# University of Melbourne Annual Student Election 

## 4 - 8 September 2017

## Report of the Returning Officer

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## Summary

## Appointment

Jaimie Adam of Above Quota Elections Pty Ltd was appointed Returning Officer for the University of Melbourne Annual Student Election on 26 June 2017. Stephen Luntz and Haydn Steel, also of AQE, were appointed Deputy Returning Officers. Above Quota Elections would like to express its appreciation, not only for being appointed once again, but for the appointment occurring earlier than in recent years. Changes to the IT provision for the student union caused multiple delays in gaining access to various important services, and had the appointment been at a similar time to last year, this would have caused serious problems, rather than being a mere annoyance, as it was.

The Electoral Tribunal at the time of the appointment consisted of Mr Michael Gronow, Ms Kylie Gould and Mr Peter Lithgow.

## Electoral Regulation Changes

A large number of changes to the electoral regulations were drafted, many in response to recommendations by past returning officers. Unfortunately, however, the meeting at which these were to be passed did not achieve quorum. A subsequent meeting passed the changes, but by this time the deadline for changes to be approved was rapidly approaching. By the time the Electoral Tribunal had approved the new regulations this deadline had passed. This fact was not initially noticed and the election began under the new rules. However, Jeremy Gibson, the registering officer of the Left Focus ticket brought the issue to the deputy Returning Officer's attention. With the agreement of the Electoral Tribunal, the election from then on was run under the previous regulations.

## Nominations

Nominations opened on Monday 24th July for positions on the following bodies:

- University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU), including office-bearers, Students' Council and all committees (including VCA and Burnley)
- An UMSU by-election to fill several positions for the remainder of 2017
- Delegation to the National Union of Students (NUS)

The notice of election appears on page 14. This notice was posted in Union House and on the elections website, and a short version, containing a link to the website was also e-mailed to all students.

Nominations closed at midday on Friday 11th August. The electronic system of nominations trialled last year was continued. There was no repetition of the case of the person who believed they had nominated, but whose nomination was not received. However, a small number of candidates reported that they had nominated for a different position from the one they intended. Some of them checked the receipt sent to them and nominated for the intended position before withdrawing their initial nomination, but one failed to do so, instead requesting to change their nomination after the deadline, a request which had to be refused.

A substantial number of nominations were received from candidates who then never contacted the Returning Officer again, and to the best of our knowledge made no attempt to campaign. Unsurprisingly, none of these
candidates got close to winning，but did add somewhat to the cost of running the election．It is possible that these individuals had no idea of the scale of the election and what running to win involves，and might not have nominated if paper nominations had been required．It is of course debatable whether this would have been a good thing．

A total of 398 nominations were received（all using the electronic system），compared with 417 in 2016 and 315 in 2015．Two nominations were submitted after the deadline．All candidates were notified by e－mail of the receipt of their nominations；one of the advantages of the electronic system was that this process could happen automatically．

Farrago in conjunction with the Returning Officer again provided a photographer to attend on several occasions to take photos of candidates in a standard format for publication with their policy statements．The media officers advised the Returning Officer that the timing of the close of nominations did not fit well with their deadlines for the next edition of Farrago．Rather than hold the edition back，the editors elected to produce an election－only lift out，which came out after Farrago，and was inserted by hand into copies that had already been placed around campus．This issue has been discussed under recommendations．

The complete list of nominees appears on page 17，in ballot paper order where applicable．The draw for ballot paper positions was conducted on Monday 14 August．Despite requests from the Returning Officer，only one ticket sent a scrutineer．

## Tickets

Applications for ticket registration also closed at midday on Friday 11 August．An information session for prospective tickets was held on Thursday 3rd August to inform organisers of the requirements．

15 applications were received，all of which were found to be eligible，compared to 17 in 2016．The following tickets were therefore registered，with the indicated students as authorising officers：

Cheaper Textbooks
Change The Toilet Paper Back
Choice
Extend the Free Tram Zone
Independent Media
欢迎国际学生加入

Left Focus
Legalise Fidget Spinners
Liberal
Marriage Equality Now！
More！
Smoke Meth Hail Satan
Stand Up！
The Biggest Blackest Ticket
Unite and Fight Racism

Dominic Cernaz
Amelia Saward
Chris Kounelis
Neera Kadkol
Jesse Paris－Jourdan
Lilian Day
Jeremy Gibson
Kay Wai Ki Poon
Xavier Boffa
Jaimi Reed
Charles Cornwallis
Kim Doyle
Desiree Cai
Tyson Holloway－Clarke
Tom Thelonius Fiebig

## Withdrawals

The following candidates who appear on the list on page 18 withdrew their nominations prior to the printing of ballot papers:

| Amelia Sawsrd | NUS Delegate |
| :--- | :--- |
| Elijah Winters | Disabilities Committee |
| Jiahui Ji | Activities Officer |
| Farah Khairat | Welfare Officer, Women's Officer, People of Colour Officer, International |
|  | Representative on Students Council, Students of Colour Representative on Students |
|  | Council, Education Committee, People of Colour Committee, Welfare Committee, |
|  | Women's Committee |

Although a number of candidates ran for multiple positions which cannot be held simultaneously, none of these came close to winning. Unlike in past years, the major tickets, which dominated the successful outcomes did not generally run candidates for more positions than they could hold, preventing the need for conflict of position forms in many cases.

## Polling

Polling took place during the week of Monday 4 September to Friday 8 September, at the following times and locations:

|  | Monday <br> 4th Sept. | Tuesday <br> 5th Sept. | Wednesday <br> 6th Sept. | Thursday <br> 7th Sept. | Friday <br> 8th Sept. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Union House (The Lounge, <br> formerly North Dining Room) | $10.00 \mathrm{am}-$ <br> 5.00 pm | $10.00 \mathrm{am}-$ <br> 6.30 pm | $10.00 \mathrm{am}-$ <br> 5.00 pm | $10.00 \mathrm{am}-$ <br> 5.00 pm | $10.00 \mathrm{am}-$ <br> 5.00 pm |
| Baillieu Library | $10.30 \mathrm{am}-$ | $10.30 \mathrm{am}-$ | $10.30 \mathrm{am}-$ | $10.30 \mathrm{am}-$ | $10.30 \mathrm{am}-$ |
| Foyer | 4.30 pm | 6.15 pm | 4.30 pm | 4.30 pm | $5: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ |
| Southern Precinct | $11.00 \mathrm{am}-$ | $11.00 \mathrm{am}-$ | $11.00 \mathrm{am}-$ | $11.00 \mathrm{am}-$ | $11.00 \mathrm{am}-$ <br> FBE Building |
| 3.00 pm | 5.00 pm | 3.00 pm | 3.00 pm | 3.00 pm |  |
| VCA Southbank Campus |  | $11.00 \mathrm{am}-$ | $11.00 \mathrm{am}-$ | $11.00 \mathrm{am}-$ |  |
| (Cafeteria) |  | 3.00 pm | 3.00 pm | 3.00 pm |  |
| Burnley Campus |  | $11.00 \mathrm{am}-$ | $12.00 \mathrm{pm}-$ |  |  |
| (Student Lounge) |  | 2.00 pm | 3.00 pm |  |  |

This notice was posted on the website and advertised to all students. Polling times and locations were extended slightly from 2016, with a later close at the Baillieu on Friday and an earlier start at the FBE building on Tuesday. Both were decisions of the Returning Officer to try to increase opportunities to vote and to smooth out peak times at the Baillieu. The FBE extension appears to have been a success, but several unanticipated consequences arose from closing the Baillieu at the same time as Union House, which should be considered for future. Since there were no contested elections for any Indigenous positions, the polling station at Murrup Barak (Centre for Indigenous Education) was not required.

Turnout for the week was 3532, almost unchanged from 2016. The low turnout in 2015 can now be seen as an anomaly, produced by the unusual lack of competition for key positions That year aside, turnout has been remarkably consistent in recent years, despite the increased enrollment at the university over the period.

Voting figures from the polling registers were checked each evening against the total of ballot papers issued, and both were checked against the physical count after the close of polling. All totals reconciled within acceptable
margins of error. The table on page 24 summarises the turnout at all polling stations.

## Storage of Ballot Papers

By arrangement with the University, unused ballot papers and live ballot papers from the Parkville polling stations were stored in a secure location in the Raymond Priestly Building each evening. Ballot papers for the VCA and Burnley polling places were stored securely by AQE staff, then returned to Parkville on Wednesday, and Thursday.

In all cases, scrutineers were invited to witness the sealing and unsealing of ballot boxes and the transfer of votes into storage, although in some cases no campaigners were present to act as scrutineers.

## Electronic Roll and Provisional Voting

Wireless database access to the electronic roll was used at all polling stations. The electronic version of the roll that was previously provided by MUSUL IT was no longer available, with the winding up of MUSUL. The Melbourne University IT department created a new system for our use. There were problems for the Returning Officer team in establishing who we should be liaising with for this to be set up, and how information was to be transferred, but once these were resolved the university staff were very helpful. It was discovered on the Tuesday morning of polling that there was a problem with the way the roll was storing the names of those who had voted at the Baillieu. Maha Gnaamoorthy however, was very quick in rectifying the problem, once alerted, for which we are very grateful.

A set of laptops was provided for use by poll clerks by the University Services. Although one of these had difficulty logging on to the network, the others performed well, and the drop outs experienced in some previous years now seem to be a thing of the past.

One result of the improved state of the network (including its use at Burnley) was a further reduction in the number of provisional votes required. Only ??29 provisional votes were received, several of which were from office bearers and 14 were reserved for further advice from Student Administration. Following that advice, a further three votes were accepted and the other 11 rejected.

## Postal Votes

Applications for postal votes closed at 5pm on Wednesday 31 August. Fifteen applications were received by this deadline, the most for some time. One of these had an illegible address, and repeated attempts to contact the person by email and phone failed to elicit a response. Ballot papers were posted to the other applicants on Friday 2 September. Only 2 sets of ballot papers were duly returned by close of polls on Friday 9 September; these voters were checked off the roll and their votes were admitted to the count. Another 2 votes were received after the deadline, while the rest were not returned at all. We consider this a very poor return for the time and expense of processing these votes, and have suggested ways to address this issue in the recommendations section.

## Complaints and Appeals

Until the last two hours of polling, the verbal complaints received by the Returning Officer were at a record low, both in number and severity. Only five written complaints were received, one of them after the election was over and consequently no written rulings were issued. Unfortunately, one (initially verbal) complaint, far more serious than any of those that preceded it, was received on the afternoon of the last day of polling. At this point it was too late for the Returning Officers to apply remedies. A written appeal was received after the close of
polling relating to this matter. After attempts to mediate the issue to both parties satisfaction, the matter was referred to the Electoral Tribunal, as there was no longer any way for the Returning Officer to deal with the issue.

The tribunal dismissed the appeal, noting that in light of the timing the events raised, whatever the truth of the allegation, could not have changed the outcome of the election.

Prior to the issue that resulted in an appeal, only four written complaints were received.
One individual complained that he had not nominated, and objected to his name appearing on the list of nominations. This at first appeared to be a serious breach. However, upon investigation it became clear that the individual concerned had sought preselection by a ticket for two positions. The team had accepted him for one, but not for the other. At this point he decided he did not want to be on the ticket at all, but had not conveyed this to the ticket, and failed to respond to their questions as to whether he still wanted to run. Given the documented evidence of his previous application to run for the position for which he was nominated, the Returning Officer ruled that there was no intention to deceive, and withdrew his nomination without issuing a penalty to the team who had nominated him.

A complaint was also received about the use of the word "apolitical" by one of the tickets. This is an frequent issue in student elections. Despite the Returning Officers' reservations about the potential for this word to be misleading, the ticket in question this time was able to make a much stronger case than usual that their ticket met at least some definitions of the word, so the appeal was rejected.

A minor matter of campaigning over the line was the subject of a complaint, which only came in written form because it was accompanied by photographs.

The fourth complaint related to an incident which, as described by the complainant, was very similar to the one which produced the appeal. That is, the complainant felt that what had initially been a matter of political debate had turned into a targeting of them based on their racial identity. The returning officer team took this seriously, and deputy Returning Officer Stephen Luntz spoke the to the party who was alleged to have done the targeting. However, her account of the incident was so different that, in the absence of any witnesses, we were unable to reach any conclusion, and simply warned the individual in question that, if the complaint was true, it would constitute a serious breach of the rules. Only well after the election was over were we informed that there was in fact a witness who could confirm some of what had been alleged.

## Lockup and Counting

Counting began at midday on Friday 8th September, five hours before the close of polling. A lockup was again instituted, in which scrutineers were permitted to observe the early counting but not to leave or communicate with outside prior to 5 pm . The lockup again proceeded smoothly and without incident, largely due to the assistance of former Returning Officer Charles Richardson, who came out of retirement to assist..

The majority of the office-bearer counts were completed on the Friday night. Counting continued all day Saturday and for a few hours on Sunday, which determined all positions apart from Students' Council and three committees, for which initial counts were completed on Monday the $11^{\text {th }}$, and the campus co-ordinator of VCA. Although campus co-ordinator is a much easier ballot to count than the others, the result there was so close that the outstanding provisional votes, if enough of them turned out to be VCA students, could have changed the outcome. Consequently, VCA campus coordinator was not completed until the $22^{\text {nd }}$ of September.

Meanwhile, a recount was requested for the general representatives on Students Council. The Returning Officer judged that the margin, being just 8 votes, was sufficiently close that the recount could not be rejected.

Unfortunately, the counting, or recounting, of a 15 member proportional representation ballot with more than 3000 formal votes and 58 candidates is both time consuming and dependent on specialist skills. With Mr Richardson overseas by this point, and the rest of the Returning Officer team ill or overloaded with other work, the recount was not able to start for some time. In the end the recount required 30 staff hours work, almost half of which had to be done by someone familiar with the intricacies of proportional voting, and was not completed until Saturday October 7.

The full provisional declaration of results was issued on Thursday 15 September. This notice appears on page 24, and was also posted in Union House and on the elections website. The period for appeals against the results or requests for recounts expired three working days later, on Tuesday 20 September. None were received.

Full details of the count for each position appear in the Appendix. In addition, the count for President is broken down by day and by polling station.

The total valid vote of 3,527 represents approximately $6.5 \%$ of eligible voters.

## Clubs \& Societies Committee

The Clubs \& Societies Committee is elected separately by the Clubs \& Societies Council rather than by students at large. Management of that election has again been included as part of the contract for the annual election. The Clubs \& Societies Council met on Tuesday October 17 and the Returning Officer services were provided by Stephen Luntz and James Serle. Results have been published at the end.

## Acknowledgements

The annual student elections are a major logistical undertaking, and the Returning Officer would again like to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance received from a great many people. The following are particularly deserving of mention:

- Deputy Returning Officers Stephen Luntz and Haydn Steel, and all the staff of Above Quota Elections.
- The staff of UMSU and MU Student Union Ltd, especially Justin Baré, Goldie Pergl, Carolyn Bolton, Joe Walton, Fiona Sanders, the editors of Farrago (Alexandra Alvaro, Amie Green, Mary Ntalianis, James Macaronas) and the Building Services team (Paul, Laurie, Serge, Alex, Steve, Yuri and the rest)
- Sibhon Bolte (Provost's Department), Sarah Calder (Student Services), Jon Cattapan (VCA), Giaconda Di Lorenzo (University Secretary), Grace Pan Hui (Student Services), Maha Gnaamoorthy and Hoshiar Singh in University Services
- Bek for graphic design, Stephanie and the print team for printing
- All the candidates and campaigners for their cooperation.


## Recommendations

Many good changes were made to the election regulations this year. While it is unfortunate that these were not able to be applied to this election, we anticipate that they will improve the running of future elections. Nevertheless, our two most important points from last year have not been addressed, so we have reiterated these below, in the hope they will eventually be considered.

## 1. Complexity of election

Constitutional change this year added yet another office-bearer, another committee and another special representative on Students' Council - this time to address the concerns of people of colour. There are now 15 office-bearers, ten committees and six special representatives (not counting the VCA and Burnley positions); when this constitutional structure was first introduced, in 1980, those numbers were four, three and zero respectively.

It is not obvious where this process of expansion might stop. Every move to provide representation for a hitherto-marginalised group, taken in isolation, seems eminently reasonable. And of course it is entirely up to the union to determine how it wants to structure its operations. Nonetheless, it appears to the Returning Officer that insufficient attention has been paid to the cumulative effect of these moves.

Expansion comes at a cost: a financial cost, obviously, but also a cost in complexity that deters potential voters. This year, at least one ticket had to be warned for trying to attract voters with the pitch "it'll only take you 30 seconds." The reality is that voting takes several minutes, and is a process that most students seem to find bewildering.

In 1980, more than one student in four voted; now it is fewer than one in 15 . No-one would suggest that the ballooning structural complexity is the only thing responsible for that change, but it needs to take a share of the blame. It is particularly unfortunate that measures whose purpose is to increase representation should have the paradoxical effect of making the union less representative.

It is recommended that constitutional reform in the future should seriously consider rationalising the union's structure is some way that would permit simpler elections.

## 2. Democracy for international students

Although quite significant constitutional change was undertaken this year, it is disappointing to see that no move was made to address the point that we flagged two years ago as a "top priority", namely the provisions that exempt the International Students Department from the operation of the UMSU Electoral Regulations.

As we said on that occasion, "These provisions lack any reasonable justification. The rules that govern all other UMSU elections are designed to guarantee fairness, transparency and due process. If those are desirable goals
(and we believe they are), they should apply across the board."
It cannot be stressed too strongly that autonomy or self-government provides no argument for an exemption from democracy. It is also worth noting that integration of the International Students Department into UMSU elections could lead to a significant cost saving.

It is recommended that revision of sections 152.1 (i) and (j) and 154 of the Constitution along these lines should be treated as a matter of some urgency.

## 3. Postal Ballots

To get back only two postal ballots out of 15 is a particularly poor rate of return, but there is a general trend towards fewer postal votes being returned on time. This presumably reflects the increasing slowness of the postal system. It is possible that many of these postal ballots were unnecessary in the first place - some were sent to addresses within an easy walk of the Parkville campus - and that the regulations should be changed to require applications to state a reason why the postal vote is required.

Nevertheless, this still leaves the problem of students who have good reason to require a postal vote. We suggest that these votes should, at the Returning Officer's discretion, be able to be sent electronically. Online voting is the subject of much unjustified hype in certain circles, and can be very damaging when applied inappropriately. The Returning Officer team remain adamantly opposed to its use for the bulk of votes in an election such as UMSU's, for reasons we can explain at length if needed.

Establishing an online pole for all the positions UMSU elects would also be a fair amount of work, and might not be justified for only a few postal vote applications. However, in circumstances such as this year's, the cost and effort of creating an online ballot for those genuinely unable to reach campus might well have been justified, without raising any serious concerns about election security.

Two alternative options are to make the closing date for postal vote applications earlier, or to allow postal votes to be received in the week following the election. Although the latter increases the chance that positions cannot be completed in the weekend following the election, there is already a need to wait on some provisional votes, so a few extra postal votes may not greatly increase the problem.

## 4. Farrago Election Edition

Each year the editors of Farrago appear to find the need to turn the candidate statements into an election guide a greater problem. Although the advance of technology has sped most things up, it seems printing delays have got longer for a magazine such as Farrago.

At minimum all media officers should be warned of the issue and asked to address it when planning the timing of their editions at the start of the year. This year's solution, in which the guide is printed separately and inserted later into the preprinted edition of Farrago represents might be considered as the default.

Creating a longer gap between the close of nominations and the election would be a radical move to address the problem, but would at least ease the pressure on getting ballot papers laid out and printed in time.

## 5. Use of unicode and non-Roman characters

For the first time several tickets registered wishing to use characters outside the Roman alphabet or numbers. Two wished to have unicode appear in their names on the ballot, while a third used Chinese characters. It is unclear under the regulations whether either of these is allowed.

Our decision was to err on the side of inclusion, and allow both provided the designer of the ballots was able to accommodate. The decision attracted some controversy - indeed one poll clerk resigned from working on the election because he considered the use of languages other than English inappropriate.

Having set the precedent, it is the intention of Above Quota Elections to continue to allow alternative characters, should we gain the contract in future, unless the regulations are changed. Therefore we recommend consideration be given to whether such a change should occur. Furthermore this would be an excellent time to limit the number of characters a ticket name can include, avoiding the danger of a team of pranksters making ballot production impractical by choosing a ticket name the length of a book.

## 6. Claims of Achievement

Tickets have been increasingly keen to claim credit for past achievements and initiatives in the student union. On the one hand, this is encouraging, suggesting that the Union's record is regarded as being positive and that candidates want to associate themselves with it. On the other hand, there is a concern that voters are being misled over tickets' actual records of performance. In the past the Returning Officers have worked on the basis that such claims should be allowed unless there was clear evidence against them, while the burden of proof was upon a complainant.

However, as time has gone on some of the claims have become larger and more doubtful. In this context, consideration should be given to more rigorous checking. Unfortunately, most of the claims relate to matters occurring during the year whilst the Returning Officers are not on campus, and are thus in no position to assess the validity of claims come election time. Clearly it is also not possible to rely on the word of current or former office bearers, who usually have a stake in the outcome.
We are able to suggest two alternative or concurrent options to improve this developing problem.

- Staff can be consulted on questions of historical fact, but this may place individuals in a somewhat compromising position. One possibility to share responsibility is the establishment of a committee of long-standing staff and management, with a minimum of three members, to whom the Returning Officer could refer questions of historical dispute.
- Reversing the onus of proof, so that a ticket or candidate claiming credit or credit by association would be obliged to provide substantiation to the Returning Officer before their publicity was authorised.


## 7. Friday Behaviour

As noted, the one serious complaint received in what was otherwise a very well behaved election occurred on the afternoon of the last day of polling. This prevented us from imposing any of the remedies we might have done, such as bans on campaigning. The truth of the events on that day is disputed, and there is nothing to be gained by us attempting to decide on the truth. Nevertheless, the case raised an important point to consider for future.

If the events occurred as the appellant described, they would represent a serious breach of the election rules. On the other hand, as the electoral tribunal noted, their timing means they would not have affected the outcome of any but the closest election, which therefore makes it unlikely that they would lead to disqualification.

Although the case raised was an extreme example, such events are common at a time when candidates are tired and stressed and their tempers are frayed. This suggests that there should be options available in cases to deal with breaches of the election rules that are unlikely to change the outcome of the election. At Monash (Clayton), an electoral tribunal dealt with this issue by sending a candidate to anti-discrimination training provided by the university's equal opportunity unit. They also restricted the candidate's right to run and campaign in future
elections. It is worth considering giving either the tribunal or the returning officer (with appeal rights, as always to the tribunal) similar powers.

The alternative to this is to rely on the university's general disciplinary processes, which is probably appropriate in the most serious cases, but might be an excessively heavy and bureaucratic approach in other circumstances.

## 8. Timing of appointment

As noted, this year our appointment was much earlier than last, for which we would like to express our gratitude to all concerned. However, it should also be noted that, had this not occurred, the outcome could have been quite disastrous in light of the IT issues experienced. Some of these issues are likely to be one-offs, reflecting the abolition of MUSUL and the incorporation of some of its roles into University Services, but some may become ongoing problems. Therefore we recommend that the appointment of Returning Officer, be it ourselves or a competitor, take place at a similar time to this year to allow for the opportunity to get IT matters sorted.

## Notice of Election

## University of Melbourne Annual Student Election 4th - 8th September 2017

Notice is hereby given that nominations opened at 12 midday on Monday 24 July, for the 2017 University of Melbourne Annual Student Election.

Positions to be filled at the election include:

1. Office-bearers, committees and Students' Council of the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU), including the Burnley Student Department and the Victorian College of the Arts Department
2. A student fellow of the University Council (to be confirmed)
3. Delegates to the National Union of Students (NUS)
4. Several vacant positions to be filled by by-election for the remainder of 2017

A complete list of positions appears at the end of this notice.

## Nominations close at 12 midday on Friday 11th August.

Polling will take place from Monday 4th September until Friday 8th September (inclusive). All students are eligible to vote. A detailed schedule of polling times and locations will be posted after close of nominations. Students may also vote by post - applications for postal votes close at 5 pm on Wednesday 1st September.

Tickets: Any fifteen (15) students may register a ticket to run in the election by filling in the appropriate form. Applications for Ticket Registration open and close at the same time as nominations. It is not necessary to be on a ticket to run in the election.

Tickets that are running candidates for multi-member positions should also submit a form showing the order in which they wish their candidates to appear. Candidates running for positions that cannot be held concurrently should submit a form showing which positions they wish to hold in case of a conflict.

Ticket registration forms, candidate order forms and conflict of position forms must all be submitted by close of nominations. All forms are available from the Returning Officer or can be downloaded from the election website (see below).

Policy speeches: Candidates may also, with their nominations, submit policy statements for publication in Farrago and on the election website. Policy statements must not exceed 300 words for UMSU office-bearer positions or 100 words for all other positions. A photo session for office-bearer candidates will be organized after close of nominations.

Please note that all deadlines are strict and cannot be extended. Candidates are strongly urged to lodge their forms well before the deadlines. All forms should be delivered personally to the Returning Officer or an authorised electoral official. (The Election Office will be open extensively throughout the election period, and appointments can be made by phone or email.) Where this is not practicable, please contact the Returning Officer to make other arrangements. Do not post forms without prior arrangement, as no responsibility will be taken for late or lost forms under those circumstances. It is not possible to accept faxed or emailed forms.

## Contact Details

For all enquiries, forms and other election material, contact the Election Office: Former Summer School Office 3rd floor Union House; Phone: 0383442438.

Or visit the Election website: http://union.unimelb.edu.au/elections
Deputy Returning Officer: Stephen Luntz (Ph: 0438667 787)
Returning Officer: Jaimie Adam (Ph:0430 734 043)
Email: ReturningOfficer@union.unimelb.edu.au or sluntz@abovequota.com.au
Mailing address: UMSU Returning Officer, c/o Above Quota Elections, PO Box 2157, Fitzroy, VIC 3065
Notices will also be posted on the Students' Council notice board, first floor, Union House.

## Positions for Election

## UMSU Annual Election

Office Bearers:
2. President
3. General Secretary
4. Education (Academic Affairs) Officer
5. Education (Public Affairs) Officer
6. Welfare Officer
7. Women's Officer
8. Creative Arts Officer
9. Activities Officer
10. Queer Officer
11. Environment Officer
12. Media Officers
13. Clubs \& Societies Officer
14. Indigenous Officer
15. Disabilities Officer
16. People of Colour Officer

Students' Council:

1. One representative of each of the following restricted constituencies:
2. Queer students
3. Indigenous students
4. International students
5. Graduate students
6. Students with disabilities
7. Students of Colour
8. Fifteen (15) general members elected by all students

Seven (7) members on each of the following Committees:

- Activities Committee
- Creative Arts Committee
- Disabilities Committee
- Education Committee
- Environment Committee
- Indigenous Committee
- Queer Committee
- Welfare Committee
- Womn's Committee

Burnley Student Department:

- Campus Coordinator
- Seven (7) general Committee members


## Victorian College of the Arts Department:

- Campus Co-ordinator
- Campaigns Co-ordinator
- Activities and Events Co-ordinator
- Seven (7) general Committee members


## National Union of Students

Seven (7) Delegates to the National Conference of the National Union of Students Inc., in accordance with the rules of NUS

## By-Elections

3. Disabilities Officer(s)
4. Indigenous Officer (s)
5. Burnley Committee (2 positions)

## Restrictions on election

Any student may nominate for any position unless otherwise specified below.
The position of Media Officers must be held jointly by teams of three or four candidates. All other officer positions, except for President and General Secretary, may be held either individually or by two candidates jointly. Candidates who are running as a team should each fill out a nomination form and submit them stapled together, with a single policy statement.

If more than one person holds the office of Women's Officer, one of them must be a Woman of Colour. For all other committees, including the Burnley and VCA Committees and the general members of Students' Council (but not the NUS delegation), at least half of the members (ignoring remainders) must be women, provided there are sufficient female candidates.

Candidates for Queer Officer, Queer Representative on Students' Council and Queer Committee must be Queer students. (See Regulation 32.4 for further detail.) If more than one person holds the office of Queer Officer, one of them must be a Woman or Trans.

If more than one person holds any other office, one of them must be a Woman.
Candidates for Indigenous Officer, Indigenous Representative on Students' Council and Indigenous Committee must be Indigenous students.

Candidates for Disabilities Officer, Disabilities Committee and the Disability Representative on Students' Council must be students with disabilities. Candidates for International Representative on Students' Council must be International students. Candidates for Graduate Representative on Students’ Council must be Graduate students.

Candidates for the Burnley positions must be enrolled at the Burnley campus. Candidates for the VCA positions must be students of the Faculty of the VCA and Music.
No person can stand for election if they are employed half-time or more by UMSU, the University, MU Student Union Ltd or related bodies, or any combination thereof. In the case of the University Council position that includes any casual employment with the University. No person can stand for an office-bearer position if they have already served two terms of office as an office-bearer.

For further information on eligibility to stand and to vote in the election, please consult the Election Regulations, available at the UMSU Office and on the election website. Copies of the Regulations can also be obtained at the Election Office, where further enquiries are welcome.

Jaimie Adam<br>Above Quota Elections Pty Ltd

## Nominations

| Activities Committee |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| krishank solanki | Stand Up! |
| Mia Vo (Ngan Vo) | Stand Up! |
| Ririka Fujimoto | Stand Up! |
| Ambrose Berlin | Choice |
| Angelica McLean | Choice |
| Miss Anmol Mehra |  |
| JIAHUI JI |  |
| Joshua Bruni | More! |
| Jackson Young | More! |
| Raveena Grace | More! |
| David Mastrantuono | More! |
| Misa Murphy | More! |
| Catriona Smith | More! |
| Nikhil Sachdev | Liberal |
| Activities Officer |  |
| Alex Fielden | More! |
| Jordan Tochner | More! |
| Jennifer Jin | More! |
| Burnley General |  |
| Committee Member |  |
| XIE CUNYI |  |
| James Barclay |  |
| Burnley Campus |  |
| Coordinator |  |
| Isabelle Gundermann |  |
| Tess Giesen |  |
| Charlotte Bartlett-Wynne |  |
| Christopher James Carberry |  |
| Isabelle Gundermann |  |
| James Barclay |  |
| XIE CUNYI |  |
| Burnley Committee |  |
| (Remainder of 2017) |  |
| XIE CUNYI |  |
| Isabelle Gundermann |  |
| Clubs and Societies |  |
| Officer |  |


| Disabilities Officer （remainder 2017） | More！ | （Academic Affairs） Nikhil Sachdev |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Alston Chu |  | Kristen Politis | Choice |
| Cassandra Prigg | More！ | Mark Donato | Choice |
| Education Committee | Change the Toilet | Toby Silcock | Stand Up！ |
| Amelia Saward | Paper Back！ | Alice Smith | Stand Up！ |
|  | $\square$ Legalise Fidget | Louis Devine | More！ |
| Kay Wai Ki Poon | Spinners | Kim Duong | More！ |
|  | METH HAIL | Education Officer（Public Affairs） |  |
| Kim Doyle | SATAN $\square$ | Guy Coward | More！ |
| Nikhil Sachdev | Liberal | Emily Roberts | More！ |
| Emma Fazzino | More！ | Madeleine Sarich－Prince | Stand Up！ |
| Annette Jacobsen | More！ | Conor William James |  |
| Elizabeth Vu | More！ | Clements | Stand Up！ |
| Jonas Larsen | More！ | Nikhil Sachdev | Liberal |
| Andrew Tan | More！ | Tristan Layton | Choice |
| Mark Yin | More！ | Rachel Carey | Left Focus |
| Jamie McDonald | More！ | Environment Committee | Marriage Equality |
| Farah Khairat |  | Jaimi Reed | Now！ |
|  | 欢迎国际学生加 | Nikhil Sachdev | Liberal |
| Lilian Day | 入 | Beiwei Lin | More！ |
|  | Marriage Equality | Olive Gole | More！ |
| Jaimi Reed | Now！ | Tessa Campisi | More！ |
| Rachel Carey | Left Focus | Tess Newport | More！ |
| Terence Taylor | Left Focus | Will Ross | More！ |
| Niamh Marah | Left Focus | Sophie Rhule | More！ |
| Nick Reich | Left Focus | Matt Whitney | More！ |
| Alastair Gustav James | Left Focus | Tom Carlyle－James | Choice |
| Sureen Tiwana | Left Focus | Blake Reilly | Choice |
|  | Extend the Free | Tara Jalali |  |
| Neera Kadkol | Tram Zone |  | $\square$ SMOKE |
| Elizabeth Tembo | Stand Up！ |  | METH HAIL |
| Rajan DOMINIC Roque |  | Kim Doyle | SATAN $\square$ |
| ILAGAN | Stand Up！ | Janina Gissela Chuchuca |  |
| Ru Bee Chung | Stand Up！ | Cely | Stand Up！ |
| Ayushi Mahajan | Stand Up！ | Ayushi Mahajan | Stand Up！ |
| Leo Ruether | Stand Up！ | Julia Harrison | Stand Up！ |
| Joshua Mills | Stand Up！ | Charlene（Jia Lin）Ong | Stand Up！ |
| krishank solanki | Stand Up！ | Gillian Carter | Stand Up！ |
| Joshua Symes | Choice | Jeremy Gibson | Left Focus |
| Stefan Vutov | Choice | Terence Taylor | Left Focus |
| Xin Ma | Choice | Shonty Fisher | Left Focus |
| Education Officer | Liberal | Rachel Carey | Left Focus |



| Melinda Suter | Stand Up! | Mark Yin | More! |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Shania Khan | Stand Up! | Qieqie Bie (Veronica) | More! |
| Alice Smith | Stand Up! | Xavier Boffa | Liberal |
| Molly Willmott | Stand Up! | Farah Khairat |  |
| Desiree Cai | Stand Up! | Xin Ma | Choice |
| Conor William James |  | Abhineet Gupta | Choice |
| Clements | Stand Up! | JIAHUI JI |  |
| Benedict Kusay | Choice | People of Colour Officer |  |
| Chris Kounelis | Choice | Xavier Boffa | Liberal |
| Tristan Layton | Choice | Farah Khairat |  |
| Xavier Boffa | Liberal | Terence Taylor | Left Focus |
| Ella Shi | More! | Sid Gupta | Choice |
| Daniel Beratis | More! | Reem Faiq | More! |
| James Power | More! | Hiruni Walimunige | More! |
| Blake Atmaja | More! | President |  |
| Teresa Gornall | More! | Lizzie Nicholson | More! |
| Kasey Lancaster | More! | Themi Kritikakos | Choice |
| Harry Adam | More! |  | Stand Up! |
|  | $\square$ SMOKE | Desiree Cai |  |
| Kim Doyle | METH HAIL | Michael Sabljak | Liberal |
|  | SATAN $\square$ |  | Unite \& Fight |
| Neera Kadkol | Extend the Free | Jasper Bell | Racism |
| Nick Reich | Tram Zone | Queer Committee |  |
| Jeremy Gibson | Left Focus | Ankita Panjratan | More! |
| Rachel Carey | Left Focus | Kath Lloyd | More! |
| Terence Taylor | Left Focus | Left Focus | Raph Canty |
| Sureen Tiwana | Left Focus | Jackson Young | More! |
| Alastair Gustav James | Left Focus | Natasha Charmaine | More! |
| Kay Wai Ki Poon | $\square$ Legalise Fidget | Spinners $\square$ | Alexawadu McFadden |


| General Representatives |  | Hannah Buchan | Stand Up! |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| on Students Council |  | Rajan DOMINIC Roque <br> Yuyang Liu | ILAGAN |


| Farah Khairat |  | Erica Flude |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hanady Kaik | Stand Up! | Beiwei Lin | More! |
| Students with Disabilities |  | Andrew Tan | More! |
| Representative on |  | Nistha Kumar | More! |
| Students Council |  | Jonas Larsen | More! |
| Adriana Mells | Stand Up! | Lena Fang | More! |
| Alston Chu | More! | Lucy Birch | More! |
| Alex Vanstan | Choice | David Mastrantuono | More! |
| Victorian College of the |  | JIAHUI JI |  |
| Arts Activities and Events |  | Welfare Officer |  |
| Co-ordinator |  | Isa Pendragon | More! |
| Xavier Da Costa | Choice | Aoife Nicklason | More! |
| Marcus Peters | More! | Cecilia Widjojo | Stand Up! |
| Victorian College of the |  | Michael Aguilera | Stand Up! |
| Arts Campaigns |  | Matthew Harper-Gomm | Stand Up. |
| Coordinator | More! | Erica Flude |  |
| Xavier Da Costa | Choice | Elizabeth Biggs | Liberal |
| Victorian College of the |  | Farah Khairat |  |
| Arts Campus Coordinator |  | Tash Pasaras | Choice |
| Xavier Da Costa | Choice | Women's Committee |  |
| Nicholas Lam | More! | Tara Jalali |  |
| Shonty Fisher | Left Focus | Angelica McLean | Choice |
| Victorian College of the |  | Irini Levou | Choice |
| Arts General Committee |  | Hannah Buchan | Stand Up! |
| Xavier Da Costa | Choice | Hanady Kaik | Stand Up! |
| Chris King | More! | Noni Bridger | Stand Up! |
| Eleanor Kirk | More! | Ei Pyae Pyae Phyo | Stand Up! |
| Sebastian Klarica | More! | Ru Bee Chung | Stand Up! |
| Annabelle Ots | More! | Daisy Elizabeth Feller | Stand Up! |
| Jennifer Ciliberto | More! | Miss Anmol Mehra |  |
| Michael Norris | More! | Bridie Cochrane-Holley | More! |
| Nicholas Mulheron | More! | Sukhmani Randhawa | More! |
| Welfare Committee |  | Farah Khairat | More! |
| Elizabeth Biggs | Liberal | Annette Jacobsen | More! |
| Galen Maxwell-Leone | Choice | Katie Doherty | More! |
| Sean Cartwright | Choice | Jamie McDonald | More! |
| Farah Khairat |  | Jessica Chen | More! |
| Jessica Miller | Stand Up! | Elizabeth Biggs | Liberal |
| Nicholas Wright | Stand Up! | Farah Khairat |  |
| Joshua Mills | Stand Up! | Erica Flude |  |
| Muhammad Afif Al-Islami | Stand Up! | Farah Khairat |  |
| Stephanie Kee | Stand Up! | Women's Officer |  |
| Kecheng Zhang | Stand Up! | Tara Jalali |  |


| Irini Levou | Choice | Society) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Elizabeth Biggs | Liberal | Ilan Rosen (Computer and Information Students |
| Tessa Gould | More! | Society) |
| Ilsa Harun | More! | Raphael Canty (Engineering Music Society) |
| Molly Willmott | Stand Up! | Samuel Gard (Spirits, Liquer and Coctail |
| Kareena Dhaliwal | Stand Up! | Appreciation Society) |
| Erica Flude |  | Daniel Sango (Arts Students Society) |
| Miss Anmol Mehra |  | Darcy Reading (Astronomical Society) |
| Clubs and Societies Committee | Joshua Bruni (Pirates) |  |
| Nancy Ciara Griffiths (Friends of Unnatural | Christopher Melenhorst (Tabletop Gaming Society) |  |
| Llamas) |  |  |
| Kasey Lancaster (Labor Club) |  |  |
| Dorothy Kirkaldie Bowell (Science Students |  |  |

## Turnout

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ANNUAL STUDENT ELECTION, 4-8 SEPTEMBER 2017

|  | Monday 4 <br> September | Tuesday 5 5 <br> September | Wednesday 6 <br> September | Thursday 7 <br> September | Friday 8 <br> September | Total for <br> week |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Baillieu <br> Library | 383 | 305 | 298 | 279 | 397 | 1647 |
| Union <br> House | 236 | 390 | 276 | 243 | 378 | 1438 |
| FBE | 67 | 100 | 48 | 66 | 91 | 372 |
| VCA |  | 14 | 15 | 20 |  | 59 |
| Burnley |  | 9 | 2 |  |  | 11 |
| Postals |  |  |  |  |  | 15 sent, <br> returned |
| Total | 686 | 718 | 639 | 608 | 866 | 3532 |
| 2016 | 662 | 808 | 625 | 653 | 798 | 3546 |

## Results

## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ANNUAL STUDENT ELECTION 4-8 SEPTEMBER 2017

## FULL PROVISIONAL DECLARATION OF RESULTS

| All counting has now been completed Position | The following are provision Candidate | lly declared elected: Ticket |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| President | Desiree Cai | Stand Up! |
| General Secretary | Daniel Beratis | More! |
| Activities Officer | Alex Fielden and Jordan Tochner | More! |
| Clubs \& Societies Officer | Matthew Simkiss and Nellie Seale | More! |
| Creative Arts Officer | Ashleigh Morris and Freya McGrath | More! |
| Disabilities Officer | Jacinta Dowe and Hien Nguyen | More! |
| Disabilities Officer (rest of 2017) | Alston Chu and Cassandra Prigg | More! |
| Education Officer (Academic Affairs) | Alice Smith and Toby Silcock | Stand Up! |
| Education Officer (Public Affairs) | Conor William James Clements and | Stand Up! |
| Environment Officer | Madeleine Sarich-Prince Callum Simpson and Lucy Turton | More! |
| Indigenous Officer | Jenna Kramme and Alexandra Hohoi | Biggest Blackest Ticket |
| Indigenous Officer (rest of 2017) | Alexander Hohoi and Marley Holloway-Clarke Jesse Paris-Jourdan, Esther | Biggest Blackest Ticket |
| Media Officer | Le Couteur, Ashleigh Barraclough, Monique O'Rafferty | Independent Media |
| People of Colour Officer | Hiruni Walimunige and Reem Faiq | More! |
| Welfare Officer | Cecilia Widjojo and Michael Aguilera | Stand Up! |
| Women's Officer | Kareena Dhaliwal | Stand Up! |


| Burnley Campus Coordinator | Molly Willmott <br> James Barclay <br> Victorian College of the Arts Activities <br> and Events Co－ordinator | Marcus Peters |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Victorian College of the Arts <br> Campaigns Co－ordinator <br> Victorian College of the Arts Campus <br> Co－ordinator <br> Graduate Representative on Students <br> Council | Clara Cruz Jose | Micholas Lam |

## Proportional positions

Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Students Council General Rep
Activities Committee
Activities Committee
Activities Committee
Activities Committee
Activities Committee
Activities Committee
Activities Committee
Burnley General Committee Member
Burnley General Committee Member
Burnley General Committee Member

| Blake Atmaja | More！ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Noni Bridger | Stand Up！ |
| Kayley Cuzzubbo | More！ |
| Hannah Buchan | Stand Up！ |
| Jacob Sacher | More！ |
| Rajan DOMINIC Roque | Stand Up！ |
| ILAGAN | More！ |
| Catriona Smith | Stand Up！ |
| Elizabeth Tembo | More！ |
| Rory O’Kane | Independent Media |
| Stephanie Zhang | Stand Up！ |
| Jessica Miller | More！ |
| Sukhmani Randhawa | 欢迎国际学生加入 |
| Lilian Day | Left Focus |
| Rachel Carey | Extend the Free Tram Zone |
| Neera Kadkol | More！ |
| Joshua Bruni | Stand Up！ |
| Grace Kang | More！ |
| Jackson Young | Stand Up！ |
| Mia Vo（Ngan Vo） | More！ |
| Raveena Grace | Stand Up！ |
| Ririka Fujimoto | More！ |
| Misa Murphy |  |
| Xie Cumyi |  |
| James Barclay |  |
| Isabelle Gundermann |  |

Burnley General Committee Member Burnley General Committee Member Burnley General Committee Member Burnley General Committee Member (remainder of 2017)
Burnley General Committee Member (remainder of 2017)
Clubs and Society Committee
Clubs and Society Committee
Clubs and Society Committee
Clubs and Society Committee
Clubs and Society Committee
Clubs and Society Committee
Clubs and Society Committee
Creative Arts Committee
Creative Arts Committee
Creative Arts Committee
Creative Arts Committee
Creative Arts Committee
Creative Arts Committee
Creative Arts Committee
Disabilities Committee
Disabilities Committee
Disabilities Committee
Disabilities Committee
Disabilities Committee
Disabilities Committee
Disabilities Committee
Education Committee
Education Committee
Education Committee
Education Committee
Education Committee
Education Committee
Education Committee
Environment Committee
Environment Committee
Environment Committee
Environment Committee
Environment Committee
Environment Committee
Environment Committee
Indigenous Committee
Indigenous Committee
Indigenous Committee
Indigenous Committee

Tess Giesen
Charlotte Bartlotte-Wynne
Christopher James Carberry
Xie Cunyi
Isabelle Gundermann
Daniel Sango
Dorothy Kirkcaldie Bowell
Christopher Melenhorst
Raphael Canty
Samuel Gard
Nancy Ciara Griffiths
Ilan Rosen
Misa Murphy More!
Daisy Elizabeth Feller Stand Up!
Alexander Guerin More!
Grace Kang
Alex McFadden
Ririka Fujimoto
Adelaide Greig
Lucy Birch
Bridie Cochrane-Holley
Ankita Panjratan
Russell Wong
Danielle Thorman
Jessica Miller
Molly Willmott
Emma Fazzino
Elizabeth Tembo
Annette Jacobsen
Rajan DOMINIC Roque
ILAGAN
Elizabeth Vu
Ru Bee Chung
Rachel Carey
Beiwei Lin
Janina Gissela Chuchuca Cely Stand Up!
Olive Gole More!
Ayushi Mahajan
Tessa Campisi
Julia Harrison
Jeremy Gibson
Wunambi Connor
Paris Mordecai
Olivia
Serena Rae Thompson

Stand Up!
More!
Stand Up!
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Left Focus
More!

Stand Up!
More!
Stand Up!
Left Focus
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Biggest Blackest Ticket
Biggest Blackest Ticket
Biggest Blackest Ticke

Indigenous Committee
Indigenous Committee
National Union of Students Delegate
National Union of Students Delegate
National Union of Students Delegate
National Union of Students Delegate
National Union of Students Delegate
National Union of Students Delegate
National Union of Students Delegate
People of Colour Committee
People of Colour Committee
People of Colour Committee
People of Colour Committee
People of Colour Committee
People of Colour Committee
People of Colour Committee
Queer Committee
Queer Committee
Queer Committee
Queer Committee
Queer Committee
Queer Committee
Queer Committee
Victorian College of the Arts General
Committee Member
Victorian College of the Arts General
Committee Member
Victorian College of the Arts General
Committee Member
Victorian College of the Arts General
Committee Member
Victorian College of the Arts General
Committee Member
Victorian College of the Arts General
Committee Member
Victorian College of the Arts General
Committee Member
Welfare Committee
Welfare Committee
Welfare Committee
Welfare Committee
Welfare Committee
Welfare Committee
Welfare Committee

Yarramun Grace Conole
Ethan Taylor
Melinda Suter
Ella Shi
Shania Khan
Daniel Beratis
Alice Smith
James Power
Nick Reich
Taha Noman
Julie Ja
Ei Pyae Pyae Phyo
Farah Khairat
Abhijit Taleppadi
Hannah Li
Yaameen Al-Muttaqi
Ankita Panjratan
Abhijit Taleppadi
Kath Lloyd
Ru Bee Chung
Raph Canty
Jeremy O'Keeffe
Natasha Charmaine Manawadu More!
Chris King
Xavier Da Costa

Eleanor Kirk
Sebastian Klarica

Annabelle Ots
Jennifer Ciliberto

Michael Norris
Jessica Miller
Beiwei Lin
Nicholas Wright
Andrew Tan
Joshua Mills
Nistha Kumar
Stephanie Kee

Biggest Blackest Ticke
Biggest Blackest Ticket
Stand Up!
More!
Stand Up!
More!
Stand Up!
More!
Left Focus
Stand Up!
More!
Stand Up!
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Stand Up!
Stand Up!
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Stand Up!
More!
Stand Up!
More!
Stand Up!

More!

Choice

More!

More!

More!
More!

More!
Stand Up!
More!
Stand Up!
More!
Stand Up!
More!
Stand Up

A complete record of counting will be provided in an appendix to come.

# Declaration 

I hereby declare that the 2017 University of Melbourne Annual Student Election was conducted and administered with impartiality by myself and the directors and staff of Above Quota Elections Pty Ltd.

Jaimie Adam
Returning Officer 29 October 2017.

