

REPORT INTO THE 2019 SWINBURNE STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS

PREPARED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER JAMES WANGMANN OF ARGENT ELECTION

For any enquiries please contact James@Argentelections.com.au

ABOUT

This report details the Swinburne Student Union Elections of 2019.

This election was conducted in strict accordance with the SSUSSU constitution and election regulations, which includes compliance with the election regulations for NUS roles with the NUS election regs

This report is to be read in conjunction with attached documents, the SSU Constitution and the SSU Election Regulations.

APPOINTMENT

James Wangmann of Argent Elections was appointed Returning Officer for the Swinburne Student Union Annual Election on August 1, 2019.

Argent Elections is a boutique firm established in 2015.

In addition to the Swinburne Student Union, we have conducted elections for the La Trobe University Student Union, Victoria University Student Union, and the Deakin University Student Association and have done similar work for the National Union of Students and the Celtic Club of Victoria in the past.

Additionally, we have extensive experience acting as election poll staff, scrutineers and quota administrators in proportional representation ballots.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

The notice of election was posted in accordance with the SSU Election Regulations on Monday 5 August 2019.

This notice was posted outside the SSU offices at the Hawthorn, Croydon and Wantirna campuses as well as online at sss.org.au.

In addition, this notice was posted across other locations at relevant campuses, was pushed out through the Union's social media channels and was included in the e-Newsletter.

ELIGIBILITY

Any student member may nominate for the Swinburne Student Union Council, campus committees, education board, National Union of Students delegate, Swine positions, Postgraduate and International committees subject to various eligibility criteria outline below. Voting entitlement for certain positions is also limited, also detailed below.

Candidates for all positions, except for NUS Delegate, must be current financial members of the SSU.

The positions of President, General Secretary, Education Officer, Welfare Officer, Activities Officer, Communications Officer, Health and Disability Officer, General Representative, NUS Delegate are elected by all students and from all students.

PAVE Representative is elected by and from PAVE students.

Women's Representative is elected from female identifying students.

Queer Representative is elected from LGBTIQA identifying students.

Indigenous Representative is elected from ATSI students.

Hawthorn Campus Chair and committee members are elected by and from those students studying at the Hawthorn Campus.

Croydon Campus Chair and committee members are elected by and from those students studying at the Croydon Campus.

Wantirna Campus Chair and committee members are elected by and from those students studying at the Wantirna Campus.

Postgraduate Representative and SUPA committee members are elected by and from postgraduate students.

International Representative and SISA committee members are elected by and from international students.

The Education Board comprises one representative elected by and from each faculty and school at Swinburne, as well as representatives for each of Higher Degree by Research, Swinburne Online and Open Universities Australia

At the close of the nomination period no appeals or complaints surrounding the eligibility of candidate's or voters against eligibility criteria had been received.

One dispute relating to a candidates eligibility was raised prior to the declaration of the election, that dispute is detailed later in this document.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations were opened at 9am on Monday 5 August 2019.

Nominations closed at 1:00pm on Friday 16 August 2019.

The ballot draw took place on August 24 2019 at the registered premises of Argent Elections in Coburg. All candidates were invited to attend.

TICKET REGISTRATION

From the regulations:

45) An application to be set out as a ticket must include a minimum number of candidates for positions being elected that is:

a) At least 10 candidates for positions on the Council; except

b) Where a ticket only includes candidates for standing committees as set out in Part 11 of the Constitution – in which case the number of candidates for each committee must be equal to or greater than half of the total positions to be elected for that committee.

Applications to register new tickets closed on 1:00pm on Friday 16 August 2019.

A total of 2 tickets were registered, namely Together and Activate. No applications were rejected.

POLLING

A copy of the electoral roll was sourced from Swinburne University by the staff of the SSU.

Polling took place at the following times and places:

Polling – Hawthorn	10am – 4pm, Monday
Polling – Hawthorn	10am – 4pm, Tuesday
Polling – Hawthorn	12pm – 6pm, Wednesday
Polling – Hawthorn	10am – 4pm, Thursday
Polling – Wantirna	10am – 4pm Thursday
Polling - Hawthorn	10am – 4pm, Friday
Polling – Croydon	10am – 4pm, Friday

Ballot papers and ballot boxes were stored in a secure room at the SSU office. The Returning Officer was satisfied that this location and that the materials stored therein were not compromised in any way.

Throughout the polling week there complaints of varying severity, they are covered in more detail later in this document.

There was a total of 2301 formal votes cast, representing an almost 8% increase on 2018. There were no applications for postal votes.

COUNT

The count began at 19:00 on Friday 6 September in the Union Building at Swinburne University, Bundoora.

All aspects of the count were witnessed by scrutineers for various tickets.

There were no complaints or appeals arising from the count.

DECLARATION

The results of the election were provisionally declared at the close of counting on the evening of Friday 6 September.

A dispute was received with regard to the eligibility of a candidate, this dispute was ultimately heard by the Appeals Committee leading to a delay in a formal declaration.

Declaration of the election results was distributed by hard copy posters, e-newsletter, social media and upon the SSU webpage.

There were two categories of elected candidates:

- those candidates elected unopposed and
- those candidates elected through contested ballot

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

POSITIONS ELECTED UNOPPOSED

Joshua Daniel	Health and Disability Representative
Maria Bogtor	Education Board - Business
Harsh Modi	Education Board - Engineering
Samantha Baker	Education Board - FSET
Ariba Hanif	Education Board - Health
Alana Carter	Education Board - Law
Sam McAuley	Education Board – Science
Jaskaran Singh Saluja	Education Board - SSET
Ava Bowman	Education Board - Swinburne Online (SOL) Representative

CONTESTED POSITIONS

What follows is a summary of candidates elected to contested positions at the Swinburne Student Union election held between 2 and 6 September.

All positions were declared based on front page votes with the exception of PAVE Representative, FHAD Representative and SoASSH Representative which required interrogation of below the line votes.

PRESIDENT

Param Mahal	Together	1471
Errol Phuah	Activate	830

GENERAL SECRETARY

Artemis Capa	Together	1471
Danielle Gilmartin	Activate	830

EDUCATION

Varun Mohan	Together	1471
Xzavier Kelly	Activate	830

WEFARE

Budveen Hewabbage	Together	1471
Danielle Gilmartin	Activate	830

ACTIVITIES

James Atkins	Together	1471
Noah Holden	Activate	830

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE

Isobel O'Dwyer	Together	1471
Julia Ahearne	Activate	830

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Ailish Murphy-Mckay	Together	1471
Drew Lindsay	Activate	830

ETHNOCULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE

Varun Kale	Together	1471
Fitri Amirrol	Activate	830

QUEER REPRESENTATIVE

Alex Edwards	Together	1471
Callaghan Foley	Activate	830

POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Chanakya Sanjappa	Together	609
Shirazi Ahmed	Activate	267

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Lili He	Together	981
Muhammad Khawar	Activate	371

PAVE REPRESENTATIVE

Hamza Ali	Together	93
Abdul Samie	Activate	81

SWINE EDITOR

Tina Tsironis	Together	1471
Frances Biggar	Activate	830

SWINE DESIGNER

Zoe Abletez	Together	1471
Isabella Watson	Activate	830

HAWTHORN CAMPUS CHAIR

Tara Anastasia	Together	1455
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Meghan Walker Activate 830

GENERAL MEMBER (3)

Summary of votes:

Together	1471
Activate	830
Quota	576

In order of election

1. Fergus Clancy Together
2. Muhammed Abubakar Together
3. Benjamin Schade Activate

SUPA COMMITTEE (7)

Together	609
Activate	267
Quota	110

In order of election

1. Parth Shinde Together
2. Thrilekha Ray Together
3. Prahadhan Bhaarath Together
4. Kainat Malik Together
5. Nibras Shair Activate
6. Swadha Bhatia Together
7. Sharjeel Ahmed Activate

SISA COMMITTEE (7)

Together	981
Activate	501
Quota	186

In order of election

1. Harish Rajendran Together
2. Devni Wanigaarachchi Together
3. Manasha Madhavan Together
4. Abdul Ismath Activate
5. Gobinder Deol Together
6. Motaleb H. Shakil Activate
7. Ananya Shah Together

HAWTHORN COMMITTEE (7)

Together	1455
Activate	830
Quota	286

In order of election

1.	Kipp Stratmann	Together
2.	Blaine Harris	Together
3.	Rukshan Mudliyer	Together
4.	Joshua Hall	Activate
5.	Kevin Oswwalds	Together
6.	Tanner Stevenson	Activate
7.	Emily Duffus	Together

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS DELEGATE (7)

Together	1471
Activate	830
Quota	289

In order of election

1.	Sam Roberts	Together
2.	Ananya Shah	Together
3.	Belle O'Dwyer	Together
4.	James Atkins	Together
5.	Danielle Gilmartin	Activate
6.	Fergus Clancy	Together
7.	James Ogilvy	Activate

SCHOOL BOARDS

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND LAW

Yaqoob Hussein	Activate	94
Neha Nihalaniv	Together	266

FACULTY OF HEALTH, ARTS AND DESIGN

Daniel Grunow	Activate	259
Prarthan Baxi	Together	245

SCHOOL OF ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Thomas Athan	Activate	86
Jessica Newnham	Together	72