and year of enrolment, of the person authorising and taking responsibility for it.

13.05: 2) No SUPRA resources may be used in the production of Candidates' election material, and shall include, but not be limited to computers, photocopiers, duplicators, fax machines, telephones, stationery, in any of the SUPRA or other student organising officers.

13.05: 3) No election material relation to Candidates may:

3.a) be stored, i.e. left unattended, or made visible on the premises of the Association; or

3.b) be distributed in the Fisher Library. Candidates must request permission from relevant Librarian to distribute electoral materials in other University Library branches.

### **13.06: Breaches of Conduct**

13.06: 1) The Returning Officer may investigate any alleged offence with a view to establishing the facts of the matter.

13.06: 2) The Returning Officer may deal with any offence as they see fit, including disqualifying Candidates.

13.06: 3) If the Returning Officer holds the opinion that these regulations have been breached, but no person has alleged the specific offence in question, the Returning Officer may personally write an allegation of the offence.

13.06: 4) If written questions are put to any person in the course of any formal enquiries under this Subsection, a written answer shall be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours of their receipt.

13.06: 5) Any Candidate who knows of, consents to, commits, aids, or abets a breach of this Section shall be liable to be disqualified from the election and from any further election to any position on or any officer of SUPRA for a period of eighteen months following such breach.

13.06: 6) Where a person is alleged to have breached 13.01: 2.a) or 13.01: 2.b), they shall have legitimate defence to that allegation if they prove that they did not and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the statement contained prescribed content as per the Article.

13.06: 7) Where a person is alleged to have breached 13.01: 2.c), they shall have a legitimate defence to that allegation, if they prove that they had reasonable grounds for believing and did in fact believe the statement made or published by them to be true.

13.06: 8) Where a Candidate or a person working on that Candidate's campaign is alleged to have breached any of the Articles of Subsection 13.02, the Returning Officer may disqualify that Candidate.

## **14: ARBITRATION OF THE ELECTION**

### **14.01: Electoral Arbitration**

14.01: 1) The Returning Officer is expected to make decisions, but any candidate can appeal against the Returning Officer's decision to the Electoral Arbiter. Should the matter concern the Returning Officer then the matter is referred directly to the Electoral Arbiter.

14.01: 2) If a complaint is lodged with the Returning Officer, they may elect to refer the matter to the Electoral Arbiter. Should the matter concern the Returning Officer, the matter is to be directly referred.

14.01: 3) The Electoral Arbiter shall have seven (7) days to dismiss the claim as frivolous or vexatious.

14.01: 4) The Electoral Arbiter shall have seven (7) days to schedule a time to meet with the complainant, respondent, and any other person whom they deem necessary.

14.01: 5) The Electoral Arbiter will report findings directly to a General Meeting of the Members, which shall meet at a time no later than thirty (30) days after the matter was referred to the Electoral Arbiter.

14.01: 6) Upon hearing the complaint, the Electoral Arbiter shall:

6.a) dismiss the complaint;

6.b) rule in favour of the complaint and overrule any decision made regarding the matter, including the results of the election;

6.c) dismiss Returning Officer, Deputies, or election assistants;

6.d) appoint a replacement Returning Officer; or

6.e) any other recommendation which the Electoral Arbiter feels appropriate.

14.01: 7) All recommendations made by the Electoral Arbiter as per Article 14.01: 6) shall be reported back to the General Meeting described in 14.01: 5) and made final.

14.01: 8) In hearing and determining the appeal, the Councillors are subject to the same Articles of this Subsection as the Arbiter.

14.01: 9) The decision of the Electoral Arbiter shall be final.