THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND ELECTORAL CODE

1. Authority

This Electoral Code has been approved and is published by the Returning Officer pursuant to PPL 1.30.01 University Elections – Policy.

2. Applicability

This Code applies during all elections conducted under the Elections Policy and to all nominated candidates. A candidate is expected to make all reasonable efforts to ensure their campaign workers are aware of and observe the standards of conduct set by this Code.

3. Definitions

Campaigning – the advocacy or advertising of a candidacy, and includes –

- public verbal advocacy of a candidate;
- distribution of campaign materials, including electronic distribution;
- posting of campaign signs or flyers;
- use of other electronic means for distributing campaign materials, including use of social media.

Inducement – anything offered that persuades or encourages someone to do something.

Voting period – the period prescribed by the Returning Officer as the voting period.

4. Relevant Polices/Procedures

A candidate should be familiar with and comply with the following University Policies and Procedures:

- Student Charter (for candidates who are also students)
- Student Integrity and Misconduct Policy (for candidates who are also students)
- Use of University Facilities Policy
- Email for staff and students Policy
- Sending Bulk Messages Procedure
- Code of Conduct (for candidates who are also University employees)
- Senate Rule – Site By-laws

Electoral Code – University Elections
5. Conduct of Candidates

A candidate must –

(a) act honestly in making any representation during the conduct of an election;

(b) avoid conduct which might reasonably be perceived to compromise a free and fair election;

(c) excluding genuine policy promises made publicly, avoid influencing or affecting another person's election choices by giving, or promising, or offering to give, an inducement of any kind to anyone else;

(d) avoid making frivolous or vexatious complaints to the Returning Officer against an opponent during an election;

(e) avoid conduct which might reasonably be perceived as discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying;

(f) comply with applicable Charters and Codes referred to in section 4 above in the conduct during an election (for example, comply with the Student Charter where the candidate is a student or the Code of Conduct where the candidate is a University employee);

(g) follow all reasonable directions of the Returning Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Director of Corporate Operations or a Security Officer (or a person authorised by the Returning Officer, Chief Operating Officer or Director of Corporate Operations) during an election.

6. Campaigning

6.1 Campaigning for an election is only permitted during the period following notice of election.

6.2 A candidate and their agent must not distribute campaign materials and paraphernalia, for example leaflets, posters or badges, in libraries, lecture theatres, and tutorial rooms or in other University buildings, unless they are taken by a person directly from the candidate or their agent.

6.3 A candidate and their agent must not affix to any surface or erect any election related signs on a University campus, for example, election posters, leaflets or stickers, unless approved by the Returning Officer.
6.4 A candidate may be required by the Returning Officer to reimburse the University for all reasonable costs associated with:

(a) cleaning of discarded election materials on University land; or
(b) removing unauthorised election signs, posters, leaflets or stickers on University land.

6.5 A candidate is prohibited from directly or indirectly offering inducements of any kind to encourage voting generally, or to encourage a vote to be cast specifically for them as a candidate.

6.6 A candidate and their agent must not provide any polling facility (virtual or physical) where people can cast their votes, or assist a person in casting a vote by providing any instrument or device.

6.7 A candidate and their agent may apply to hire University facilities during the election campaign pursuant to established University procedures. For example, a candidate may hire a teaching space or meeting room for campaigning during an election at the rate set by the University. The candidate must pay the cost associated with the hire of the facility.

6.8 Unless authorised under this code or another University policy, a candidate and their agents must not, in the conduct of the candidate’s election campaign:

(a) use University resources; or
(b) in any way disrupt staff or students or others from undertaking their normal activities at the University.

1 June 2016
Date

Signature of Returning Officer