

Returning Officer report on Probity Officers report on ANUSA election 2016

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Introduction

2016 did indeed represent a major change in ANUSA elections. The major changes included:

- A Probity team creating a new approach under the revised framework from the regulations working group
- implementation of the MSL system for voting.

I would like to congratulate the Sam Duncan, General Secretary, ANUSA and the members of the Probity Team:

- Joel Baker
- Eben Leifer
- Zac Rayson
- Michael Turvey
- Sharon Wong

These individuals provided many hours and extremely valuable advice and insights. Their communication with candidates was exemplary and they remained consistently thoughtful through trying times.

Recommendation

I strongly support all the recommendations in the probity report.

Items

1. Woroni Amplify Article

This issue raised a very important issue. The potential for candidates to be supported in a way that may give unfair advantage to some over others through Woroni or other non-campaigners in terms of the regulations.

Of note that the ANUSM constitution refers to the Australian Press Council principles, but that would not be sufficient to ensure equitable treatment of candidates in terms of giving visibility to the ANU student population.

It may be worth exploring in future elections a process where there is a conversation with the Editor in Chief of Woroni the issue of election coverage of candidates when the call for nominations occurs.

Agree with the suggestions for “implementing changes” and “clarifying punishments”.

2. Music in Union Court

Agree with the suggestions for “implementing changes”.

3. Shark Cage Stalkerspace Content

This was quite a complex issue. Where a group that registers for the election has a pre-existing identity managing the communication activities will inevitably be problematic. In this case the behaviour of members online were not consistent with the standard expected of any student, let alone those participating in an election.

It was a very regrettable set of incidents.

I strongly support the Probity Team's statements and conclusion that there are no changes recommended.

4. Amplify Post concerning Connect policy

Agree with the recommendations.

5. Online Harassment by Arthur Bi

This was also a very complex issue. The comments were very disappointing and did not reflect the standard of student behaviour that is expected.

Agree with the recommendations.

6. Zambrero's Chats

Agree no actions/changes required.

7. Nick's Pizza Adventure

I am delighted that Nick enjoyed the pizza.

Agree no actions/changes required.

8. Amplify Posters Torn Down

Agree no actions/changes required.