

Election Information Session

University of Sydney Union

Key Dates

- Monday April 7th: **Close of Nominations**
- Saturday May 3rd: **Start of campaigning**
- Wednesday May 7th: **Election Soapbox**
- Friday May 9th: **Voter registration closes**
- Monday May 12th: **Voting opens**
- Friday May 16th: **Voting closes**

A Note on Incorporation

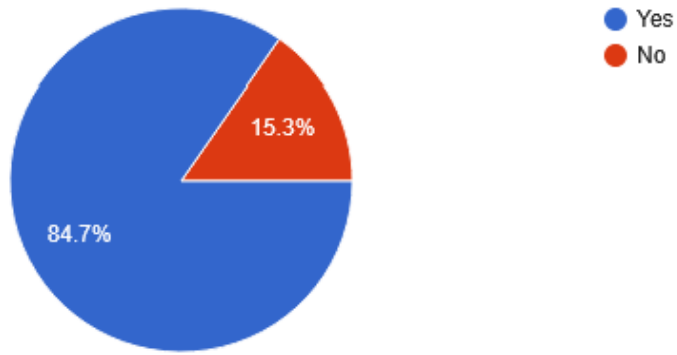
NOMINATIONS TO OPEN FOR ELECTION TO THE USU BOARD

The USU is seeking nominations for six (6) directors to be elected to the Board of Directors for the period of 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027. The number of Directors to be elected is subject to change before the close of voting at the direction of the Returning Officer if and only if necessary due to a change in the governance requirements of the USU.

Considering all the information provided to you, do you support the USU's incorporation?

170 responses

 [Copy chart](#)



A Note on Incorporation

- To align with the new structure, we will look to call an SGM to approve the electoral changes
- Implications
 - Student representation on the next Board will still be 11 voting students
 - This Board election will likely be for **4 candidates**, as opposed to **6 candidates**
 - We cannot wait until next year (5 to 3 is unfeasible)

Key Documents

- Candidate Handbook
- Statutory Declaration
- USU Constitution and Regulations
- USU Board Charter

Candidate Handbook

Contents

What is a Board Director?	3
What do you get?	3
Important Election Related Dates for Candidates: 2023	4
Regulations and Director's Duty Statements	5
Nomination Process	5
Voting	6
Election Information and Training Sessions	7
Campaigning.....	8
Election Spending.....	8
Chalking.....	10
Additional Campaigning Rules	10
The Complaints Process	11
Contacts	13
Policy: Advertising on Campus	14

Statutory Declaration

- I understand that attendance at the **Compulsory Candidate Briefing** for Candidates on Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 6:00pm (AEST) is compulsory and I attest that I will attend this session, save in the event of extreme illness or other extenuating circumstances beyond my control. I understand that circumstances beyond my control do not include such things as holidays, overseas travel, birthday celebrations, work commitments or other similar commitments.

Statutory Declaration

- I have read the USU Constitution, Regulations, Candidate Handbook and any Duty Statements for Board Directors and I agree to comply with these documents from the time of my nomination to the Declaration of Final Results or, if elected as a Board Director, until I cease to be a Director. Additionally, I agree that by signing this Statutory Declaration, I agree to uphold the ethical, conduct, and expectation requirements contained in the most recently approved version of the Board Charter as relevant to my role as a candidate.

Statutory Declaration

- I understand that, if elected as a Director of the Board, I will be required to attend all the following:
 - Special Meeting of the Incoming Board for the Election of the Executive, Committee Chairs and other positions on Tuesday 10 June at 6:00pm (AEST) or at a day and time determined by the Electoral Committee;
 - Annual Induction for Directors and any Board Directors Training Sessions, as prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time; and
 - Meeting of the Board of Directors on Friday 25 July 2025.

Constitution and Regulations

7. THE BOARD	12
7.1 Responsibilities	12
7.2 Conflicts of interest and director remuneration.....	12
7.3 Composition	13
7.4 Voting at Board meetings	13
7.5 Ceasing to hold office.....	13
8. OFFICE BEARERS AND THEIR ROLES	14
8.1 Office Bearers of the USU	14
8.2 Role of President.....	14
8.3 Role of Vice President	14
8.4 Role of Honorary Treasurer	15
8.5 Role of Honorary Secretary	15
9. POWERS OF BOARD AND OFFICE BEARERS	15

8. ELECTIONS.....	11
8.1 Election Officials	11
8.2 Administration	13
8.3 Nominations	15
8.4 Campaigning	16
8.5 Expenditure	17
8.6 Voting.....	19
8.7 Results	19
8.8 Prohibited Practices	20
8.9 Complaints to the Returning Officer for Breaches of the Regulations	26
8.10 Appeals to the Returning Officer for the Count	27
8.11 Appeals to the Electoral Arbiter	28
8.12 Miscellaneous Provisions	28
9. EXECUTIVE AND RELATED ELECTIONS	31
9.2 Dates and Notice of Special Meeting of the Incoming Board	32
9.3 Executive Positions	32
9.4 Eligibility.....	32
9.5 Appointed Electoral Positions	33
9.6 Voting Procedure	33
9.7 The Count	34

Constitution and Regulations

- Key changes
 - **Campaigning now starts on Saturday May 3rd** (Honi embargo issue)
 - 8.8.14(g): Increased **penalties for misinformation**
 - 8.2.7 (NEW) and Statutory Declaration: **Board Charter embedded into election process**
 - 8.5.3: **Market pricing provision calibrated for the use of discounts**
 - 8.8.6: **Verbal communication must be in English** when reasonable, such as pre-recorded content and official interviews, but not one-on-one or small group conversations
 - 8.8.31: A person must **not hand out non-USU material** when **wearing a USU shirt**

USU Board Charter

- New document
- Ratified by Board
- Definitive information on roles and conduct

Table of Contents

1. PURPOSE OF CHARTER	5
THE CHARTER'S NECESSITY AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
BINDING NATURE OF THE CHARTER.....	5
REGULAR REVIEW AND RENEWAL	6
2. BOARD STRUCTURE	7
2.1 BOARD MEMBERS	7
2.2 BOARD COMPOSITION	7
3. ROLE OF A DIRECTOR.....	8
3.1 GOVERNANCE PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH.....	8
3.1.1 <i>Future Focus and Strategic Priorities</i>	8
3.1.2 <i>Collective Responsibility</i>	8
3.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD	8
3.2.1 <i>Overseeing Performance</i>	8
3.2.2 <i>Financial Oversight and Budget Management</i>	8
3.2.3 <i>Compliance and Risk Management</i>	8
3.3 EXPECTATIONS OF DIRECTORS	9
3.3.1 <i>Time Commitment</i>	9
3.3.2 <i>Meeting Preparation</i>	9
3.3.3 <i>Participation in USU Events</i>	9
3.3.4 <i>Fiduciary and Legal Duty</i>	9
3.3.5 <i>Clarification of Individual Responsibilities</i>	10
3.4 EXPECTATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	10
3.4.1 <i>Engagement with Board</i>	10
3.4.2 <i>Engagement with Management</i>	11
3.4.3 <i>Decision Making</i>	11
4. CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS	12
4.1 ACTING IN GOOD FAITH	12
4.2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	12
4.3 CONFIDENTIALITY AND USE OF INFORMATION	12
4.4 INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM	12
4.5 REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY	12
5. DECISION-MAKING AND COMMITTEES	13
5.1 DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES	13
5.2 COMMUNICATION & RESPECT	13
5.3 CONSENSUS & COMPROMISE	13
5.4 BROADER PURPOSE OF DISCUSSIONS.....	13
5.5 NON-COMMITTEE DISCUSSION GROUPS.....	13
6. EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT	14
6.1 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION	14
6.2 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	14
7. CHARTER UPDATES AND REVIEW CYCLE.....	14
7.1 ANNUAL REVIEW	14
7.2 AMENDMENT PROCEDURES	14

Role of a Director

- Oversee the performance of the USU
- Approve and monitor the USU's policy and other aspects of its strategic direction
- Establish and monitor the USU's annual budget and annual business plan
- Oversee risk management and risk assessment within the USU
- Establish and monitor the USU's systems of control and accountability
- Regularly review its own performance

Questions