

Frequently asked questions – Elected Student Member of Council

This information explains eligibility, nominations, candidate requirements, Council member expectations, voting and support for Council elections.

Am I eligible to nominate?

To be eligible for nomination as a student member of the Council, you must be listed on the relevant University student roll at the close of the nomination period. You are eligible to nominate if you:

- (a) are enrolled* in a University course with a duration of at least one year, and
- (b) are not employed by the University on either a continuing (permanent) or fixed-term basis.

*A student is enrolled in a course once they complete enrolment in all units in their first study period. They remain enrolled until they complete the course, take a leave of absence, withdraw from the course, are deemed to have abandoned the course, or are excluded or expelled from the University.

The Returning Officer may reject ineligible or incomplete nominations.

I am graduating at the end of this year or mid-way through next year. Am I eligible to nominate?

No. You must intend **to remain enrolled for the full two-year term of office** to be eligible to nominate.

How do I nominate?

An email will be sent to eligible students notifying them about the nomination poll and inviting them to nominate. The email will contain a personal auto-sign-in link to the nomination poll.

Nominations must be supported by two students listed on the same University student roll as you (*as defined above under Am I eligible to nominate?*). In other words, two currently enrolled students must support your nomination.

A candidate cannot support their own nomination.

What are the requirements for the candidate statement and photo?

To support your nomination, you may provide a statement of not more than 150 words outlining why you are nominating and what you can bring to the student member role.

Your candidate statement must not include offensive, defamatory or inappropriate content that would breach the [University Code of Conduct](#).

You may wish to include, for example, the following particulars:

- your full name;
- the name of the course you are enrolled in;
- qualifications and experience; and
- positions or offices held at any time with public bodies, clubs and institutions (including University clubs and societies) with dates of tenure.

Providing a photo to support your nomination is not compulsory, although most nominees include them.

If your candidate statement (or photo) contains any inappropriate content or your statement is longer than 150 words, the Returning Officer reserves the right to request that it be edited.

What sort of time commitment does this role need?

The time commitment for a Council member is estimated at a minimum of 40 hours per calendar year. There will be an additional time commitment should you also be appointed to a subcommittee of Council.

Council meetings are conducted not less than five times each year, and meetings may be scheduled at any of the University's campus locations or via videoconference in special circumstances.

A Council meeting may run for a minimum of three hours.

What will be required of me as a member of Council?

As the Student Member of Council, you will be expected to attend meetings, read the meeting papers, be prepared to discuss items at the meetings and share your perspective as a student at Southern Cross University.

Will I receive any formal recognition should I be successfully elected to Council?

If you are elected to Council and attend at least 70% of meetings during a calendar year, you will receive a formal letter from the Chancellor acknowledging your contributions to the deliberations of Council.

Will I be paid?

No. All Council member roles are voluntary and are not remunerated. However, reasonable costs associated with Council duties are met by the University.

Who can vote?

Students who are eligible to vote will receive an email containing a link and instructions on how to access the electronic ballot during the voting period.

Voting is not compulsory.

How are the votes counted and confidentiality?

Council elections are conducted via a secret ballot using the optional preferential system in accordance with the [Council Membership Rule](#).

The University has appointed an external online voting and election service provider (BigPulse) to conduct the nomination process and subsequent election.

Contact us

If you have any other questions about the elections, please contact the Returning Officer.

E: governance.services@scu.edu.au