



**Report of the Returning  
Officer  
Swinburne Student Union  
Annual Election  
September 22-26, 2014**

**Table of Contents**

Staffing Page 3

Ticket registration Page 4

Nominations Page 4

Persons elected unopposed page 7

Polling Page 9

Infraction Page 9

Counting Page 10

Results of contested positions Page 11

Recommendations Page 13

**Staffing**

Above Quota Elections Pty Ltd appointed Director Haydn Steel as Returning Officer (RO), with Charles Richardson and Goldie Pergl appointed as Deputy Returning Officers (DRO). One poll clerk was employed each day at Hawthorn and 2 were employed for Wantirna and Corydon.

## Ticket registration

IN accordance with the regulations the following tickets were registered

### Ticket Name

Activate  
Free Palestine! Stop Abbott!

### Registering Officer/s

Brendan Spackman-Williams  
Danae Callaghan

## Nominations received.

President	Brendan Spackman--- Williams	Activate
Education Officer	Anthony Osborne	Activate
Education Officer	Felicity Sharpe	
General Secretary	Scott Morgan	Activate
Welfare Officer	Josh Briers	Activate
Croydon Campus Chair		
Hawthorn Campus Chair	Luke Bunworth	
Wantirna Campus Chair		
TAFE Representative	Angus Langford	Activate
	William Joseph*	
Postgrad Representative	Caitlin Bruty	
International Representative	Pavithra Ramamurthy	Activate
Health and Disability Representative	Michael Samarin	Activate
Indigenous Representative		
Queer Representative	Lee Taube	Activate
Women's Representative	Tori Pearce	Activate
Environment & Sustainability Officer	Cliff Warren	Activate
Education Officer --- Academic Affairs	Suzanne Byron	Activate
Education Officer --- Public Affairs	Shaun Ruigrok	Activate

Clubs Officer	Tohiora Kuru	Activate
	Fraser Greenfield	
General Representative 3 to elect	Emily Mineo	Activate
	Josh Fernandez	Activate
	Hayley Rudd	Activate
· Editor---in---Chief (chair of the committee)	Nicholas Kennedy	Activate
· Secretary/Treasurer	Jonathan Boadle	Activate
· Managing Editor	Pedro Cooray	Activate
· Advertising Editor		
· Promotions & Distribution Officer	Vincent Dwyer	Activate
· Lead Designer	Eloise Retallick	Activate
NUS Delegate	Brendan Spackman--Williams	Activate
	Scott Morgan	Activate
	Suzanne Byron	Activate
	Josh Fernadez	Activate
	Josh Briers	Activate
	Anthony Osborne	Activate
	Conrad Corry	
	Danae Callaghan	Free Palestine! Stop Abbott!
	Asha Khalif	Free Palestine! Stop Abbott!

	Ricardo Jorquera	Free Palestine! Stop Abbott!
	Damien Auckbur	Free Palestine! Stop Abbott!

\*William Joseph withdrew before the commencement of polling.

## **Persons elected unopposed**

Having nominations equal to the number of vacancies in the below named were elected unopposed.

### **President**

Brendan Spackman---Williams Activate!

### **General Secretary**

Scott Morgan Activate!

### **Welfare Officer**

Josh Briers Activate

### **Hawthorn Campus Chair**

Luke Bunworth

### **TAFE Representative**

Angus Langford

### **Postgrad Representative**

Caitlin Bruty

### **International Representative**

Pavithra Ramamurthy Activate

### **Health and Disability Representative**

Michael Samarin Activate!

### **Queer Representative**

Lee Taube Activate!

### **Women's Representative**

Tori Pearce Activate!

### **Environment & Sustainability Officer**

Cliff Warren Activate

### **Education Officer---Academic Affairs**

Suzanne Byron Activate!

**Education Officer--- Public Affairs**

Shaun Ruigrok Activate!

**General Representative 3 to elect**

Emily Mineo Activate

Josh Fernandez Activate!

Hayley Rudd Activate!

**Media Committee**

**Editor in Chief (chair of te committee)**

Nicholas Kennedy Activate!!

..

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Jonathan Boadle Activate!

..

**Managing Editor**

Pedro Cooray Activate!..

**Promotions & Distribution Officer**

Vincent Dwyer Activate!

..

**Lead Designer**

Eloise Retallick Activate!



**Polling**

After consultation with member of the SSU executive polling was set at the following times.

**Hawthorn Campus. Atrium**

Monday 22 September to Thursday 25 September 10:30h – 16:30h

Friday 26 September 10:00-16:00h

**Croydon Campus. Cafeteria**

Monday 22 September 10:30h – 16:30h

Wednesday 24 September 10:30h – 16:30h\*

Friday 26 September 0930h – 15:30h\*

**Wantirna Campus Cafeteria**

Tuesday 23 September 10:30h – 16:30h

Thursday 25 September 10:30 – 16:30h.

\* The Wednesday and Friday planned polling at Croydon Campus never occurred. It became clear on the Monday that there were no students on campus and no person attempted to vote. The Returning Officer was informed that all students were on placement that week. After consultation with the candidate the Croydon Polling was abandoned.

**Infractions**

This years election passed off with very little conflict or difficulties. There was one major infraction that saw Free Palestine! Stop Abbott! Suspended from campaigning on Thursday. This penalty was imposed because the Returning Officer observed non students campaigning for the Free Palestine! Stop Abbott! Ticket. This infringement was particularly disappointing as the person observed by the Returning Officer was a former President of SSU and certainly knew she was not supposed to be campaigning.

## **Counting**

Counting took place from 4:30pm on Friday 30 September 2011 on Level 4 of the UN Building. Once the Returning Officer was satisfied with the reconciliation of the ballot numbers per campus and, at Hawthorn, per day, the sorting and counting commenced.

As the position of President had been elected unopposed the Returning Officer decided to count the Education Officer day by day and all other ballots as a whole. As there were only two ballots cast at Watirna for the whole week and none at Croydon all out station votes were counted in Tuesday at Hawthorn. All positions were declared by 6:00pm

Scrutineers were present during the whole of the count.

## Results of contested positions

Education officer	Hawthorn					Total
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
Felicity Sharpe	16	22	16	10	17	81
Anthony Osborne (Activate!!)	61	72	70	30	54	287
Informal	2	3	5	3	2	16
Total	80	97	91	43	73	384

Osborn was Declared Elected.

Clubs Officer	
Fraser Greenfield	89
Tohiora Kuru (Activate!)	276
Informal	21
Total	386

Kuru was declared elected.

# NUS DELEGATES

CANDIDATE	Primaries	Second count	Third count	Fourth count	
<b>Brendan Spackman-Williams (Activate!)</b>	86	ELECTED (1)			
<b>Asha Khalif (Free Palestine! Stop Abbott!)</b>	54	ELECTED (4)			
<b>Suzanne Byron (Activate!)</b>	13	34.90770033	37.45800882	40.45800882	
<b>Conrad Corry</b>	11	12.32439487	13.09848125	Eliminated	
<b>Josh Fernadez (Activate!)</b>	63	ELECTED (2)			
<b>Scott Morgan (Activate!)</b>	21	40.49709789	42.04740638	46.98475807	ELECTED (6)
<b>Josh Briers (Activate!)</b>	61	ELECTED (3)			
<b>Danae Callaghan (Free Palestine! Stop Abbott!)</b>	2	4.485524442	Eliminated		
<b>Anthony Osborne (Activate!)</b>	53	ELECTED (5)			
<b>Damien Auckbur (Free Palestine! Stop Abbott!)</b>	3	3.163265306	Eliminated		
<b>Ricardo Jorquera (Free Palestine! Stop Abbott!)</b>	2	2.937351685	Eliminated		
<b>TOTAL FORMAL</b>	369	98.31533452	92.60389646	87.44276689	
<b>No. to be elected</b>	6	1	1	1	
<b>Quota</b>	52.71428571	49.15766726	46.30194823	43.72138344	
<b>Informal</b>	18	23.54180834	29.2532464	34.41437597	
<b>Used quotas</b>	0	263.5714286	263.5714286	263.5714286	
<b>TOTAL</b>	387	385.4285714	385.4285714	385.4285714	
<b>Discrepancy</b>	0	- 1.571428571	- 1.571428571	- 1.571428571	

## Notes

Numbers in round brackets indicate order of election.

Discrepancy on the second and subsequent counts represents Khalif and Osborne surpluses not distributed.

## **Recommendations.**

Over the past several years the SSU has greatly changed its constitution and election regulations. These changes have greatly improved both documents and has made the job of the Returning Officer that much easier. The Returning Officer would like to thank the SSU council for the past few years for the changes it has made.

An obvious low light of this year's election was the situation with the polling at Croydon. Not for the first time the SSU has scheduled an election during a non-teaching period at a small campus. Having said this it is once again clear to the Returning Office that this was an honest and reasonable mistake. The universities' printed time tables clearly showed the week of 22 September as a teaching period on all campuses. What it failed to show was that it was the placement week for Croydon students. So while the students were studying none of them were on campus.

It would appear to the Returning Office that the only way around this issue is for the SSU to engage more closely with students at the smaller campus and to confirm from them when teaching will occur on campus and when it will occur in placements.

The Returning Officer recommends the removal of the cap on spending as set out in regulation 70(a) & 71.

The Returning Officer understands that this regulation is designed to prevent a person from "buying an election"

It is not the experience of the Returning Officer that greater financial resources in a student election lead to a better electoral outcome. Student elections at campuses without a cap on spending do not see groups with money dominating the elections in the face of groups who engage with the student populations.

In addition to being in the opinion of the Returning Officer unnecessary the rule is also difficult if not impossible to enforce. It is not possible to know how many flyers a group produces with any accuracy and therefore determine the amount of money spent.

Similarly it is impossible to determine when an expenditure has taken place. If a group keeps its branding for several years should the expenses of a t-shirts purchased in a pervious year be counted this year? Similarly if a ticket or individual was donated campaign t-shirt or other resources how would the Returning Officer determine the cost of those items.

The only way money could be used to corrupt the system would be to pay people to campaign or offer an inducement to vote.

While it is clear that bribery is not in the spirit of the rules it seems as if the SSU regulations do not presently explicitly forbid it. Therefore the returning officer recommends the incretion a new sub regulation in to regulation 70.;

- No person may pay any person to campaign in an election or offer any voter any for of inducement to cast or not cast a ballot in a particular way.

The above regulation should be included regardless of councils view on the removal of spending limits.

## **Conclusion.**

The 2014 SSU election was a very quiet affair and the returning officer would like to thank the staff of AQE and all persons who participated in the election and made it a easy election to administer.

