

STUDENT ELECTIONS INFORMATION WEBINAR



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Western Sydney University's campuses occupy traditional Dharug, Eora, Tharawal, Gandangarra, Wiradjuri, and Bundjalung peoples lands.

We acknowledge today's meeting will be held on lands that predate the teaching and learning of Western by around 40,000 years and we carry this legacy through the teaching and learning today and into the future.

On behalf of us all I recognise and respect the heritage, beliefs, and the relationship Indigenous Australians share with the lands.

I also acknowledge and pay respects to Campus and Community Elders Past and Present, and extend this acknowledgement and respect to any First Peoples joined with us today.



Tree of knowledge, Mrs Janice Burny

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/oatsiee/aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islander_employment_and_engagement/acknowledgement_of_country/tree_of_life

AGENDA

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What is Student Voice @Western?

Student Representation and Voice in Decision Making

Western is committed to student voice in decision making and student representation via several means:

- **Student Representative Council**
- **Student Publication – W'SUP News**
- **Elected Conference Delegates to NUS National Conference**
- **Student Membership of Western Sydney University Committees**

www.westernsydney.edu.au/studentvoice



What is Student Voice @Western?

Student Community: The home of Student Voice

The student voice is empowered in many ways through the lens of the community development the Student Community team plays a significant role in.

- **Student Voice (SRC & W'SUP)**
- **Student Clubs and Western Life (online student community and events)**
- **Inclusive Communities (Chaplaincy, Equity Collectives, Community Dinners, Diversity Fest)**
- **Student Leader training and development**

These activities are supported by wholly or in part by SSAF.

www.westernsydney.edu.au/studentvoice

What is an Equity Representative?

SRC Equity Representatives

- Voted from and by, International, Queer, Women's, First Nation's, Ethno-Cultural, Disability
- Voice of students in marginalized community groups
- Representative of fellow identifying students
- Convenor of relative "Equity Collective"
- Voice of students in marginalized community groups
- Residential, Collective to be established soon
- Welfare & Wellbeing, voice of students affected by non-discriminatory welfare issues

What is a Campus Representative?

SRC Campus Representatives

- Campus Voice – Bankstown, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Penrith, Parramatta South, Parramatta City, Nirimba, Sydney City,
- Convenor of quarterly forums on their campus to discuss systemic issues with students
- Issue topics: Campus Life, Education, Services and Facilities
- Liaise with Campus Provost Committee
- Online Student Representative

What is an SRC Executive member?

SRC Executive members

- SRC President, SRC Vice-President Undergrad, SRC Vice-President Postgrad, SRC Vice-President Activities, SRC General Secretary
- Responsible for administering and providing leadership to the SRC
- Organising the monthly meetings, and convening quarterly student Town Hall meetings
- Liaising with management of the University on key topical issues
- SRC Treasurer in principle approved by SRC

What are the responsibilities of the SRC Representatives?

SRC Representatives are responsible for advancing the interests of all students at Western.

The SRC is principally obliged to promote student participation in the student voice, wherever that may exist, and consult with on behalf of their constituents with senior member of the university staff.

SRC Representatives are held accountable by their fellow students, and are responsible for flagging systemic macro issues with the university.

Macro = multi-campus, multi-cohort, large scale.

The Student Representative Council aims to help students by:

- Campaigning on issues impacting students at Western
- Organising quarterly student forums and activities
- Promote a safe, equitable and enjoyable student experience, however that may manifest.

The Student Equity Collectives aim to help students by:

- Being a voice for their fellow marginalised student community members.
- Organising quarterly forums for identifying students to voice their issues particular to their lived experience as a person identifying as a member of relevant marginalized community group.
- Engaging with safe spaces and promoting these where they exist.

Any given month, an SRC member will:

Monthly Duties

- Attend monthly scheduled SRC meeting
- Submit members report, ahead of and for tabling at the SRC meeting, for publishing on www.westernsrc.org & WesternLife
- Submit business proposals to the SRC in the form of meeting agenda items
- Attend other meetings as required, Provost Committee meetings etc
- Out of the 3 months they will hold their quarterly forum, and other activities to gather student feedback and listening to the student voice (surveys, stalls, attending events etc)
- Attend to other actions as required
- Complete and training assigned to them (meeting convening, minute taking, conflict resolution)

What is the W'SUP student publication? What are the other publications?



W'SUP News is Western Sydney University's multimedia student publication.

Run by students, tailored to students.

Has a number of attached publications that are supported by the Student Publications Committee and has the capacity to grow more where needed.

W'SUP.news (Website)

- Regular posted written content, inc. articles, stories and art
- Central hub of information
- Promotes events through 'What's On' section.

W'SUP (Print editions)

- Magazine, published at least twice a year.
- Often thematic i.e., Queer Edition, Wellbeing Edition.

Work In Progress (WIP)

- Podcast (set for release this month).
- Available on Spotify and all streaming platforms.

W'SUP News (Social Media)

- Instagram, Facebook & Twitter.
- Purpose is to share updates of student news articles published by W'SUP, and other topical and trending items.

What are the student members of the Student Publications Committee?

Student Editors - Elected

- Consists of six editors | One year term | Responsible for appointing the below roles.

Director of Student Publications - Appointed

- Acts as the managing publisher for **all** publications of the Student Publications Committee. Role involves: chairing meetings, supporting the team and developing relationships with stakeholders (SRC, students, student leaders, university staff) and overall increase the profile of the publication/s.

Additional Publications Team Members – Appointed

- Podcast Officer.
- Student Publications Designer.
- Social Media Officer.
- Marketing Officer.

What are the responsibilities of a student editor?

Student editors are responsible for:

- **As the name suggest, edit contributor work.**
- **Undergo mandatory training (media law, editing and proofreading).**
- **Creating their own content (monthly: online, for each print edition).**
- **Helping the publication build its contributor base.**
- **Attend team meetings, as required.**
- **Assist with the decision-making processes of the publication via majority vote.**

The Publications Committee aims to help students by:

- Being a vessel to the voice of the students.
- Inform students about news, events, activities and matters of importance at the uni.
- Promoting student participation in all forms of media
- Provide opportunities for students to gain skills in publishing, writing, editing and design.

Any given month, Student Publications Committee member will:

Monthly Duties

- Convene or attend monthly Publications Committee meeting, and any other meetings as required.
- Pitch stories and ideas to the team, and working on their own contributions and original content
- Submit other business proposals to the Publications Committee in the form of meeting agenda items
- Gather contributors by various means
- Attend and observe open university events and meetings for reporting purposes, which may include things like interviewing
- Engage students and other university stakeholders with the publication
- Attend to other actions as required

What is the NUS, and what does a NatCon Delegate do?

Information about the National Union of Students

If you want to voice student issues on a national level you need to sign up, but you need to know:

- NUS is a historic organisation
- Large groups of students form factional “parties” that emulate Australian Federal politics to vote in large blocks
- Voting on conference floor
- Attendance is not mandatory, but if elected you should be obligated to go
- Once in a lifetime opportunity
- Intense personalities and experience
- Opportunity to be elected as NUS National, State or Campus based office bearer/representative

How do I get Votes? What is a Campaign?

It's all about your vision as an elected student leader, and a chance for your to:

- Demonstrate you have a good amount of knowledge of Western,
- Create awareness about what aspects of student life you will prioritise to lobby for or highlight,
- Demonstrate you have strong considered policies and priorities you will push,
- Show that you are aware that the SRC or Publications Committee are teams, and that despite your personal policy platform you are a good team player,
- Build trust in your fellow students that you stand out, you have vision, purpose, and set goals you want to achieve, but at the same time are for your fellow students and will voice their views.



How do I get Votes?

How do I run a Campaign?

By building a campaign plan you will unpack:

- Before you even nominate, brainstorm what your core policies or goals will be,
- Bringing your policies to life with a slogan, theme, ticket name, colour palette, and anything else that helps you stand out; the point is to be memorable,
- Taking inspo from other university student elections, many student election campaigns traditionally will have a catchy slogan, bright colours and strong thematic elements that usually tie the campaign theme to the policy platform,
- When you will need to get campaign material approved by: the date will be before 9.00am Mon 4 Sept, the opening of ballots, as no campaign material can be approved after this time,
- Planning to spend no more than \$500 on your campaign materials,
- And think of who in your group of friends will be there to support you and be your cheerleader!

How do I get votes?

Running a Fair and Effective Campaign

Campaign materials

- Canva
- Social media, Facebook groups, Instagram posts, scheduling posts helps
- Share social media campaign material to Western Facebook groups (approved material only and only within the campaign timeframe)
- Hand out flyers on campus (don't litter)
- Put up posters on campus poster boards and pillars (approved material only and within the campaign timeframe – also make sure campaign material is pulled down or removed after voting period ends)
- Keep it fair by not taking up entire poster boards or flooding social groups with posts (this is annoying and unfair and could be disallowed by the Returning Officer)

Finally, tips for successful elections Running a Fair and Effective Campaign

Tips for successful campaign

- These are tips on how to run a traditional campaign. Feel free to get creative though,
- As long as it is within the Student Rep Procedures, it is fine,
- If in doubt, ask for assistance and get clarity before doing something,
- It's your campaign!

Steer clear of forbidden practices

- Keep the election free of problematic behaviour and everyone has a good experience

Tips for Mental Wellbeing

- It is okay to lose. Accept it is a possibility.
- You're committing to service the greater good of the university, which is a good thing; don't let anyone take that away from you



What you can do, and What you cannot do

“Do’s and Don’ts”

What you CAN do

- Encourage a person to vote for you
- Make strong persuasive campaign statements that support your policy,
- Vote for yourself
- Identify with a particular group for the purposes of campaigning (note identifying with a group not identified in your nomination will result in your ballot info not identifying you as a member of that group)
- Nominate with your preferred name
- Nominate up to 6 SRC/Student editor positions, as well as nominate to go to NUS Conference

What you CANNOT do

- Encourage a person to vote for you if they are studying or using their laptop/device for any other purpose
- Solicit votes within six metres of a place of polling
- Offer bribes for votes
- Ask for a voter’s voting link or confirmation email
- Have consumed alcohol or illicit substances whilst distributing campaign material
- Deface other campaign material or damage university property
- Disrupt the election in any way
- Post unapproved campaign material
- Defame other candidates (this is illegal)

Places of Polling

Can I campaign in the Library if a voting booth is inside?

Places of Polling are neutral and sacred

- As mentioned, places of polling is anywhere where a student is able to use an electronic device such as Libraries and Computer Labs (keeping in mind students' laptops and phones can be used to vote too so watch out for soliciting votes from people who are studying etc)
- The voting booths will be set up in Hawkesbury, Kingswood, Parramatta South and Campbelltown Libraries (laptop)
- No campaigning, soliciting of voting is to be tolerated inside these spaces or in any other place of study
- Any instance of soliciting votes in these spaces will likely result in termination of your candidacy
- Do not try to impede on any student trying to get access to the library to vote as this will also likely result in termination of your candidacy

Key Contacts

Who do I go to when...?

Vic Miglionico

Returning Officer

v.miglionico@westernsydney.edu.au

Grant Murray

Student Representative Officer

g.murray@westernsydney.edu.au

Jostina Basta

Publications and Student Representative Officer

j.basta@westernsydney.edu.au

www.westernsydney.edu.au/studentvoice

Elections webpage, notices, procedures (read these before nominating!!!)

Key links and information



When do I need to do what?

Elections timeline

Key Events

Mon 31 July	9.00am	Nominations Open	Online - Form
Fri 11 Aug	4.00pm	Nominations Close	Online
Mon 21 Aug	TBC	Campaign Training	Zoom Seminar
Mon 28 Aug	9.00am	Notice of Ballot (Campaign week)	Online/In-person
Wed 30 Aug	4.00pm – 5.30pm	Campaign Presentations	Zoom Seminar
Mon 4 Sept	9.00am	Voting Opens	Online
Fri 14 Sept	4.00pm	Voting Closes	N/A
Tue 3 Oct	TBA	Declaration of Results	Online - Web

Further information

Items of Note

- This resource was adapted from, University of Sydney Union (USU) Student Board Elections – Elections Information Session Slides
- <https://usu.edu.au/elections/>
- www.westernsydney.edu.au/studentvoice
- This presentation and recording will be available on the Student Elections webpage (above link)
- www.westernsrc.org
- www.wsup.news

Q&A PORTION: ANY QUESTIONS?