

AUSA Board Election FAQs

- **What is the election?**
 - The election is for the 10 Student Elected Directors on the peak decision-making body at AUSA, the AUSA Board.

- **How does it work?**
 - Nominations were open in March. All students will now have the opportunity to vote for their preferred candidates using the voting platform on the AUSA website. When voting is open from 4-8 May, students can log in with their Adelaide Uni SSO to access the ballot form.

- **What are the positions?**
 - There are 10 general Student Elected Director positions. All of the candidates are competing for 1 of these 10 equal positions.

- **How long does the election run for?**
 - Voting is open from 9am Monday 4 May – 4pm Friday 8 May. This is the period when you are most likely to see election activity on campus, but technically the election already started back in March when nominations opened.

- **How long are the elected in the positions for?**
 - There are 5 vacancies for positions with terms ending on 30 November 2027, and 5 vacancies for positions with terms ending on 30 November 2028. The term lengths will be allocated depending on who received the highest number of votes and their preference for a longer or shorter term.

- **Why does this happen?**
 - In future years elections for the Board will be run in Semester 2, but because it's the first year they are being held early. This means the term length of the elected candidates will be for an extra 6-months each. Some term lengths go for multiple years to ensure that there is continuity of Board Members each year as well as fresh opportunities for newcomers.

- **What do AUSA Board Directors actually do?**
 - The 10 Student Elected Directors will join the 3 existing non-student directors on the Board. These Board directors are all collectively responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the Association and have a responsibility to ensure that these decisions are made in the best interests of the members (the students).

- **Who benefits from this?**
 - Having the peak-decision making body at AUSA be made up of a majority of students ensures that it is being student driven and genuinely by students, for students. It ensures that students are involved in the most important decisions for AUSA's activities, including the organisational strategy, setting the budget, and the overall governance.

- **What can I do if I don't like who was voted in?**
 - The best way to make sure that your student Board reflects your values and preferences is to make sure you vote. You can get to know the candidates ahead of time by reading their personal statements at <https://ausa.adelaide.edu.au/elections> and keeping an eye out on campus for more election material and if they're out campaigning on campus during voting week.

- **How can I get more involved?**
 - There are lots of ways to get involved with student leadership and decision making through AUSA and the University. AUSA has a range of volunteer programs as well as the Clubs and Societies, contributing articles to On Dit, and the Student Experience Director Program.

- **Can I contact Board members directly, or do I treat the board as a whole?**
 - Once the elections are complete the Board Member contact list will be put the website.

- **Will the Board have a physical presence on campus?**
 - The Boards of the legacy student associations had office spaces at the North Terrace campuses and it's likely that this space will continue to be allocated for the AUSA Board.

- **How do I vote?**
 - From 9am Monday 4 May you can log on to the AUSA website using your Adelaide University credentials and vote from the elections page. You can vote any time of day from any device with a web browser and internet connection. You vote by ranking your preferred candidates starting at 1 (top preference). You may put as many preferences as you want, but to get the full impact of your vote you are encouraged to preference at least 10 candidates. Voting closes at 4pm Friday 8 May.

- **Can I change my vote?**
 - Once you have submitted your vote it cannot be changed.
- **Do I have to vote?**
 - Nope. Voting is strongly encouraged, but it is not compulsory.
- **What happens if I vote?**
 - You get the satisfaction of having your say in the first ever election of the AUSA Board! Your preferences will count towards electing the student leaders that will guide AUSA's future and first couple of years of operation.
- **What happens if I don't vote?**
 - No one will know whether you voted or not, but you're more likely to be dissatisfied with the outcome if you don't vote.
- **How can I learn more about specific nominees?**
 - Candidates were invited to submit a personal statement that you can read at <https://ausaadelaide.edu.au/elections> (you need to be logged in to see the link to the Candidate List). This statement is your first impression of the candidates and will also be visible at the time of voting. Candidates may also launch campaigns to promote themselves so you might see them around campuses or on social media.
- **What's the difference between the AUSA Board and SRC (Student Representative Council)?**
 - The AUSA Board is the peak decision-making committee of AUSA and is primarily concerned with governance and the overall strategic direction of the Association. The SRC is currently in development and will be a separately constituted organisation that will be separately elected and run by a different group of students to the Board. The primary focus of the SRC is representing the student body on issues impacting students at the University and nationally through advocacy and activism. Elections for the SRC are expected to take place in Semester 2.
- **What happens to the Transition Board once new Board members have been elected?**
 - The Transition Board's term ends on 30 May, with the newly elected Board Members taking office from 1 June.

- **How can I follow along with the progress of elections?**
 - Updates relating to the candidate list will be live on the AUSA website from now until the close of nominations. Keep an eye out for the activity of candidates on campus and don't be afraid to approach them for a chat about why you might choose to vote for them.

- **I saw a candidate do something I think is a breach of the rules, how do I make a complaint?**
 - Any student or person who is directly affected by the conduct complained of is allowed to make a complaint. Your first port of call is to check the Election Regulations to check if it's a breach and then submit the information via the specified complaints form. Both things can be found at <https://ausadelaide.com.au/elections>.