

Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda

Updated as of 2025-01-16





Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-01: INTERPRETATION

Part I: Application

Internal Regulations of Governance-01 shall apply to the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda.

Part II: Definitions

The following terms used in the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda shall have the same definitions as those given to the same terms used in the Constitution.

- a. “Board of Directors”
- b. “Chief Electoral Officer”
- c. “Constitution”
- d. “Councillor”
- e. “Executive Committee”
- f. “General Assembly”
- g. “General Manager”
- h. “Internal Regulation” (see definition of “By-Laws”)
- i. “Judicial Board”
- j. “Legislative Council”
- k. “Member”
- l. “Nominating Committee”
- m. “Officer”
- n. “Referendum”
- o. “Simple Majority”
- p. “Society” and “SSMU”
- q. “Speaker”

The following terms used in the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda shall have the same definitions as those given to the same terms used in the Internal Regulations of Governance.

- r. “Ancillary Fee”
- s. “Base Fee”
- t. “Campaigning”



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- u. “Club”
- v. “Day”
- w. “Election”
- x. “Elections SSMU”
- y. “Electoral Officer”
- z. “External Body”
- aa. “Fee”
- bb. “Governance Documents”
- cc. “Independent Student Group”
- dd. “Interim Provision”
- ee. “Senate”
- ff. “Senate Caucus”
- gg. “Service”
- hh. “Society Staff”
- ii. “Student Association”
- jj. “University”

The following terms used in the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda shall have the same definitions as those given to the same terms used in the Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy.

- kk. “Federation”

In the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda, unless otherwise indicated:

- ll. “**Campaign Committee**” shall mean the organized group of individuals responsible for campaigning for a position or candidate.
- mm. “**Campaign Period**” shall mean the duration of time for which Elections SSMU has designated for campaigning;
- nn. “**Censure**” shall mean a Public Notice disseminated by Elections SSMU in response to a campaign infraction, and which describes the infraction and explains why it was issued;
- oo. “**Deputy Electoral Officer**” shall mean the person appointed by the Society, in accordance with the Internal Regulations, who shall report to the Chief Electoral Officer and be responsible for the administration of the Society’s Elections and Referenda;
- pp. “**Elected Undergraduate Senator**” shall mean an Undergraduate Senator who is elected in that capacity to represent their Student Association and shall not hold their Senate seat ex officio of another office;
- qq. “**Elections Coordinator**” shall mean the person(s) appointed by the Society to assist the Chief Electoral Officer and the Deputy Electoral Officer in the administration of the Society’s Elections and Referenda;



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- rr. **“Electoral Period”** shall include, but is not limited to, Nomination Periods, Campaign Periods, Referendum periods, debates, and Polling Periods;
- ss. **“External Bodies”** shall refer to any entity outside the scope of the University or SSMU.
- tt. **“First Year Council”** shall refer to the elected body of the Society that represents all first year students;
- uu. **“Nomination Period”** shall mean the duration of time that Elections SSMU designates for the collection of nomination signatures for Election;
- vv. **“Pensketch”** shall mean a brief outline of the platform of a candidate for Election;
- ww. **“Polling Period”** shall mean the duration of time that Elections SSMU designates for the casting of votes in an Election;
- xx. **“Polling Station”** shall mean a place established by Elections SSMU for Members to cast their votes in an Election;
- yy. **“Public Notice”** shall mean a written notice that is sent to all Members by electronic means;
- zz. **“SSMUnion”** shall mean the labour union of employees of the Student’s Society of McGill University (SSMU), and
- aaa. **“Undergraduate Senator”** shall include the Elected Undergraduate Senators, the Vice-President (University Affairs) and the Undergraduate Representative to the Board of Governors.



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INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-02: GENERAL

1. Creation of the Independent Agency - Elections SSMU

1.1. General

Elections and Referenda shall be conducted in accordance with the Governance Documents of the Society. The independent body responsible for conducting Elections and Referenda shall be Elections SSMU.

1.2. Administration

Elections SSMU shall be the sole body to administer the Society's Elections and Referenda. The Chief Electoral Officer shall oversee Elections SSMU.

2. Composition

2.1. Electoral Officers

Elections SSMU shall be composed of the following Electoral Officers:

- a. the Chief Electoral Officer;
- b. the Deputy Electoral Officer; and
- c. up to two (2) Elections Coordinators.

2.2. Signing Officers

The signing officers of Elections SSMU shall be the Chief Electoral Officer and the Deputy Electoral Officer. Signing officers are responsible for authorizing all Elections SSMU materials and documents in accordance with the Internal Regulations of Finances.

2.3. Restrictions

No Electoral Officer may be:

- a. a member of the Legislative Council (including the Speaker), an Officer, a member of the Judicial Board, or a member of the Senate Caucus;



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- b. a former member of the Legislative Council or a former Officer;
- c. a Councillor or Executive of a Student Association;
- d. a member of Society Staff in any other capacity;
- e. a member of the editorial staff of any campus media;
- f. a candidate or member of a campaign committee;

2.4. Appointment

The Electoral Officers shall be a hired position through an application process, reporting to the Governance Manager.

2.5. Precedence

In the event of a contradiction between the decisions of the Electoral Officers, the ruling and interpretation of the Chief Electoral Officer shall prevail over those of other Electoral Officers. A decision by the Chief Electoral Officer shall be considered binding, subject only to appeal to the Judicial Board. All decisions must be accompanied with reasoning and must be documented for future reference.

3. Suspension from Office or Censure

3.1. Procedure

Any Electoral Officer may be suspended from office by way of a resolution passed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Legislative Council for impropriety, violation of the Governance Documents, delinquency of duties, failure to act impartially, or misappropriation of Society funds. If approved by the Legislative Council, suspension from office must be ratified by the Board of Directors.

The Legislative Council shall additionally reserve the right to Censure an Electoral Officer by a way of a motion passed by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the Legislative Council.

3.2. Notification

The Electoral Officer against whom a request for suspension from office is directed shall be notified of the place, the time, and the date of the meeting of the Legislative Council called to suspend them within one (1) week of said meeting. Such Electoral Officer shall have the right to attend and to address the meeting or, in a written statement read by the Speaker, to put forth the reasons why such Electoral Officer opposes the proposed suspension from office.



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4. Mandate

4.1. Elections

Elections for the following positions shall be conducted under the auspices of Elections SSMU:

- a. the Officers;
- b. the executive members of the First Year Council;
- c. the two (2) Councillors representing the Society's Clubs;
- d. the one (1) Councillor representing the Society's Services; and
- e. any position requiring special Election provided for in the Governance Documents or those which are assigned to Elections SSMU by the Legislative Council.

4.2. Referenda

Elections SSMU shall administer the following Referenda:

- a. the Fall Referendum, which shall take place during the fall academic semester;
- b. the Winter Referendum, which shall take place during the winter academic semester; and
- c. any other special Referenda provided for in the Governance Documents or those which are assigned to Elections SSMU by the Legislative Council.

4.3. General Assembly

The Chief Electoral Officer shall conduct the online ratification of General Assembly motions, in accordance with the Constitution.

4.4. Interim Provisions

During an Election or Referendum, the Chief Electoral Officer may define and enforce additional rules, or change existing rules, if it is necessary for the administration of Elections and Referenda or to uphold the spirit of a fair campaign. All additional rules must be communicated to all candidates and referendum committees in writing. No candidate or Referendum committee may be subject to Censure or sanction for violation of any additional rule or rule change defined and enforced by the CEO until twenty-four (24) hours after such written communication to all candidates and referendum committees has been issued. Any such interim provision shall be applicable for one Election and/or Referendum Cycle and requires the approval of the Legislative Council.



5. Legislative Council and Elections SSMU

5.1. Reports to the Legislative Council

At the request of the Legislative Council, the Chief Electoral Officer shall report to the Legislative Council on any matters pertaining to Elections, Referenda, and their conduct. Additionally, the Chief Electoral Office shall provide a report to the Legislative Council at the end of each academic year summarizing all activities related to Elections and Referenda. The Chief Electoral Officer shall also report to the Legislative Council and the Board of Directors in confidential session after each semester to disclose all demerits accrued by all candidates and campaign committees during electoral periods.

5.2. Transmission of Motions to Elections SSMU

The Speaker shall transmit all motions pertaining to Elections and Referenda to Elections SSMU no less than seven (7) days prior to the opening of polls. Any motion of the Legislative Council pertaining to Elections or Referenda that is not transmitted to Elections SSMU seven (7) or more days prior to the opening of polls shall be deemed spent and of no force or effect unless this requirement is waived by the Chief Electoral Officer.

6. Elections Periods

6.1. Setting of Electoral Periods

The Chief Electoral Officer shall submit the electoral dates for Elections and Referenda outlined in the Internal Regulations for approval by the Legislative Council. Provisional electoral dates for the following year shall be submitted to the Legislative Council before the end of the academic year. Finalized dates for Elections and Referenda occurring in the fall academic semester shall be determined before the first (1st) of October each year. Finalized dates for Elections and Referenda occurring in the winter academic semester shall be determined by the last meeting of the Legislative Council of the fall academic semester.

6.2. Referendum Periods

Referenda are regularly held during the periods from the fifteenth (15th) of February to the thirty-first (31st) of March and from the fifteenth (15th) of October to the tenth (10th) of November.



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6.3. Special Referendum Periods

The Legislative Council may define special Referendum periods by way of a resolution passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority. Such periods must occur between ~~before~~ the first and last day of classes of the fall or winter academic semester.

6.4. Duration

The Electoral Periods shall consist of a Nomination Period that is at least ten (10) days, a Campaign Period of at least seven (7) days, and a Polling Period of at least three (3) consecutive days. The Campaign Period and Polling Period may only overlap after 4 days are allotted to solely the Campaign Period. Duration of the Campaigning Period may be changed at the CEO discretion provided that the minimal duration is provided. The required duration for the periods may be suspended by way of a resolution passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Legislative Council.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-03: ELECTIONS

1. Nominations and Candidacy

1.1. Extended Nomination Period

Where one or fewer Members nominate themselves as candidates for an elected position, nominations for the vacant position shall be extended by at least forty-eight (48) hours, twenty-four (24) of which shall be on a business day, regardless of the scheduled Campaign Period. Appropriate public notice must be made of the extended Nomination Period.

1.2. Meeting with the Incumbent

All Members wishing to stand for Election to become an Officer must make all reasonable efforts to meet with the incumbent Officer, or an alternative Officer at the discretion of Elections SSMU, to discuss the position and its responsibilities. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.



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1.3. Eligibility

All Members wishing to stand for Election shall provide proof that they were Members at the beginning of the Nomination Period.

1.4. Statement of Understanding

All Members wishing to stand for nomination shall submit alongside their nomination a statement of understanding, which states that:

- a. they have read and understood the Constitution, the Internal Regulations, and the electoral guidelines;
- b. should they be elected, violation of the Constitution or Internal Regulations is grounds for Censure or their removal from office;
- c. they understand that they may be subject to sanctions imposed by Elections SSMU; and
- d. they intend to remain a Member of the Society throughout their term in office.

1.5. Collection of Signatures

Nominations for Elections require signatures from the Members as follows:

- a. one hundred (100) signatures for nominations of Officers;
- b. the lesser of fifty (50) signatures or signatures from twenty-five percent (25%) of the respective constituency for Elected Undergraduate Senators; and
- c. Twenty-Five (25) signatures by other first year students for executive members of the First Year Council.

A signature for nominations shall only be valid if it is accompanied by a corresponding name, McGill student email, faculty, and program year. Members may nominate more than one (1) candidate for each position.

1.6. Limitations on Candidacies

Members may present themselves as candidates for only one (1) elected position within the Society in any given Electoral Period.

1.7. Withdrawals

Candidates may withdraw at any time by giving notice to Elections SSMU.



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1.8. Vacancies

If a non-Officer position is vacant after the extended Nomination Period or as a result of withdrawals, the Electoral Period shall carry on. To fill the position, the Legislative Council may call a by-election, fill the vacancy by appointment, or delegate the responsibilities to a sitting representative.

The Legislative Council may waive electoral period requirements and define exceptional electoral periods by way of a resolution passed by three-fourths (3/4) majority, when the replacement of an Officer is deemed urgent and essential for the proper operation of the SSMU.

1.9. Quorum

Quorum for Elections shall be fifteen percent (15%) of Members.

2. Information Meeting

2.1. General

Elections SSMU shall organize a mandatory information meeting for all candidates before the start of an Election's Campaign Period. The purpose of this meeting shall be to inform candidates about electoral regulations and of important times and dates.

2.2. Absence From Meeting

Absence from this meeting must be approved by the Chief Electoral Officer. Unapproved absences may be subject to sanction. All candidates absent from the meeting shall be held to the same standards of knowledge as those attending the meeting.

3. Candidates Debate

3.1. General

Elections SSMU shall organize and promote at least one debate for all Officer candidates. The purpose of this debate shall be to give Members an opportunity to ask questions to the candidates, and for candidates to make their views on matters related to SSMU known. The debate shall be held no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the beginning of the Polling Period. The debate shall occur in a location which may host at least all candidates and the Chief Electoral Officer, who will act as the moderator of the debate.



3.2. Broadcasting

Elections SSMU will broadcast debates using electronic live streaming.

3.3. Structure of Debate

All candidates shall be invited to attend the debate and Members will be given access to a form to submit questions in advance or during the recess. All debate shall be at least two (2) hours in length, with the ability for the Chief Electoral Officer to extend or shorten this time as necessary. The structure shall include in this order;

1. An opening statement by each candidate, outlining their campaign.
2. The Chief Electoral Officer, in consultation with the respective outgoing Executive Officer, will prepare one (1) question for all candidates to answer for each Executive role.
 - a. Each candidate will have two (2) minutes to respond.
3. A recess of fifteen (15) minutes at minimum occurring halfway through the scheduled time during which Members will be allowed to submit questions.
4. The Chief Electoral Officer will read the prepared questions as well as those questions posed by Members until the debate time has elapsed.

3.4. Rules of Debate

The rules of the debate shall be advertised at least two (2) days before the debate by the Elections Officers, who shall also distribute the rules to each candidate. Questions shall be submitted to the Elections SSMU, who will screen all questions and read aloud those which meet the criteria as outlined below;

- a. Questions asked at the debate may only come from the Chief Electoral Officer, current Executive Officers, SSMUnion, or the SSMU members.
- b. Questions which are offensive or contain irrelevant information as judged by the Chief Electoral Officer will be considered out of order.
 - i. Irrelevant information will include those questions not directly related to the SSMU and its operations.

Further rules shall include the following;

- c. All candidates will be given equal time to represent themselves and their campaign.
- d. All candidates shall be treated, and treat each other, with dignity and respect .
- e. No candidate shall speak unless called upon by the Chief Electoral Officer and shall not interrupt the speaking of other candidates.



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- f. Each candidate is solely responsible for uplifting and communicating their campaign and may not use their allotted time to disparage or make negative comments *ad hominem*¹ about other candidates.
- g. There shall be no use of language which can be deemed offensive or inciting/threatening violence as judged by the Chief Electoral Officer.
- h. Continued violations of the rules of debate may result in sanctions or the removal of the individual from the debate at the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer.

4. Campaign Committees

4.1. Formation of a Campaign

Each candidate shall be the Chair of their own Campaign. The candidate must submit the names and McGill student email of everyone in their campaign committee to the CEO before the start of the Campaign Period. All campaign committee individuals must be Members.

4.2. Candidate Subject to Sanction

All Campaigns are responsible for adhering to these Internal Regulations, the SSMU Constitution, and all SSMU Governance Documents. The candidate may be subject to sanctions due to violations of the Internal Regulations or any of the above-mentioned Documents.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-04: REFERENDA

1. Referendum Questions

1.1. General

Referenda may be initiated by the Legislative Council or by Members.

¹ Definition: Comments directed against a person rather than the position they are maintaining.



1.2. Legislative Council-Initiated Referendum Questions

The Legislative Council may initiate a Referendum question by way of a resolution. Any motion to place a question before the Society by the Legislative Council must be presented as a written motion signed by the number of Councillors stipulated in the Standing Rules, or where none exist, at least three (3) Councillors and distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting of the Legislative Council. If passed, it will be put to Members during the following Referendum period. The wording of a Referendum question must be approved by the Legislative Council fourteen (14) days prior to the opening of polls.

1.3. Student-Initiated Referendum Questions

Any Member may initiate a Referendum question by presenting a question to the Chief Electoral Officer who shall indicate to the Member as soon as possible whether the proposed question respects the requirements of the Internal Regulations. The Member must then collect on a petition, clearly stating the Referendum question at the top of each page, the signatures of one hundred (100) Members from at least four (4) different Faculties or Schools, with not more than thirty percent (30%) from any one faculty or school. All signatures must be collected in the academic year in which the Referendum is to be held. A signature shall only be valid if it is accompanied by a corresponding name, McGill student email, faculty, and program year. A Member may sign multiple petitions for Referendum questions. The Member shall submit the complete petition of signatures to the Chief Electoral Officer at least fourteen (14) days prior to the beginning of the Polling Period. The Chief Electoral Officer shall either approve or reject each Referendum question and those approved shall be forwarded to the Speaker within twenty-four (24) hours to circulate at the next Board of Directors meeting to review and provide feedback on if rejected.

1.3.1. Student-initiated Referenda may not alter the composition of the Society's staff or the Society's base fee.

1.4. Waiver of Deadline

The fourteen (14) day deadline for approval of Legislative Council-initiated and student-initiated referendum questions may be shortened for a question by a motion passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Legislative Council and approval by the Chief Electoral Officer. If this deadline has been waived or altered by the Legislative Council, there shall be a Public Notice posted on the Society's website and distributed via the Society's listserv. Each question shall be considered separately, and a motion to waive or postpone this deadline shall only apply to one (1) question at a time.



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1.5. Exception

The fourteen (14) day deadline for approval of Legislative Council-initiated Referendum questions shall not apply to the Referendum Respecting the Election of Councillors to the Board of Directors.

1.6. “No” Campaign Formation Period

Following the end of the nomination period and the release of all referendum questions included on the ballot, members may form a campaign in opposition to a referendum question by informing the Chief Electoral Officer. The member must then collect the signatures of twenty-five (25) members and submit this to the Chief Electoral Officer at least 3 days before the beginning of the polling period in order to begin campaigning. “No” campaigns are subject to the same campaign regulations as “Yes” campaigns and must report all committee members to Elections SSMU.

1.7. Approval of Referendum Questions

All Referendum questions must be approved by the Chief Electoral Officer. The Chief Electoral Officer shall ensure that Referendum questions are clear, concise, and do not violate the Governance Documents. The Chief Electoral Officer may reject any Referendum question they deem in violation of the Constitution or Internal Regulations. Questions deemed in violation of the Constitution or Internal Regulations may be forwarded to the Judicial Board or SSMU’s Internal Legal Counsel for further review. Student-Initiated Referenda that seek to alter the SSMU Constitution requires approval by the Board of Directors, which shall be rendered at the Board’s earliest convenience and upon consultation of relevant Governance Documents, as well as appropriate provisions of Canadian Law where necessary. Where the Board of Directors deems a legal issue may exist with the referendum question, it can vote to present the question to outside counsel for legal consultation. If the question is approved outside of the appropriate electoral timeline, it may be considered pre-approved for the following semester. Moreover, any significant changes to the question from its original form may require the collection of a new set of signatures, at the discretion of the CEO. Any dispute or uncertainty arising from the Chief Electoral Officer’s interpretation of a Referendum question shall be referred to the Judicial Board for an opinion.



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1.8. Fee Questions

All new Fee or a Fee increase proposals must be submitted to the Vice-President (Finance) and reviewed by the Finance Committee during the nomination period. Submissions to the Vice-President (Finance) must include the following:

- a) The Fee amount being requested;
- b) A description of the group proposing the new Fee or Fee increase;
- c) A detailed annual budget for the group with justifications for every expense;
- d) All other documentation requested by the Vice-President (Finance) or Finance Committee.

1.9. Quorum

Quorum for all Referenda shall be fifteen percent (15%) of Members.

1.10. Constitutional Amendment

The Constitution may only be amended by Referendum. All amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted in both official languages. Furthermore, the existing wording as well as the proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be provided at every Polling Station when used and shall be readily accessible on the online ballot. Any Referendum question proposing an amendment to the Constitution must be ratified by a majority vote of the Board of Directors to be considered valid.

1.11. Notice of Questions

Notice of the Referendum and detailed instructions regarding the formation of “Yes” and “No” Campaigns shall be distributed by a Public Notice to Members.

1.12. Withdrawals

“Yes” or “No” Campaigns may withdraw up to twenty-four (24) hours before the beginning of the Polling Period by a submission of a petition of two-thirds (2/3) of the Referendum committee for student-initiated committees or by a resolution of the Legislative Council for Legislative Council-initiated committees.

1.13. Third-Party Participation

No referendum question may force the collaboration of the SSMU with parties external to the University or Union.



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2. Plebiscites

2.1. Approval of Plebiscites

The Legislative Council shall approve semesterly by the end of the Nomination Period for Referendum questions a list of no more than ten (10) single-part questions on which students will be asked to voice their opinion at the bottom of the Elections ballot.

2.2. Campaigning

Campaigning for Plebiscites is permitted. The Legislative Council may make available unbiased information about the topic.

2.3. Non-Binding

Plebiscites are non-binding and are used for acquiring the opinion of Members.

3. Information Meeting

3.1. General

Elections SSMU shall organize and promote an information meeting for all Referendum committees before the start of an Election's Campaign Period. The purpose of this meeting shall be to inform Referendum committees of electoral regulations and important times and dates.

3.2. Mandatory Meeting

This meeting is mandatory for all Campaign Chairs. Absences must be approved by the Chief Electoral Officer. Unapproved absences may be subject to sanction. All Campaign Chairs absent from this meeting shall be held to the same standards of knowledge as those attending the meeting.

3.3. Recording

The information meeting shall be recorded by Elections SSMU. An audio recording must be taken but a video recording may also be used.



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3.4. Meeting for “No” Campaigns

For “No” Campaigns formed after the beginning of the campaign period, Elections SSMU must ensure that the chairs of those campaign committees are aware of the Electoral Regulations and relevant dates by hosting an additional meeting before the beginning of the polling period. This meeting will also be mandatory for such committees and subject to recording.

4. Referendum Committees

4.1. Formation of a Campaign

A “Yes” or “No” Campaign can be formed for accepted Referenda questions by way of a proposal by a Campaign Chair.

4.2. Restrictions

No Member may act as a member of both “Yes” and “No” Campaigns of the same question.

4.3. Responsibilities of Members

The Campaign may be subject to sanctions due to violations of the Constitution or Internal Regulations by its Members.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-05: CAMPAIGNING

1. Campaign Guidelines

1.1. General

The Chief Electoral Officer shall distribute electronic copies of relevant Internal Regulations, Policies and University regulations to all candidates prior to the beginning of the Campaign Period. Failure to comply with these Internal Regulations may result in the disqualification of a candidate or Referendum committee, invalidation of Elections or



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Referenda, or any other sanctions deemed appropriate by Elections SSMU. All provisions of the Internal Regulations apply equally to all Campaigns unless otherwise specified.

1.2. Spirit of a Fair Campaign

Campaigns shall respect the spirit of a fair campaign and shall conduct themselves with full respect of other candidates and committees. Any activity deemed by the Chief Electoral Officer to impinge on these principles may be subject to sanction.

1.3. Campaigning Participation

Campaigning and related activities may only be carried out by Members.

1.4. Campaign Period

The Chief Electoral Officer shall designate a specific period in which campaigning is permitted. Such a period shall be called the Campaign Period. Campaigns shall be permitted to Campaign throughout the Polling Period. There shall be no campaigning during any other period, including the Nomination Period.

1.5. External Bodies

No External Body may be directly or indirectly involved in the activities of, or in the implicit or explicit support of Campaigns. Any Campaign believed by the Chief Electoral Officer to have received assistance, either direct or indirect, from an External Body may be subject to sanction up to and including disqualification and/or invalidation of an Election or Referendum.

1.6. Exception - Health Insurance Fee

In the event of a question on the renewal or alteration of the Society's group insurance plan, the plan provider may provide information to a Member when solicited for information by that Member. The plan provider may also provide to the Campaign materials for distribution to Members, provided that the materials are declared at fair value, as determined by Elections SSMU, in the campaign committee's budget. This plan provider itself may not distribute campaign materials to Members who are not members of the Campaign.



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1.7. Exception - Student Federation Affiliation

In the event of question on the affiliation with, continued affiliation with, or disaffiliation from a Federation, the Federation may provide information to a Member when solicited for information by that Member. The Federation may also provide to the Campaign materials for distribution to Members, provided that the materials are declared at fair value, as determined by Elections SSMU, in that Campaign's budget. The Federation itself may not distribute campaign materials to Members who are not members of the Campaign.

1.8. Interference with Campaigning

Candidates shall not interfere with the distribution of campaign material or engage in slanderous campaigning.

1.9. Campaigning Areas

Campaigning is not permitted within the vicinity of an Elections SSMU Polling Station, or within University residences, libraries.

1.10. Identification

Any individual campaigning must produce their University student identification card and any other relevant documentation when asked to do so by an Electoral Officer. Failure to produce adequate identification will result in the uncompensated confiscation of campaign material in the person's possession as well as any sanctions deemed appropriate by the Chief Electoral Officer.

1.11. Respecting Governance Documents

Campaigns shall act in accordance with all SSMU Governance Documents. Any activity deemed by the CEO to violate provisions of SSMU Governance Documents may be subject to sanction.

2. Abuse of Positions

2.1. General

No Campaign may abuse positions they hold with any group to provide greater resources, exposure, or support to their campaign. Such abuses shall include, but are not limited to, subversion of, or exertion of undue influence on, any established systems for issuing



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endorsements, using privileged access to contact lists or social media platforms to campaign, and any other actions deemed inappropriate by the Chief Electoral Officer.

2.2. Association Executives

No Officer, Director, or employee of the Society may use their position, or any benefits associated with it, in order to aid a Campaign.

2.3. Groups, Clubs, Service Executives

No member of a Club, Service, Independent Student Group, or media organization may use their position in order to aid a Campaign in which they are directly benefiting from the aid. This includes but is not limited to using internal communications to distribute campaign material.

2.4. Temporary Suspension of Duties

During the Campaign Period, all Campaigns with a position providing access to broadcasting and/or programming abilities shall forgo their programming and broadcasting responsibilities. Likewise, all Campaigns who have editorial duties, including contributions, with a campus publication shall refrain from fulfilling those duties during the Campaign Period.

3. Campaign Literature

3.1. Affixation of Posters

Posters may only be affixed indoors in buildings operated by the University or the Society and binding to each building's regulations on posters. Candidates or campaign members must communicate with a relevant porter or Student Association prior to affixing posters to ensure they comply with existing regulation. No paper campaign materials may be distributed, affixed, or publically shown within the University libraries, within the vicinity of an Elections SSMU Polling Station, or in classrooms and designated study areas at the University. Posters may be affixed or distributed outdoors in areas defined within campus borders and where advertisements are allowed.

3.2. Removal of Posters

Candidates and Referendum committees are responsible for the removal of all campaign posters by the end of the Campaign Period, in accordance with the deadline established by the Chief Electoral Officer.



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3.3. Distribution of Handbills

Single handbills must be approved by the Chief Electoral Officer and may only be distributed indoors on the University campus. These may only be distributed to SSMU Members, to the best knowledge of the candidate.

3.4. Recycled Paper

Reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that all campaign literature shall be produced on reused and recycled paper.

3.5. Approval

All campaign literature shall be subject to approval by Elections SSMU prior to distribution. The Chief Electoral Officer shall implement a system to inform candidates of whether campaign literature has been approved. This includes all printed literature and online media. Publishing any campaign material without the approval of Elections SSMU will be sanctioned.

3.6. Campaign Stickers

Campaign stickers may not be attached to University, city of Montreal, or the Society's property.

3.7. Building Rules

Posting and the distribution of other campaign literature must respect each building's regulations. The Chief Electoral Officer shall not be responsible for enforcing University building regulations, but will ~~may~~ issue sanctions if such regulations are not followed. Candidates or campaign members must communicate with a relevant porter or Student Association prior to affixing posters to ensure they comply with existing regulation.

4. Pensketches and the Elections SSMU Website

4.1. Pensketches

All campaigns will provide pensketch which will appear on the ballot. All Campaigns' Pensketches shall be made available through Elections SSMU and/or on the Society website at the start of the Polling Period, provided that they are submitted according to the deadline and requirements set by the Chief Electoral Officer. All candidates are entitled



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to a pensketch in English with a maximum length of 100 words and a French pensketch with a maximum length of 125 words, alongside a portrait picture.

4.2. Additions to Pensketches

The Chief Electoral Officer may offer additional elements to be added to the pensketch, including, but not limited to, video pensketches, additional pictures, and hyperlinks. These additions can only be used if unanimously consented to by candidates in a given electoral race (i.e. for a single position). Additionally, it is the Chief Electoral Officer's responsibility to ensure that candidates have equal access to the resources needed to meet these additional requirements.

5. Social Media and Online Campaigning

5.1. Publication of Regulations

The Chief Electoral Officer shall issue clear regulations concerning the use of websites, social media, and all other means of online campaigning before the start of the Campaign Period; these regulations shall be made publicly available on the Elections SSMU website. Any further clarifications deemed necessary by the Chief Electoral Officer during the Campaign Period will be made publicly available on the Elections SSMU website.

5.2. Consultation of Elections SSMU

Where the Chief Electoral Officer has not issued clear regulations regarding campaigning on a specific online platform, the Campaign must consult Elections SSMU prior to using the platform for campaigning purposes.

5.3. Electronic Mail

Campaigns may send unsolicited electronic mail or messages on social media platforms for the purpose of campaigning. Campaigns may not use distribution lists to this effect, unless such a distribution list was assembled for the purpose of campaigning and with the consent of its recipients, or unless they are otherwise authorized to do so by the Chief Electoral Officer. Electronic communications must not be abusive, and recipients must be able to refuse further communication of the type they have received. The first infraction of this article will warrant a warning to the relevant Campaign, and further infractions may be met with demerit actions.



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5.4. External Involvement

External bodies are restricted from any form of campaigning or support on any social media, mobile, or online platform. This includes the creation of new content by external bodies. Each Campaign shall be expected to make a reasonable effort in enforcing this rule. The Chief Electoral Officer shall have final consideration as to what constitutes unauthorized support on a social media, mobile, or online platform.

5.5. Online Advertisements

The Chief Electoral Officer will decide, prior to the start of every campaign period, whether to allow the use of online advertising platforms (including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter advertising). The CEO's decision regarding online ads will be included in the online campaigning regulations discussed in 5.1. Campaigns will not be permitted to use advertising platforms that are not explicitly approved by the CEO. They shall also be responsible for keeping official receipts of their transactions on any such platform for the CEO to scrutinize. Exceeding the campaign spending limit, or otherwise violating the CEO's regulations regarding online advertising platforms, is strictly prohibited, and will be subject to sanction at the discretion of the CEO.

5.6. Slanderous Campaigning

Slanderous campaigning is strictly prohibited, including the creation of materials to discredit or make derogatory remarks about Campaigns or individuals under SSMU. These rules shall apply in all circumstances, including on social media platforms. In the event that slanderous campaigning is organized by an external body to those campaigning, interaction with or encouragement of the slanderous messaging by any Campaign will be sanctioned.

6. Other Restrictions on Campaigning

6.1. Gifts and Promises

Campaigns may not distribute or promise gifts of any kind during the Electoral Period. The Chief Electoral Officer shall have the discretion to determine what gifts or promises violate the principles of a fair campaign. The distribution of gifts in exchange for votes is prohibited, as well as electoral promises in exchange for monetary or material gifts.



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6.2. Food

Food may not be distributed by Campaigns during the Electoral Period.

6.3. Campus Media

Other than news coverage, no Campaign shall have access, either directly or indirectly, to radio features or public service announcements. Campaigns are not permitted to approach campus publications or student media; the Chief Electoral Officer shall send the Campaigns' contact information to campus publications and student media once they become available.

6.4. Restriction on Campaigning

The Chief Electoral Officer may prohibit campaigning activity or the dissemination of any campaign materials that, in their judgment, contravene the Governance Documents or the spirit of a fair campaign. Campaigns should seek the approval of the Chief Electoral Officer before disseminating any materials or engaging in any campaign activity but they shall nevertheless be ultimately responsible for activity engaged in, or material disseminated, on their behalf that contravenes the Governance Documents or the spirit of a fair campaign. In the case of exceptional circumstances, the Chief Electoral Officer may issue a mandate for approval by the Legislative Council, restricting physical or electronic campaigning entirely, and change the minimum requirements for signatures to a value no lower than 25 per campaign.

7. Campaign Funding

7.1. Maximum Campaign Expenses

Each Campaign shall be permitted to spend the following maximum amount, in Canadian dollars, on campaigning:

- a. Referendum Campaigns and Campaigns for Election as an Officer shall be permitted to spend a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300);
- b. Campaigns seeking a position as an executive of the First Year Council or as a Councillor representing the Society's Clubs, as a Councillor representing the Society's Services shall be permitted to spend a maximum of one hundred dollars (\$100).



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7.2. Spending Reports

Campaigns must electronically publish an updated spending report during the Campaign Period as expenses are incurred. Failure to do so will result in sanctioning.

7.3. Reimbursement

All Campaigns who receive at least ten percent (10%) of the total vote, and all Referendum Campaigns, shall be entitled to reimbursement by the Society of the amount they have spent on campaign materials, less the amount of any financial sanctions imposed by the Chief Electoral Officer. Campaigns who receive less than ten percent (10%) of the total vote may also be entitled to reimbursement so long as the candidate did actively, and earnestly, solicit votes throughout the Campaign Period as determined by the Chief Electoral Officer.

7.4. Expense Reports and Reimbursements

All Campaigns and Referendum committees shall submit a complete expense report, campaign receipts, and requests for reimbursement to the Chief Electoral Officer within two (2) days of the announcement of the Election results or by the deadline set by the Chief Electoral Officer. No candidate or Referendum committee shall be entitled to reimbursement of campaign expenses if original itemized receipts are not provided.

7.5. Fair Market Value

All Campaigns must pay at least fair market value for any campaign expenses. The Chief Electoral Officer shall distribute detailed information to the Campaigns in advance and have final say in what constitutes as Fair Market Value.

7.6. Publication of Expenses

Elections SSMU shall make every effort to review all receipts and prepare and make available a summary of all expense reports to the Members within four (4) days of the announcement of Elections results. If Campaigns fail to submit expense reports on time, their campaigns may be subject to sanction at the CEO's discretion.

7.7. Audits

All Members are entitled to request an inquiry into the campaign spending of a Campaign within three (3) days of the Chief Electoral Officer's publication of a Campaign's



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expenditures. In the case of such a request, the Chief Electoral Officer shall evaluate the campaign spending of the Campaign in question.

8. Endorsements

8.1. General

Any organization which is not an External Body shall be entitled to issue endorsements according to their established decision-making processes, subject to the specifications herein, for all Elections and Referenda which are under the jurisdiction of Elections SSMU and in which all Members are eligible to vote. The Chief Electoral Officer, President, and Vice-President (Student Life) shall make every effort to ensure that all potential organizations and all eligible voters are aware of these regulations in advance of the Campaign Period, including but not limited to listserv, social media, and website announcements.

8.2. Responsibilities of Candidates

Campaigns seeking endorsement must:

- a. ensure that all the relevant decision-making body is aware of these Internal Regulations;
- b. not seek endorsement from any Student Association to assist their campaign; and
- c. disclose any affiliations to the organization from which the endorsement is sought when sharing the endorsement.

8.3. Responsibilities of the Organization

An organization wishing to give an endorsement is required to ensure that all Campaigns attend a meeting of, and/or submit a written statement to, the organization in advance of an endorsement decision. After meeting the Campaigns receiving such written statements, an organization is not obliged to give an endorsement. Should they choose to give an endorsement, the organization shall:

- a. exclude any Campaign members or Referendum committee members from the endorsement decision-making process;
- b. disclose any affiliations of Campaigns to their organization in any Public Notice regarding an endorsement decision.



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8.4. Infractions

Failure to comply with these regulations may result in sanctions for the Campaigns by the Chief Electoral Officer. Organizations who are not affiliated with the Society are urged to act in the spirit of these Internal Regulations.

8.5. Impartiality of Officers

The Officers shall remain neutral in a Society Election or any other Elections run by Elections SSMU.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-06: POLLING, SCRUTINEERING, VOTING, AND COUNTING

1. Electronic Voting System

1.1. General

All voting shall be conducted using Elections SSMU's electronic voting system.

1.2. Uploading of Ballots

The Chief Electoral Officer shall upload official ballots to the electronic voting system in the presence of at least one other Electoral Officer.

1.3. Loaning

The online voting system may be loaned by Elections SSMU subject to a fee and contract established by Elections SSMU. Elections SSMU reserves the right, at the discretion of the CEO, to refuse loaning the online voting system to any organization that lacks an adequate supervisory body for elections and referenda. A decision by the CEO to refuse loaning the Elections SSMU online voting system may be appealed to the Legislative Council, which can overturn the CEO's decision by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote.



1.4. Online Ballot Cancellation

Where a ballot is found to be faulty, or in violation of the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda, the CEO may decide to cancel the ballot and immediately communicate said cancellation to SSMU Members. In such a case, the CEO shall endeavor to upload a corrected ballot as soon as possible and announce the new ballot to Members. If the CEO decides not to cancel a faulty ballot, their decision may be appealed by SSMU Members to the Board of Directors or the Judicial Board, which shall review the ballot with input from both the CEO and the complainant(s) before issuing a ruling regarding whether to accept the CEO's decision, or to cancel the ballot and issue a new one.

2. Paper Ballots

2.1. General

In the event that the electronic voting system is not operational, or at the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer, Elections SSMU shall make paper ballots available to all eligible voters. The Chief Electoral Officer will ensure that the paper ballot system is secure such that each eligible voter may vote only once and that only Electoral Officers have access to ballots.

2.2. Availability and Accessibility

Elections SSMU shall ensure that Polling Stations are available on campus for at least three (3) hours on each weekday 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. There must be at least one Polling Station with wheelchair access that is accessible to persons with physical, visual, or auditory disabilities. Said station must have sufficient facilities to ensure that all Members may be able to vote.

2.3. Announcement

When paper ballots are used, all eligible voters shall be informed of the date, time, and location of polls by electronic mail no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the beginning of the Polling Period, per the availability of the third party polling software. 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 unless all candidates or committees involved agree otherwise before the opening of the poll



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concerned. In the event that the online voting system stops working during the Polling Period and physical Polling Stations are defaulted to, the twenty-four (24) hour notice requirement shall not apply.

2.4. Setup

Polling Stations shall be cleared of any campaign material. The setup of the Polling Station shall ensure that a Member may cast a vote in private. All voting materials and instructions shall be available in English and French at all Polling Stations.

2.5. Casting of Votes

Under no circumstances may a Member cast a paper ballot without their valid student identification card. No appeals on this matter will be considered. All paper ballots must be cast in the presence of at least one Electoral Officer or Elections SSMU staff. Each Member wishing to vote at a Polling Station must do so in person. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

3. Polling Stations

3.1. General

Polling Stations may be used during the voting period if deemed necessary by the Chief Electoral Officer. A Member may vote at any open Polling Station during an Election or Referendum, on a computer provided by Elections SSMU.

3.2. Setup and Provisions

The setup of Polling Stations should follow the same provisions that apply to paper ballots.

4. Ballots and Casting of Votes

4.1. Ballot

The position of each name on an Elections ballot shall be randomized for all ballots. These referenda options shall appear unless otherwise required:

- a. "Yes";
- b. "No"; ~~and~~
- c. "Abstain"; and
- d. "None of these".



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4.2. Pensketches

All Campaigns are entitled to submit a picture, Pensketch, and up to two hyperlinks to appear on the ballot. These must be submitted by a deadline set by the Chief Electoral Officer; the Chief Electoral Officer has the discretion to accept or reject any submissions submitted after this deadline.

4.3. Casting of Votes

Each Member shall have a single ballot and may cast their vote only once. All votes shall be cast on Elections SSMU's electronic voting system unless paper ballots are being used, in which case votes may be cast electronically or by authorized paper ballots. Members must cast their own votes. No Campaigns member may observe, interfere, or be actively involved in the process of a Member casting their vote.

5. Acclaimed Candidates

5.1. Ballot

If there is only one candidate for any position, the ballot shall offer the following options: "Yes", "No", and "Abstain".

5.2. Successful Candidates

If the acclaimed candidate receives a plurality of "yes" votes, or an equal number of "yes" and "no" votes, the candidate shall be declared elected.

5.3. Unsuccessful Candidates

If "None of the Above" receives a plurality of votes, no candidate shall be declared elected. The Chief Electoral Officer shall, pending the approval of the Legislative Council, immediately declare a Nomination Period of four (4) business days via a Public Notice to all eligible voters through electronic mail. Regular nomination rules and procedures follow. Any Member, including any previous candidates, shall be eligible to declare themselves a candidate during this Nomination Period, subject to the standard eligibility requirements. Following the Nomination Period, there shall be a five (5) day Campaign Period followed by a two (2) day Polling Period. Standard campaign and polling regulations shall apply. If no candidate is declared elected by this procedure, the Legislative Council may fill the position using procedures outlined in these Internal Regulations.



6. The Count and Optional Preferential Ballot Voting

6.1. General

In an Election, or a Referenda in which the ballot offers more than two (2) options, a preferential voting system (instant-runoff voting) shall be employed for the counting of ballots. Electors shall mark their choices in order of preference. All first choice votes shall be counted and allocated to each candidate or Referendum question option. If no candidate or Referendum question option receives a majority of the total vote, the candidate or Referendum question option with the fewest votes shall be declared eliminated and the first choice ballots allocated to that selection shall be redistributed in accordance with the following choice indicated on each voters' ballot. This system of eliminating the candidate or Referendum question option with the fewest votes and redistributing ballots according to the next choice of remaining candidates shall continue until one (1) candidate or Referendum question option achieves a Simple Majority.

6.2. Partial Preferential Ballot

Voters do not need to indicate a preferred rank for all candidates and may indicate preference for only a subset of candidates.

6.3. Multiple Seats

In an Election for one position with multiple seats available, the candidate with the fewest number of "Yes" votes shall be eliminated until the number of candidates remaining is equal to the number of positions available. The reallocation of votes through preferential ballot voting shall apply.

6.4. Disqualification or Invalidation

If a candidate or Referendum option, in Referenda where preferential voting is applicable, is disqualified, the disqualified candidate shall be declared eliminated, and their first choice ballot recounted in accordance with the stated preference on the ballot.

6.5. Abstentions

Abstentions, declined, or spoiled ballots shall not count in the calculation of a majority.



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6.6. Plurality Voting

In Elections or Referenda where only two options exist, a plurality voting system shall be employed for the counting of ballots.

6.7. Tabulation

Votes cast through Elections SSMU's electronic voting system shall be tabulated by the Chief Electoral Officer in the presence of at least one other Electoral Officer.

6.8. Paper Ballots

A paper ballot shall be rejected if there is no clear indication of preference of candidates or Referendum question or if the initials of the poll clerk do not appear on the paper ballot. Any candidate or Referendum committee chair may request one (1) recount of the paper ballots. The Chief Electoral Officer may order further recounts if necessary. All paper ballots shall be kept in a secure location for seven (7) days following the announcement of results.

6.9. Scrutineers

Paper ballots shall be tabulated in the presence of no less than two Electoral Officers. At the request of any candidate or Referendum committee, one (1) neutral scrutineer may be appointed to observe the count of paper ballots. This neutral scrutineer may not be a member of any campaign committee, or Referendum committee and shall be chosen by the Chief Electoral Officer from a list of Members submitted by the candidate or Referendum committee submitting this request and any opposing candidates or committees. Each candidate or committee must submit at least two names.

6.10. Tie Votes

If two or more leading candidates have received an equal number of votes, the Chief Electoral Officer will issue a Public Notice of a new vote for the position in question. The vote shall be open for three (3) days, beginning the day after the announcement of the previous Election's result. Campaigning shall be allowed throughout this Polling Period, subject to the regulations in these Internal Regulations. Should this vote also result in a tie, a drawing of lots shall determine which candidate shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote for a Referendum question, the Referendum question shall be deemed defeated.



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7. Announcement of Results

7.1. Official Results

Upon completion of the ballot counting, the Chief Electoral Officer shall publicly announce the unofficial results of the Election. The Chief Electoral Officer shall submit the official results in writing to the President on the business day following the tabulation of results. The Chief Electoral Officer shall include the total votes cast, full text of all Pensketches and Referendum questions, including all clauses, vote count, percentage of votes received for each candidate or Referendum question option, and a copy of the ballot.

7.2. Time and Location

Results of an Election and Referenda are to be announced by Elections SSMU at a pre-established time and, where possible, place.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-07: INVESTIGATION AND SANCTIONS

1. Investigation

1.1. General

The Chief Electoral Officer has the discretion to develop any investigative process as they see fit so long as it is equally applied to all candidates in that Electoral Period.

1.2. Standard of Proof

The standard of proof for an investigation of Elections SSMU shall be a balance of probabilities.



1.3. Testimonial Evidence

Where the only evidence of an infraction comes from personal testimony, the Chief Electoral Officer shall seek the testimony of the individual who is the subject of the allegation in order to obtain as complete and impartial of an understanding of the situation as possible barring any restrictions due to provisions concerning confidentiality. The Chief Electoral Officer should also seek additional evidence that can corroborate testimony. The Chief Electoral Officer may also ask that all testimony that is to be used as evidence be submitted as an affidavit in the presence of a Commissioner of Oaths.

1.4. Confidentiality

The Chief Electoral Officer should ask any individuals submitting a report of an infraction, or testimony, if they wish for Elections SSMU to keep their identity confidential. Where express permission to reveal an individual's identity has not been given, the Chief Electoral Officer shall maintain confidentiality of that individual.

1.5. Procedural Fairness

During an investigation of Elections SSMU, the minimum procedural fairness owed to the party subject to investigation shall be a written explanation of any decisions taken by Elections SSMU regarding such investigation.

2. Sanctions

2.1. General

The Chief Electoral Officer has the discretion to disqualify, withhold reimbursement or deposit from, and/or officially Censure a candidate or Referendum committee, and in addition declare the Election of a candidate or passing of Referendum question invalid, for any infraction of the Governance Documents, depending on the severity of the offence. The Chief Electoral Officer may, at their discretion, provide for other sanctions.

2.2. Infraction by External Body

The Chief Electoral Officer shall have the discretion to sanction a candidate or Referendum committee for the infraction of an External Body that is in violation of the Governance Documents if there is convincing evidence, on a balance of probabilities, that the candidate or Referendum committee in question possessed knowledge of the violation



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before its realization, made no reasonable effort towards its prevention and the infraction had a positive effect for the candidate or Reference committee.

2.3. Demerit System

The Chief Electoral Officer shall employ a demerit system as a tool to quantify the severity of infractions and to indicate when it is necessary to consider certain recourses and shall outline the parameters of the system in advance of the Campaign Period, including necessary references to any Interim Provisions. A demerit system assigns values to particular offences and provides suggested or standard sanctions when particular thresholds of demerits have been exceeded. The demerit system shall be a reference tool for Elections SSMU.

2.4. Confiscation of Material

Material that contravenes the Governance Documents shall be subject to confiscation by the Chief Electoral Officer.

2.5. Repetitive Infractions

The Chief Electoral Officer may disqualify a candidate or invalidate the Election of any successful candidate who has continued to repeat behaviour that is the same as, or substantially similar to, that which was previously sanctioned and prohibited by the Chief Electoral Officer. In the case of a Referendum, the Chief Electoral Officer is empowered to disqualify a Referendum committee, or declare a Referendum invalid, if a Referendum committee continues to repeat behaviour that is the same as, or substantially similar to, that which was previously sanctioned and prohibited by the Chief Electoral Officer.

2.6. Grave Violations

In the case of any grave violation of the Governance Documents on the part of a candidate, candidate's campaign team or Referendum committee, the Chief Electoral Officer shall invalidate the Election or Referendum if, in their determination, a violation of the Governance Documents or electoral decisions by the Chief Electoral Officer has adversely affected the outcome of the Election or Referendum. In making this decision, the Chief Electoral Officer shall consider the conduct of the parties.

2.7. Table of Sanctions

The following table is a non-exhaustive list of sanctions to guide the determination of points and their consequences. The Chief Electoral Officer will provide a more detailed



version of this table at the beginning of each Campaigning Period to all Candidates, which shall elaborate on the examples provided below.

Amount of Points	Example of Infraction	Consequence of Points
2+ demerit points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Postering over another candidate's campaign literature.- Misuse of an appointed or elected position.- Infraction of Online Campaign Guidelines	
4+ demerit points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Repeated violations (accumulation of points).- Unauthorized handbill distribution.- Postering in a restricted area.	
6+ demerit points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Repeated violations (accumulation of points).- Unauthorized campaigning.- Unsolicited emailing.- Campaigning in unauthorized areas.	
8+ demerit points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Repeated violations (accumulation of points).- Pre-Campaigning.- Negative Campaigning.- Inhibiting other Candidates.	Formal warning to campaign in question.
12+ demerit points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Repeated violations (accumulation of points).- Engaging External Support- Spending over the allocated budget.	Public announcement via Elections SSMU Facebook and website.
15 demerit points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Repeated violations (accumulation of points).- Failure to submit financial documents upon request.- Bribery (attempted or successful).	Automatic consideration of disqualification and calling of the ERC. Written ruling by Elections SSMU.



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	- Deception of Electoral Officers.	
20 demerit points	- Repeated violations (accumulation of points).	Automatic consideration of disqualification and calling of the ERC. Written ruling by Elections SSMU.

3. Disqualification, Invalidation, Election Assessment, and the Electoral Review Committee

3.1. General

The Electoral Review Committee shall refer to the body of the Society charged with reviewing decisions of the Chief Electoral Officer to disqualify a candidate in an Election or invalidate an Election or Referendum. They shall also discuss and review the upcoming and/or past elections to provide advice and support the improvement of the elections, as well as the implementation of new regulations.

3.2. Mandate

In the case that a disqualification of a candidate or Referendum committee, or the invalidation of an Election of a successful candidate or Referendum question, is being considered, the Chief Electoral Officer shall immediately call for the meeting of the Electoral Review Committee. Meetings shall also be held periodically in accordance with the electoral periods, such as October, late November, February, and May, at the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer or a voting-majority of the Electoral Review Committee.

3.3. Powers

The Chief Electoral Officer and Deputy Electoral Officer shall seek the consultation of the Electoral Review Committee, however, they shall retain the full authority vested in them by the Governance Documents to make decisions regarding Elections. The Electoral Review Committee shall rule on whether or not particular infractions have occurred and Elections SSMU shall rule as to the sanctions or recourses that are to be undertaken in response to the infractions. The Electoral Review Committee shall also make recommendations and notes on past and/or future elections for the Chief Electoral Officer and the Deputy Electoral Officer to review.



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3.4. Membership

The Electoral Review Committee shall have a membership including the Chief Electoral Officer, the Deputy Electoral Officer, and the President. The Policy & Advocacy Coordinator may also attend the periodical meetings, to their inclination.

3.5. Consultation

The Electoral Review Committee should consult legal counsel whenever necessary. The Electoral Review Committee may request the Judicial Board's interpretation of the Internal Regulations and Constitution whenever necessary. The Electoral Review Committee may also consult retired Electoral Officers or any other individuals, excluding current Officers and Councillors, so long as these individuals have signed confidentiality agreements.

3.6. Invalidated Elections

Where Elections SSMU invalidates the Election of a successful candidate after the Electoral Review Committee makes its determination, the vote shall be re-tallied where the votes cast in favour of the successful candidate shall be redistributed to the other candidates in accordance with each voter's stated preference. The count shall proceed in accordance with these Internal Regulations. At the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer, all votes may be declared moot, and an exceptional Polling Period may be called. The exceptional Polling Period must end prior to the end of the academic semester and should last a minimum of three (3) days.

3.7. Invalidated Referenda

Where Elections SSMU invalidates a Referendum question after the Electoral Review Committee makes its determination all votes shall be declared moot and an exceptional Polling Period shall be called. The exceptional Polling Period must end prior to the end of the academic semester and should last a minimum of three (3) days.

3.8. Electoral Meetings

The Electoral Review Committee shall meet at least once (1) per semester, to a minimum of twice (2) per school year. They shall provide guidance and recommendations relative to the assessment of the prior elections and the betterment of future elections. Additional meetings may be called by the Chief Electoral Officer if deemed necessary.



4. Appeals

4.1. General

The decisions and conduct of Elections SSMU are subject to the jurisdiction of the Judicial Board, whose opinions must be ratified by the Board of Directors. The Judicial Board shall consider whether or not the Internal Regulations or the Constitution have been infringed upon, and should review the conduct of Elections SSMU, an administrative decision making body, on a deferential standard of reasonableness.

4.2. Deadline

All appeals to the Judicial Board regarding the conduct of an Election or Referendum must be made no later than five (5) days after the official transmission of results to the President ~~General Manager~~ or five (5) days after the transmission of the decision regarding the invalidation of an Election or Referendum. All petitions to the Judicial Board regarding Elections or Referenda that are ~~within~~ beyond the prescribed deadlines shall be moot. The Judicial Board shall not have jurisdiction to examine, try, or hear such an appeal.

4.3. Adjudication

Notwithstanding Judicial Board rules of practice or procedure, all appeals arising from Elections and Referenda shall be heard in the semester that they are launched. Any case that is not adjudicated during the semester that it is launched shall be deemed moot.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-08: SPECIAL ELECTIONS

1. Election of Councillors Representing the Society's Clubs and Services

1.1. General

Three (3) Councillors shall be elected annually, with two (2) representing the Society's Clubs and one (1) representing the Society's Services. This Election shall be held via an



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electronic voting system administered by Elections SSMU and is to be held at the beginning of each academic year, with the Polling Period lasting for at least seven (7) business days. Public Notice shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the first day of the Polling Period.

1.2. Quorum

The quorum for the Election of the Councillors representing Clubs is ten percent (10%) of the Society's Clubs, and the quorum for the Election of the Councillor representing Services is thirty percent (30%) of the Society's Services.

1.3. Ballot

The Elections ballots for the Councillors representing Clubs and the Councillor representing Services shall be sent to all Full Status Clubs and Services respectively based on the contact information provided by the Vice-President (Student Life). Each Club will be able to vote for two candidates.

1.4. Nomination

Members must declare their candidacy for Councillor representing Clubs or Services to the Chief Electoral Officer by a time determined by Elections SSMU and the Vice-President (Student Life). Elections SSMU shall provide detailed instructions via electronic mail and the Elections SSMU website.

1.5. Campaigning

Candidates may campaign during the Polling Period, subject to the same campaign regulations as the Society's Elections and Referenda unless otherwise specified here.

2. Election of Councillors Representing the Senate Caucus

2.1. General

Two (2) Councillors shall be elected to represent the undergraduate student members of Senate, from among the Elected Undergraduate Senators, in accordance with the Constitution. This Election shall be initiated by the Vice-President (University Affairs) and held via an electronic voting system administered by Elections SSMU.



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2.2. Timeline

This Election shall ideally be held before June 15, however in the event that vacant Senate Caucus seats are in the process of being filled, the Vice President (University Affairs) shall make considerable effort to postpone the election until such time as these seats have been filled. Notice of the election shall be given to Student Senators at least three (3) days prior to the start of the nomination period, and the electoral timeline chosen must account for an extended nomination period.

2.3. Quorum

Quorum for this meeting shall be fifty percent (50%) of the Undergraduate Senators.

2.4. Vacancies

The Senate Caucus, through Internal mechanisms, must either fill any vacant seats by election, or otherwise designate Undergraduate Senators to fill them on a rotating basis, to ensure proper representation of Senate Caucus.

3. First Year Council Elections

3.1. General

Elections SSMU shall administer the First Year Council Elections during the fall semester Electoral Period according to the procedures set out in these Internal Regulations.

3.2. Term of Office

The executive board members of the First Year Council shall be elected for a term of one (1) year during an Election occurring before the third Legislative Council of the academic year.

4. Nomination and Election of Councillors to the Board of Directors

4.1. General

Four (4) Councillors shall be elected to the Board of Directors in accordance with the Constitution.



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4.2. Election

Following nomination by the Legislative Council, the nominated Councilors to serve as directors shall be ratified by way of Referendum or approved by General Assembly.

5. Election of Officers to the Board of Directors

5.1. General

Four (4) Officers of the Society shall be elected to the Board of Directors in accordance with the Constitution.

5.2. Ratification

Officers nominated to serve as Directors shall be submitted for ratification by way of Referendum or approved by the General Assembly.

6. Election of Members Who Are Not Officers or Members of Legislative Council to the Board of Directors

6.1. General

Four (4) Members of the Society who are not members of the Legislative Council or are Officers shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee to the Board of Directors.

6.2. Ratification

Members nominated to serve as Directors shall be submitted for ratification by way of Referendum or approved by General Assembly.

6.3. Replacement

Members at large can be selected by Nominating Committee and ratified by the Board of Directors to fill vacant seats of the Board of Directors.



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INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-09: FEE REFERENDA

1. General

1.1. Jurisdiction

The creation, renewal, and amendment of fees shall be subject to the provisions contained in the Internal Regulations of Finances.

1.2. Society Fees

The Legislative Council or Members may seek the creation or renewal of Fees through Referendum. All Fee questions require ratification of the Board of Directors prior to being placed on the ballot. In the event that the Board of Directors proposes the creation of a Fee, the creation of a Fee must also be approved by the Legislative Council.

1.3. Wording

All Fee questions must include the amount of the Fee per student per semester or fiscal year, the first and final dates (by semester) of the dedicated funding, whether or not it applies to both full-time and part-time students, and whether or not the Fee is opt-outable.

1.4. Approval of Questions

All Fee questions shall be created in consultation with the Vice-President (Finance) and the Chief Electoral Officer. All questions must be approved by Elections SSMU, who shall liaise with the Office of the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) and Student Accounts to ensure that the University will implement the Fee if the Referendum question passes where applicable.

1.5. Ballot

The Ancillary Fee Referenda shall appear on a separate ballot at the same time as the normal Referendum period in a manner so as to differentiate University fees from Society Fees, where technically possible.



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2. Independent Student Groups

2.1. Conduct of Internal Regulations

Any Independent Student Group that chooses to conduct Referenda through Elections SSMU must abide by these Internal Regulations. If these Independent Student Groups have their own electoral regulations and choose to abide by those, they must conduct their own referendum independent of Elections SSMU, and be responsible for their referendum's legitimacy with the University.