

Subject:	Campaigning During RACS Elections	Ref. No.	GDL-1111
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PURPOSE

The following guidelines are for Fellows and Specialty Societies regarding campaigning for election to Council, Aotearoa NZ National Committee or State or Territory Committees.

SCOPE

The guidelines are for Fellows and Specialty Societies.

OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND

The RACS Constitution and policies make no reference to election campaigning either by candidates or by others on their behalf.

The following guidelines were approved by the Governance and Advocacy Committee at their October 2017 meeting, reconfirmed by the Board of Council in May 2019 and Council Executive in July 2022.

GUIDELINES

1. Fellows who have nominated for election to Council, Aotearoa NZ National Committee or State or Territory Committees are free to promote themselves to voters provided it is in a way that is not contrary to the College's Constitution (i.e. is conduct unbecoming of Fellows or prejudicial to the interests of the College) or Code of Conduct (i.e. directly or indirectly attempts to reduce the reputation or standing of surgical colleagues). Please also refer to the [RACS Social Media Policy](#)
2. All candidates for election have equal opportunity to promote themselves via their own and their supporters' statements which are emailed to voters and posted on the website as part of the election process.
3. All candidates and their supporters use a standard template for their statements.
4. RACS publicises and promotes engagement in the election on the website, in Surgical News, Fax Mentis, Council Highlights and AoNZ, State and Territory Newsletters. Voters are provided with candidates' names listed alphabetically, their specialty, region and whether they are standing for re-election.
5. Specialty Societies are independent organisations accountable to their members. They may promote or permit promotion of a candidate or candidates as their leadership see fit. However, as candidates are Fellows of the College it is expected that such promotion
 - is not unbecoming of Fellows or prejudicial to the interests of RACS
 - does not directly or indirectly attempt to reduce the reputation or standing of surgical colleagues.

These guidelines will be publicised and provided to candidates.

Breach of these guidelines may be referred to the College's Professional Conduct Committee.

RELATED RACS DOCUMENTS

Code of Conduct

REVIEW

These guidelines will be reviewed every three years or as necessary.

Approval Council

Approved By:	Chief Executive Officer	Original Issue:	Oct 2017
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