

C&S POLITICAL ATTENDANCE AT TUSA SSAF FUNDED EVENTS

Responsible Officer:	Clubs & Societies Officer
Approved By:	Student Engagement & Development Manager & TUSA President
Approval Date:	January 2024
Review Date:	December 2025

1. Purpose and Scope

The Tasmanian University Student Association (TUSA) is committed to ensuring all Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF) funded initiatives, which may include but are not limited to events, programs, and activities, provide a safe, positive, and comfortable environment for enrolled UTAS students. This procedure seeks to outline and define who can and cannot attend SSAF funded initiatives supported by the TUSA.

This procedure applies to all TUSA Clubs & Societies attending SSAF funded initiatives supported by the TUSA.

2. Key Requirements

2.1. Overview

Our political perspective as an organisation is one which is non-partisan yet also recognises the inherent political nature of the environment in which we work.

TUSA runs its SSAF funded events throughout the year with the primary aim of providing their student-led clubs & societies a positive avenue to promote their club/society to the student body.

TUSA recognises that for some political clubs & societies it would be beneficial to the individual club/society to have prominent political figures in attendance at their events, however it should also be noted these political clubs & societies are not affiliated with any political parties, ensuring compliance as outlined under the SSAF legislation.

The objectives of this procedure are to:

- a. clearly set out to political clubs & societies the TUSA's guidelines around political candidates and politicians attending SSAF funded initiatives supported by the TUSA.
- b. ensure SSAF funding is not used to support a political party, or to support the election of a person to a Commonwealth or State or Territory Parliament or local Government body.
- c. ensure SSAF funding is not used to support political campaigns and activities on campus, which includes the use of university facilities and spaces, which may result in serious consequences for TUSA and the University of Tasmania due to breaching SSAF legislation.

2.2 Guidelines

(1) SSAF states a higher education provider must not spend an amount paid to the provider as a *student services and amenities fee to support:

- (a) a political party; or
- (b) the election of a person as a member of:
 - (i) the legislature of the Commonwealth, a State, or a Territory; or
 - (ii) a local government body.

(2) If a higher education provider pays a person or organisation an amount paid to the provider as a *student services and amenities fee, the provider must make the payment on the condition that none of the payment is to be spent by the person or organisation to support:

- (a) a political party; or
- (b) the election of a person as a member of:
 - (i) the legislature of the Commonwealth, a State, or a Territory; or
 - (ii) a local government body.

TUSA defines political as relating to the government or public affairs of a country.

2.3 SSAF funded events run by Clubs & Societies that TUSA can support

- a. Education activities are acceptable so long as such activities are directly focused on increasing understanding of the electoral process or encouraging participation in that process. Such activities must be conducted in a non-partisan manner and may not focus on a particular candidate or party.

- b. Must be in alignment with the constitution of the club.

2.4 Non SSAF Funded Initiatives

These could include events such as Student Life Expo where attendance is by invitation and payment of a registration fee.

3. Responsibilities

TUSA community members must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and TUSA governance instruments.

- a. Once provided with a TUSA Club or Society banner, prominently display signage reflecting you are an affiliated TUSA club/society and ensuring students can identify your club/society as such and not an extension of a political party.
- b. No signage / banners / promotional materials supporting politicians, political candidates, or politically based activities.
- c. Club/society executive committees on stall must be able to talk to aims and objectives of club/society as per their constitution and to the initiatives of their club/society.
- d. Discussion must focus on education rather than direct political campaigns for candidates/politicians or political activities.
- e. Club/society executive committees must ensure that any SSAF funding obtained via Clubs & Societies grants must comply with part 2.1 b. & c.
- f. Political candidates will not be allowed to attend TUSA SSAF Funded events without expressly being provided with written permission from the TUSA Executive.

For the purpose of this procedure, TUSA defines a political candidate as a person who is seeking election, or is nominated for election in a political party, or to a Commonwealth or State or Territory Parliament or local Government body, as registered with either the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, & any other state or territory electoral commission, or Australian Electoral Commission.

3.1 Non-compliance

It is the Clubs/Society's responsibility to comply with all guidelines in 2.2.

Non-compliance could result in:

- i. Disaffiliation from the TUSA
- ii. Immediate removal from events
- iii. Ineligibility to apply for grants
- iv. Ineligibility to attend SSAF funded initiatives (e.g. C&S Day)

4. Relevant Documentation

TUSA community members are encouraged to read this procedure in conjunction with other relevant documentation, as detailed below:

TUSA governance instruments:

- [TUSA Code of Conduct](#)
- [UTAS SSAF Guidelines](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Education SSAF legislation](#)
- [Australian Government Student Services and Amenities Fee Fact Sheet, 2024](#)
- [SSAF Administration Guidelines 2012](#)
- [Higher Education Legislation Amendment \(Student Services and Amenities\) Act 2011](#)

5. Review

This procedure will be reviewed annually, or as needed. Any amendments deemed necessary will be approved by the TUSA General Manager.

6. Versioning

TITLE	PARA. AMENDED	APPROVAL DATE
C&S Political Attendance at TUSA SSAF Funded Events	New document	January 2024