



**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION**

**ELECTION REGULATIONS**



## **1.0 The Returning Officer Appointment/Duties**

- 1.1 The Returning Officer is to be appointed by the Student Union Board no less than six (6) academic weeks prior to the first day of the ballot
- 1.2 The Returning Officer may appoint Assistant Returning Officer/s and Poll Clerks who will have such powers as delegated by the Returning Officer
- 1.3 The Returning Officer is responsible for the conduct of the election in accordance with these regulations
- 1.4 Assistant Returning Officers and Poll Clerks are responsible to the Returning Officer for the conduct of voting and the observance of these regulations
- 1.5 The Returning Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that:
  - 1.5.1 The opening and closing of nominations is advertised
  - 1.5.2 The opening and closing of ticket registration is advertised
  - 1.5.3 The fact of the election is advertised
  - 1.5.4 Campaign material is approved
  - 1.5.5 The opening and closing times and locations of polling booths is advertised
  - 1.5.6 Ballot papers are produced in accordance with section 4.11 and section 9 of these regulations only after withdrawals have been finalised in accordance with 3.23
  - 1.5.7 The elections are conducted in compliance with these regulations and the Constitution
  - 1.5.8 Assistant Returning Officers and Poll Clerks are conversant with their duties
  - 1.5.9 A copy of the electoral roll is obtained and maintained for each polling booth
  - 1.5.10 Any other duties as required by these regulations

## **2.0 Publicity/Notification**

- 2.1 The Returning Officer will publish an election document that shall consist of:
  - 2.1.1 An explanation of the positions being contested
  - 2.1.2 An explanation of the structure of VUSU
  - 2.1.3 An explanation of the voting system
  - 2.1.4 An explanation of the rules governing the conduct of elections
  - 2.1.5 Polling places and times
  - 2.1.6 Policy statements as submitted by candidates and tickets no later than the time appointed as the close of nominations
  - 2.1.7 The Returning Officer shall allow candidates to lay-out their own material provided it is completed by a date and time nominated by the Returning Officer
- 2.2 Policy statements shall be:
  - 2.2.1 No longer than three hundred (300) words in length for individual candidates
  - 2.2.2 No longer than eight hundred (800) words in length for registered tickets
  - 2.2.3 Submitted by means to be determined by the Returning Officer, and included as part of the nomination form and any advertising relating to nominations

- 2.3 The Returning Officer shall cause all candidates to be notified of a candidates' meeting where the contents of these regulations relating to the conduct of elections shall be explained and a copy of these regulations shall be made available to each candidate, before the opening of the polls
- 2.4 The Returning Officer may, subject to these regulations, adopt other means of publicising the elections including electronic means such as Internet or Email

### **3.0 Nominations**

- 3.1 The date of the opening of nominations shall be advertised for a period of not less than seven (7) Calendar days
- 3.2 Advertising shall take place on all campuses and, if possible, in the immediately preceding issue of Hyde
- 3.3 Advertising of opening of nominations shall include:
  - 3.3.1 A list of positions as laid out in Schedule 1 of these regulations,
  - 3.3.2 Information regarding the availability of nomination forms
  - 3.3.3 Requirements for policy statements to be submitted to the Election Publication
  - 3.3.4 The time for closing of nominations
  - 3.3.5 Locations for lodgement of nominations
  - 3.3.6 The availability of ticket registration forms
  - 3.3.7 The availability of these regulations
- 3.4 Nominations shall be open for a period of no less than ten (10) academic days
- 3.5 The nomination of a candidate shall be made in writing by students on a nomination form set out in Schedule 2 of these regulations
- 3.6 Both the nominator and seconder for a nominee must be eligible to vote for their nominee in elections conducted pursuant to these regulations
- 3.7 There is no limitation on a students' right to nominate or second nominations of candidates
- 3.8 No candidate may nominate or second themselves
- 3.9 Candidates may only nominate for one (1) position per nomination form
- 3.10 Candidates must provide a statutory declaration confirming
  - 3.10.1 They are a current student at Victoria University
  - 3.10.2 Have not been convicted of a criminal offence
  - 3.10.3 Have not been bankrupt or personally insolvent
- 3.11 Students nominating for:
  - 3.11.1 Women's Officer must identify as a woman
  - 3.11.2 GBLTI Officer must identify as Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, Transgender and/or Intersex

- 3.11.3 International Student Committee, including International Student Officer, must be an International Student
- 3.11.4 Postgraduate Committee, including Postgraduate Officer, must be a Postgraduate student
- 3.12 Nominations shall be made to the Returning Officer
- 3.13 Nominations shall be kept in a secure container
- 3.14 No nomination shall be accepted after the appointed time for closing nominations
- 3.15 All nominations shall be confidential until the close of nominations and may not be inspected without the express permission of the Returning Officer or their delegate
- 3.16 The Returning Officer shall check the University records to ensure that all nominations received are genuine and in compliance with these regulations
- 3.17 The Returning Officer may reject nominations that are not made in compliance with these regulations
- 3.18 Nominations shall close not less than fourteen (14) and not more than twenty-one (21) calendar days before the commencement of polling
- 3.19 Following the close of nominations the Returning Officer shall ensure that a provisional list of candidates is publicly displayed
- 3.20 Once University records have been checked the Returning Officer shall ensure that a final list of candidates is publicly displayed
- 3.21 The Returning Officer shall ensure that the final list of candidates is publicly displayed no more than forty-eight (48) hours after the closing of nominations
- 3.22 If the number of candidates does not exceed the number of positions vacant the Returning Officer shall declare such candidates duly elected
- 3.23 If the number of candidates exceeds the number of positions to be filled there shall be a poll
- 3.24 A candidate may, no less than three (3) academic days before the commencement of the poll, withdraw their nomination by providing written notice to the Returning Officer who shall conduct the election as if no such nomination had been made
- 3.25 Where a candidate is found to be in breach of section 15.6 of the Constitution and has nominated for more than one position, they shall be permitted to withdraw as many nominations as will make them compliant with this section in accordance with section 3.22 of these Regulations

- 3.26 If a candidate in breach of section 15.6 of the Constitution fails to withdraw in accordance with 3.24, the Returning Officer shall rule some of their nominations invalid in order to make them compliant with section 15.6 of the Constitution

## **4.0 Ticket Registration**

- 4.1 Students may register a ticket with the Returning Officer using the form as set out in Schedule 3 of these regulations
- 4.2 The Returning Officer shall cause the opening and closing of ticket registration to be advertised subject to these regulations
- 4.3 The date of the opening of the ticket registration period shall be advertised for no less than three (3) calendar days
- 4.4 The period of ticket registration shall be no less than five (5) calendar days
- 4.5 The closing of ticket registration period shall be no less than two (2) calendar days prior to the opening of the nomination period
- 4.6 Tickets must be registered by no less than fifteen (15) students to be valid
- 4.7 Ticket names must consist of not more than five (5) words to be valid
- 4.8 The name of the ticket must not so nearly resemble the name or abbreviation of the name (or an acronym of the name or an abbreviation of that name) of an unrelated registered ticket
- 4.9 If a ticket name has been registered more than once, the Returning Officer will decide who shall have the rights to that ticket name taking the following into consideration:
- 4.9.1 Who contested the previous annual general election under that ticket name
  - 4.9.2 Who registered the ticket name in the previous annual general election
  - 4.9.3 Who registered the ticket name first in the ticket registration period
- 4.10 Upon the closing of ticket registration the Returning Officer shall display a list of all registered tickets and the names of students registering those tickets (known hereafter as authorising officer/s)
- 4.11 Qualification of tickets to appear on the ballot papers shall be:
- 4.11.1 Tickets must field no less than two (2) endorsed candidates running for any position/s in order for that ticket name to appear on the ballot paper, the ticket name will appear:
    - 4.11.1.1 Next to the candidate/s name in positions where there is only one (1) candidate to be elected

- 4.11.1.2 Above the line in positions where there is more than one (1) candidate to be elected and the ticket is endorsing at least one (1) candidate for the receipt of student votes in accordance with 10.4.2
  - 4.11.2 Tickets that field no less than eight (8) endorsed candidates running for Student Union Board Office holders shall have the ticket name appear:
    - 4.11.2.1 Next to the candidates name in positions where there is only one (1) candidate to be elected
    - 4.11.2.2 Above the line in positions where there is more than one (1) candidate to be elected and the ticket is endorsing at least one (1) candidate for the receipt of student votes in accordance with 10.4.2 and
    - 4.11.2.3 On the front page of the ballot pack for the receipts of student votes in accordance with 10.5.3 of these regulations
  - 4.11.3 Any candidate declared elected unopposed prior to the poll shall not affect the eligibility of the ticket for the purpose of section 4.11 of these regulations
  - 4.11.4 Any candidate disqualified prior to the poll or during the poll shall not affect the eligibility of the ticket for the purpose of section 4.11 of these regulations
  - 4.11.5 Any ticket that meets the qualification criteria outlined in section 4.11 at the time of withdrawals in accordance with section 3.23 shall not lose their qualification
- 4.12 Tickets shall not endorse more candidates than there are available vacancies for any position
- 4.13 No student shall be registered on more than one (1) ticket for any one position
- 4.14 The authorising officer/s of any ticket may in writing to the Returning Officer withdraw endorsement of any candidate for that ticket no less than three (3) academic days prior to the poll
- 4.15 The authorising officer/s of any ticket may determine the ballot paper order of endorsed candidates for that ticket for each position in which there is more than one (1) candidate to be elected and the ticket names appears above the line, no less than three (3) academic days prior to the poll
- 4.16 The Returning Officer will determine by lot the ballot paper order of endorsed candidates on behalf of tickets that fail to comply with regulation 4.15

## **5.0 Statement of Distribution of Preferences**

- 5.1 A ticket must distribute preferences to all its endorsed candidates for that position
- 5.2 If the authorising officers of any ticket fail to submit a statement of distribution of preferences for that ticket in accordance with these regulations the votes received by that ticket will automatically preference endorsed candidates only in ballot paper order
- 5.3 The authorising officers of any ticket eligible for front page voting in accordance with 4.11.2 may submit to the Returning Officer in writing a statement of distribution of preferences only for the ticket's endorsed candidates for the receipt of student votes in accordance with 10.4.3 of these regulations

- 5.4 The authorising officers of any ticket not eligible for front page voting but having an endorsed candidate in a position where there is more than one (1) candidate to be elected and the ticket name appears above the line for that position in accordance with 4.11.1, may submit to the Returning Officer in writing a statement of distribution of preferences only for the ticket's endorsed candidates for that position only, for the receipt of student votes in accordance with 10.4.2 of these regulations
- 5.5 Preferences to other tickets shall only be distributed manually by the eligible voter at the ballot box
- 5.6 Ticket statements of distribution of preferences must be signed by two authorising officers for each ticket and must be received by the Returning Officer no less than one (1) academic day prior to the poll

## **6.0 Authorisation of Material**

- 6.1 The Returning Officer, or an Assistant Returning Officer, shall be responsible for the authorisation of election material, subject to clause 6.5 of these regulations.
- 6.2 All election material issued by an individual candidate must also bear the authorisation of that candidate
- 6.3 All election material issued by a ticket must bear the authorisation of at least one (1) of the authorising officers for that ticket
- 6.4 Any material distributed or displayed and not bearing the requisite authorisation may be removed by the Returning Officer, an Assistant Returning Officer, or any person eligible to vote
- 6.5 The Returning Officer shall not authorise, or shall withdraw, authorisation for any material that is:
  - 6.5.1 Patently untrue
  - 6.5.2 Misleading or deceptive, or is likely to be so
  - 6.5.3 Discriminatory
  - 6.5.4 Racist
  - 6.5.5 Sexist
  - 6.5.6 Homophobic
- 6.6 The Returning Officer shall not authorise any election material for a ticket that instructs voters to preference other candidates ahead of that ticket's endorsed candidates for that position

## **7.0 Election Resources**

- 7.1 The Returning Officer shall cause all candidates and ticket authorising officers to be aware of the following:



- 7.1.1 Each candidate shall be eligible for the provision of a maximum of five hundred (500) A4 leaflets, at a set cost determined by the Returning Officer – copying is to be organised by the union
  - 7.1.2 Each ticket shall be eligible for the provision of a maximum of five thousand (5000) A4 leaflets, at a set cost determined by the Union – copying is to be organised by the Union
  - 7.1.3 Any candidate who is part of a registered ticket shall not be eligible to receive individual candidate entitlements pursuant to clause 7.1.1 of these regulations
  - 7.1.4 No additional paper resources, other than those provided by the Union in accordance with section 7.1 of these regulations, shall be permitted to be used by tickets and candidates
- 7.2 Candidates and tickets are responsible for submitting material to be copied to the Returning Officer or their delegate
- 7.2.1 Material to be reproduced subject to clause 6.1 of these regulations must be submitted by a time to be determined and advertised by the Returning Officer
  - 7.2.2 The Returning Officer shall ensure that at least fourteen (14) calendar days notice is given for such a time
- 7.3. Tickets and Candidate, subject to these regulations may:
- 7.3.1 Use campaign t-shirts
  - 7.3.2 Use chalk ups
  - 7.3.3 Display a maximum of three (3) banners no longer than four (4) meters each
- 7.4 No other resources shall be permitted to be used by tickets and candidates

## **8.0 The Poll**

- 8.1 The polling period shall:
- 8.1.1 Be for three (3) consecutive academic days
  - 8.1.2 Commence on Monday and conclude on Wednesday of academic week eleven (11) in Semester two (2) or commence on Tuesday and conclude on Thursday of academic week eleven (11) in Semester two (2)
- 8.2 During the polling period Polling Booth/s must be open from 10am to 4pm on all days of the polling period at the Footscray Park Campus
- 8.3 During the polling period Polling Booths must be open from 10am to 4pm on the first day of the polling period at the following campuses:
- 8.3.1 St Albans
  - 8.3.2 Sunshine
  - 8.3.3 King Street
- 8.4 During the polling period Polling Booths must be open from 10am to 4pm on the second day of the polling period at the following campuses:
- 8.4.1 Werribee
  - 8.4.2 Flinders Lane (Student Lounge)
  - 8.4.3 Queen Street

- 8.5 During the polling period Polling Booths must be open from 10am to 4pm on the third day of the polling period at the following campuses:
- 8.5.1 Footscray Nicholson Street
  - 8.5.2 Flinders Street (Level 9)

## **9.0 Form of Ballot Papers**

- 9.1 There shall be up to seven (7) ballot papers for annual VUSU Elections all stabled together to form a ballot paper pack
- 9.1.1 The first ballot paper shall be for front page voting in accordance with 10.5.3 of these regulations. The first ballot paper should only include tickets that are eligible for front page voting in accordance with regulation 4.11.2 for the receipt of student votes
  - 9.1.2 The second ballot paper shall be for President and General Secretary
  - 9.1.3 The third ballot paper shall be for the Vice Presidents
  - 9.1.4 The fourth ballot paper shall be for the Women's Officer, the GBLTI Officer, and the Cultural Diversity Officer
  - 9.1.4 The fifth ballot paper shall be for Delegates to the National Union of Students
  - 9.1.5 The sixth ballot paper shall be for the International Students Officer and for the 8 general members of the International Student Committee
  - 9.1.6 The seventh ballot paper shall be for and Postgraduate Officer and for the 8 general members of the Postgraduate Committee
- 9.2 All ballot papers must have instructions to students on how to vote
- 9.3 Allocation of positions on the ballot shall be made by the Returning Officer by lot
- 9.3.1 Any Student may witness the allocation of positions on the ballot papers

## **10.0 Voting**

- 10.1 Voting shall be by secret ballot
- 10.2 Each eligible student may exercise one vote
- 10.3 The method of voting shall be by quota optional preferential system of proportional representation.
- 10.4 Students must indicate their order of preference for candidates by either:
- 10.4.1 Placing a number 1 against the name of a candidate of first preference and consecutively higher numbers against the names of as many other candidates as they wish, or
  - 10.4.2 Placing the number 1 against the name of a ticket above the line, or
  - 10.4.3 Placing the number 1 against the name of a ticket on the front page of the ballot paper pack

- 10.5 Only International students are eligible to vote for the International Student Committee Positions, including the International Students Officer.
- 10.6 Only Postgraduates are eligible to vote for the Postgraduate Committee positions, including the Postgraduate Officer.
- 10.7 Only Higher Education students are eligible to vote in the election of Delegates to National Union of Students
- 10.8 All Students may vote in the election of Executive Office holders, and in the election of Women's Officer, GLBTQIA Officer and Cultural Diversity Officer.
- 10.9 A Poll Clerk shall:
  - 10.8.1 Initial all ballot papers in every ballot paper pack that they issue
  - 10.8.2 Make any appropriate changes to the ballot papers to ensure that students comply with relevant sections of these regulations when issuing ballot paper packs
  - 10.8.3 Request a student card be presented for purposes of identification
    - 10.8.3.1 A Poll clerk may take any reasonable steps to establish the identity of any student claiming a vote. Where, for any reason, the eligibility of the person is in doubt the Polling Clerk shall allow the student to place a provisional vote in accordance with section 12 of these regulations
  - 10.8.4 Upon a student having received a ballot paper pack, mark the student's name in the electoral roll
  - 10.8.5 At the close of polling on any day do relevant tasks as instructed by the Returning Officer
  - 10.8.6 Ensure that voters record their votes in private in the polling booth
  - 10.8.7 Ensure that each voter places the ballot paper pack in the ballot box provided
  - 10.8.8 Ensure that no ballot paper pack is taken apart
  - 10.8.9 Ensure that no ballot paper pack leaves the polling area without the express authorisation of the Returning Officer
- 10.9 The Returning Officer will ensure that a copy of the electoral roll will be available at each place of polling

## **11.0 Spoilt Ballot Paper Pack**

- 11.1 The Polling Clerk shall, at the request of any voter, issue a fresh ballot paper pack in place of one spoiled by the voter.
- 11.2 The Polling Clerk shall cancel the spoilt ballot paper pack by writing "CANCELLED" or "SPOILT" on each ballot paper of the ballot paper pack and the polling clerk shall place the ballot paper pack in a special envelope provided for that purpose and place them in to the ballot box

## **12.0 Provisional Votes**

- 12.1 A student who does not appear on the enrolment roll may only cast a provisional vote
- 12.2 A student voting away from their campus may only cast a provisional vote
- 12.3 The Polling Clerk must issue the student wishing to cast a provisional vote a ballot paper pack and two (2) special envelopes designed for provisional voting
- 12.4 The Polling Clerk must ensure that the student places their completed ballot paper pack into the first envelop and then places the first envelop into the second envelop and writes the student's name and other appropriate details on the outer envelope for identification purposes
- 12.5 Provisional votes may only be counted once the Returning Officer has established that the voter is eligible to cast a vote

## **13.0 Campaign Assistants**

- 13.1 Candidates may use campaign assistants who must be:
  - 13.1.1 Currently enrolled students at Victoria University
  - 13.1.2 Registered with the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer and shall wear a badge which clearly indicates their name, student number and the name of the candidate or ticket for whom they are campaigning
- 13.2 Should any person be found campaigning who is not an enrolled student of Victoria University, who is not registered with the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer and who are not wearing their identification badge, the Returning Officer/Assistant Returning Officer/Polling Clerk shall immediately notify Victoria University security officers to have these persons removed from the campus

## **14.0 Prohibited Practices**

- 14.1 From the opening of nominations until the declaration of the election, the use of the following methods of election publicity is prohibited
  - 14.1.1 Electronic amplification systems within the University except for the purpose of any forum organised by the Returning Officer
  - 14.1.2 Give-away consumables by or on behalf of tickets/candidates
  - 14.1.3 Free-standing symbolic objects placed in or around Union or University property
  - 14.1.4 Paint or stickers on Union or University property
  - 14.1.5 Any online comment, information, status, post, blog, website, or any other online content, particularly on Facebook or Twitter, that makes any reference whatsoever to election candidates and/or tickets
- 14.2 No Candidate or representative of a candidate shall in any manner whatsoever alter, deface, damage or remove any correctly authorized election material distributed by another candidate

14.3 No person shall:

- 14.3.1 Vote more than once in an election
- 14.3.2 Record a vote to which they are not entitled
- 14.3.3 Remove a ballot paper pack from the polling booth unless expressly authorized by the Returning Officer or their delegate
- 14.3.4 Be involved in any electioneering activity within a marked two (2) meters radius of the polling booth
- 14.3.5 Interfere with any ballot box, ballot paper pack, electoral roll, nomination form or any other thing relating to the election
- 14.3.6 Engage in any dishonest practice
- 14.3.7 Generally impede the fair conduct of the election

14.4 The Returning Officer shall take disciplinary action pursuant to section 19 of these regulations if any student contravenes these regulations

## 15.0 Valid Votes

- 15.1 The ballot paper pack must be initialled by the Returning Officer or someone duly authorized by the Returning Officer.
- 15.2 A number 1 against the name of a candidate or ticket indicates a valid vote for that candidate or ticket
- 15.3 A tick against the name of a candidate or ticket where there is no number 1 is deemed to be the number 1
- 15.4 A cross against the name of a candidate or ticket where there is no number 1 or tick is deemed to be the number 1
- 15.5 Any distinct identifying mark against the name of a candidate or ticket where there is no number 1 or tick or cross or other distinct identifying mark is deemed to be the number 1
- 15.6 An above the line vote in accordance with 10.4.2 of these regulations will:
  - 15.6.1 Overrule any below the line vote for that position
  - 15.6.2 Be deemed a vote to be distributed in accordance with that ticket's statement of distribution of preferences for that position
- 15.7 A front page vote in accordance with 10.4.3 of these regulations will:
  - 15.7.1 Overrule any vote in accordance with 10.4.1 and/or 10.4.2 inside the ballot paper pack
  - 15.7.2 Be deemed a vote for all contested positions, subject to voter eligibility, to be distributed in accordance with that ticket's statement of distribution of preferences
- 15.8 If any ballot papers have become detached from the ballot paper pack the Returning Officer must attempt to reconcile the ballot paper pack if this is not possible front page

voting for those ballot paper packs will not be a valid method of voting and each ballot paper will be counted separately

## **16.0 Counting of Ballots**

- 16.1 Counting of ballot papers shall commence within one (1) hour of the close of polling and shall occur in a venue located at the Footscray Park Campus
- 16.2 Once counting has commenced the Returning Officer shall continue the count until such time as to declare the election

## **17.0 Scrutineers**

- 17.1 Each candidate may have one (1) authorized scrutineer present during the counting of votes
- 17.2 No candidate may be a scrutineer
- 17.3 Scrutineer application shall be available at campus offices and shall be in the form set out in schedule 4 of these regulations
- 17.4 Application for Scrutineers shall be open until the close of polling
- 17.5 Once the ballot boxes have been opened the Returning Officer shall cause the front page votes to be counted followed by the first preference to be counted in each election that has been held. Scrutineers may ask to see any ballot papers and may challenge the inclusion or exclusion of any ballot
  - 17.5.1 A scrutineer shall not physically handle or interfere with any ballot paper
  - 17.5.2 A scrutineer shall not cause any undue noise, disturbance or obstruction during the counting of votes
- 17.6 The Returning Officer may exclude a scrutineer from the counting area for persistent failure to comply with clause 17.5 of these regulations
- 17.7 The Returning Officer, or their nominee, shall determine whether a vote is valid

## **18.0 Declaration of Election**

- 18.1 Within one (1) hour after concluding the counting of votes, the Returning Officer must declare the election
- 18.2 The Returning Officer shall place a notice of declaration of the election and notify each candidate of the election results by mail

- 18.3 Before the declaration of the election the Returning Officer shall inspect the voters' roll for breaches or other irregularities

## **19.0 Complaints or Objections**

- 19.1 In the exercise of the provision of this section the Returning Officer and the Electoral Tribunal shall ensure that principles of procedural fairness are observed at all times
- 19.2 Any student may claim a breach of these regulations provided that the claim:
- 19.2.1 Is made in writing
  - 19.2.2 Is supported by at least two (2) other students
  - 19.2.3 Is made no more than five (5) calendar days after the closure of the poll
  - 19.2.4 Is submitted to a location nominated by the Returning Officer
    - 19.2.4.1 Such a location shall be advertised prior to the opening of the poll
- 19.3 Upon declaration of the election any student may dispute the declaration of the poll provided that:
- 19.3.1 Any claim is made in writing
  - 19.3.2 Is supported by at least two (2) other students
  - 19.3.3 Is made no more than five (5) calendar days after the closure of the poll
  - 19.3.4 Is submitted to a location nominated by the Returning Officer
    - 19.3.4.1 Such a location shall be advertised no later than the time at which the poll closes
- 19.4 Upon receipt of a claim made under clause 19.2 or 19.3 of these regulations, the Returning Officer may:
- 19.4.1 Dismiss the matter
  - 19.4.2 Uphold the complaint
  - 19.4.3 Refer the matter to the Election Tribunal
- 19.5 If the Returning Officer upholds a complaint, the Returning Officer may institute one or any of the following measures:
- 19.5.1 Warn the candidate/ticket
  - 19.5.2 Withdraw the facilities of the Union from the candidate/ticket
  - 19.5.3 Disqualify the candidate/ticket from the election in question
  - 19.5.4 Declare the election void
  - 19.5.5 Order a new election
- 19.6 The Returning Officer shall ensure that all parties to a dispute receive written notification of the Returning Officer's decision
- 19.7 The decision of the Returning Officer may be appealed
- 19.8 Appeals must be lodged in writing and to the Returning Officer no more than twenty-four (24) hours after the appellant has been notified of the Returning Officer's decision
- 19.9 The Returning Officer will notify the Election Tribunal of a referral or an appeal within six (6) hours of the referral being made or the lodging of the appeal

19.10 Appeals are to be heard by the Electoral Tribunal

19.11 The Election Tribunal shall consist of three (3) members who shall:

- 19.11.1 Not be students
- 19.11.2 Not be staff of the Union or working with the Union
- 19.11.3 Be conversant with these regulations
- 19.11.4 Be appointed by the Director Student Engagement
- 19.11.5 Consist of not more than one (1) staff member of the university
- 19.11.6 Consist of at least one (1) qualified lawyer admitted to practice in the State of Victoria.
- 19.11.7 Consist of at least one (1) person with Victorian and/or Australian Electoral Commission experience

19.12 The Election Tribunal may:

- 19.12.1 Dismiss the appeal
- 19.12.2 Dismiss the complaint
- 19.12.3 Uphold the appeal
- 19.12.4 Uphold the complaint

19.13 Upon making a determination on any matter before it the Electoral Tribunal may take one or any of the following measures:

- 19.13.1 Warn the candidate
- 19.13.2 Withdraw the facilities of the Union from the candidate/ticket
- 19.13.3 Disqualify the candidate/ticket from the election in question
- 19.13.4 Declare the election void
- 19.13.5 Order a new election

19.14 Decisions of the Election Tribunal shall be final

## **20.0 Miscellaneous**

20.1 At the conclusion of all matters relating to the Election the Returning Officer shall make a written report including:

- 20.1.1 Results of the poll
- 20.1.2 Statistical information regarding the number of votes
- 20.1.3 Recommendation to improve the election process
- 20.1.4 Reports relating to any sitting of the electoral Tribunal
- 20.1.5 Reports relating to determinations made by the Returning Officer
- 20.1.6 Any other matter as requested by the Executive at the time of appointment of the Returning Officer

20.2 The Returning Officer must provide the written report as indicated in section 20.1 of these Regulations to the Student Union Board within thirty one (31) calendar days after declaring the election, subject to any appeal



## **Schedule 1 – List of Positions**

### ***Executive Office Holders***

President

General Secretary

Vice - President Education

Vice - President Welfare

Vice – President Activities

### ***Non-Executive Office Holders***

Women’s Officer

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Asexual and Intersex Officer (GLBTQIA Officer)

Cultural Diversity Officer

### ***Victoria University Postgraduate Association (VUPA)***

Postgraduate Officer

8 General Members

### ***Victoria University International Student Association (ISA)***

International Students Officer

8 General Members