



Motion Regarding Poll Clerks

Whereas, Article 20 of the SSMU By-law Book I on Election and Referenda Regulations is out of date and doesn't reflect the heavy usage of the Online Voting System (OVS);

Whereas, polling stations are rarely used by students but the by-law specifies that there needs to be at least 3 hours of polling on each week day of the polling period;

Whereas, approximately \$700 of the HR budget for elections is dedicated to fulfilling these requires;

Whereas, polling stations are still a good publicity tool and should be used in moderation;

Resolved, the SSMU Legislative Council approve the changes below to Article 20 of SSMU By-law Book I.

Moved by:

Josh Redel, President
Katherine Larson, Music Representative



SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGES

Currently, Article 20 of the SSMU By-law Book I1 on Election and Referenda Regulations is out of date and doesn't reflect the heavy usage of the Online Voting System (OVS). It specifies that there must be 2 poll clerks at each polling station, which must be set up for at least 5 hours per week day during the polling period. This is a paid position, and we currently have 8 on our roster.

While the polling stations serve as a good publicity and visibility tool during elections and referendum, they are rarely used. In Fall 2012 during the First Year Council elections, only 2 people voted at a station; in the Fall 2012 referendum, our data shows that only five people have voted at a station, with three of them on the same day. However, polling stations are useful as sometimes students would approach our table and ask us what's going on.

Regardless of the low usage of polling stations, we believe that polling stations should still be set up during the electoral period, but perhaps with fewer required hours. We believe that there should be 2 poll clerks to ensure the secrecy and neutrality of the vote, but propose



changing the requirement to at least five hours over the electoral period.

CURRENT

Part V: Polling, Scrutineering, Voting and Counting

Article 18 – Polling

18.1 Elections SSMU shall hire at least two (2) poll clerks for each polling station

18.1.1 A list with the names of poll clerks and polling stations for any election or referendum shall be provided upon request to candidates and referendum committees. Candidates and chairs of referendum committees are entitled to petition the CEO for the removal, for cause, of any poll clerk.

18.1.2 The CEO's decision regarding the removal of any poll clerk shall be final.

18.2 Each poll clerk is responsible for the conduct of their poll and is responsible for the following:

18.2.1 Removing candidates' election or committees' referendum campaign materials from within 10 feet and general view of the polling station;

18.2.2 Informing candidates or committee members that they are not permitted to loiter in the general area of a polling station except to cast their ballots;

18.2.3 Ensuring the secrecy of the vote;

18.2.4 Taking steps (including, if necessary, the refusal to allow more than a single voter at a time at or near the polling station) to prevent disorderly conduct at or near the polling station, particularly if such conduct is of a nature which may induce any voter to vote in a particular way;

18.2.5 Reporting any breaches of or irregularities regarding the above to the CEO immediately.

18.3 Should the CEO receive any complaints concerning the way in which a poll is being conducted, s/he shall immediately take steps to remedy the situation as s/he deems appropriate.

18.4 Poll clerks disobeying rules are subject to immediate removal without compensation by the CEO.

Article 20 – Voting

20.1 All voting shall be conducted using Election SSMU's Online Voting System (OVS).

20.1.1 Only the CEO and DCEO shall have access to the administrative functions of OVS.



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20.1.2 Administrative passwords to OVS shall be changed at the beginning of each electoral period.

20.1.3 The CEO shall upload the official ballot to the OVS in the presence of no less than one other Elections SSMU official.

20.2 In the event that OVS is not operational during all or part of an electoral period, Elections SSMU shall make paper ballots available to all eligible electors. A paper ballot may also be made available to any eligible voter who does not have access to the OVS.

20.2.1 The CEO will ensure that a secure system is in place which ensures that each eligible elector may vote once and only once, and that only Elections Officers have access to the ballots.

20.2.2 All paper ballots shall be cast in the presence of at least one electoral officer and one other Elections SSMU staff member (poll clerk or electoral officer).

20.2.3 Under no circumstances may a student be allowed to cast a paper ballot without a student

identification card. No appeals on this matter will be considered.

20.3 Poll stations shall be open for at least three hours on each week day during the voting period.

20.3.1 An elector may vote at any open poll during an election or referendum.

20.3.2 Each qualified elector wishing to vote must do so in person. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

20.3.3 Elections SSMU shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that polls are held in a variety of locations across campus and in residences in order to promote voting by the entire membership of the Society.

20.3.4 All eligible voters will be informed of the date, time and location of polls by electronic mail no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the opening of the first poll.

20.3.5 Polls whose locations have not been made public at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance shall be deemed unofficial and all ballots cast at an unofficial poll will be null and void unless all candidates or committees involved agree otherwise before the opening of the poll concerned.

20.3.6 At least one polling station with wheelchair access must be accessible to persons with physical, visual or auditory disabilities. Said station must have sufficient facilities to ensure that all members of the Society may be able to vote.

20.3.7 At the time designated by Elections SSMU for the closing of any poll, electors who are then waiting in line may vote. No elector shall thereafter be admitted to the waiting line.

20.3.8 All ballots, referendum questions, plebiscite questions and instructions shall be available in English and French at all polling stations.

20.4 Voting shall be open for seven (7) consecutive days. 20.5 Results are to be announced by Elections SSMU at a pre-established time and place.

PROPOSED



Article 20 – Voting

20.1 All voting shall be conducted using Election SSMU's Online Voting System (OVS).

20.1.1 Only the CEO and DCEO shall have access to the administrative functions of OVS.

20.1.2 Administrative passwords to OVS shall be changed at the beginning of each electoral period.

20.1.3 The CEO shall upload the official ballot to the OVS in the presence of no less than one other Elections SSMU official.

20.2 In the event that OVS is not operational during all or part of an electoral period, Elections SSMU shall make paper ballots available to all eligible electors.

20.2.1 The CEO will ensure that a secure system is in place which ensures that each eligible elector may vote once and only once, and that only Elections Officers have access to the ballots.

20.2.2 All paper ballots shall be cast in the presence of at least one electoral officer and one other Elections SSMU staff member (poll clerk or electoral officer).

20.2.3 Under no circumstances may a student be allowed to cast a paper ballot without a student identification card. No appeals on this matter will be considered.

20.2.4 Elections SSMU must ensure that polling stations are available on campus for at least three hours on each week day when paper ballots are used. Elections SSMU shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that polls are held in a variety of locations across campus and in residences in order to promote voting by the entire membership of the Society. At least one polling station with wheelchair access must be accessible to persons with physical, visual or auditory disabilities. Said station must have sufficient facilities to ensure that all members of the Society may be able to vote.

20.2.5 All eligible voters will be informed of the date, time and location of polls by electronic mail no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the opening of the first poll.

20.2.6 Polls whose locations have not been made public at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance shall be deemed unofficial and all ballots cast at an unofficial poll will be null and void unless all candidates or committees involved agree otherwise before the opening of the poll concerned.

20.2.7 Each qualified elector wishing to vote at a polling station must do so in person. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

20.3 Poll stations shall be open for at least five hours during the voting period.

20.3.1 An elector may vote at any open poll during an election or referendum, on the computer provided by Elections SSMU.

20.3.3 Elections SSMU shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that polls are held in a variety of locations across campus and in residences in order to promote voting by the entire membership of the Society.



20.3.4 At least one polling station with wheelchair access must be accessible to persons with physical, visual or auditory disabilities. Said station must have sufficient facilities to ensure that all members of the Society may be able to vote.

20.3.5 All ballots, referendum questions, plebiscite questions and instructions shall be available in English and French at all polling stations.

20.4 Voting shall be open for seven (7) consecutive days.

20.5 Results are to be announced by Elections SSMU at a pre-established time and place.

FOR APPROVAL