Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda

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Association étudiante de l'Université McGill
Students' Society of McGill University

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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1. Interpretation

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

2. Definitions

2.1. 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 Returning 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"

2.2. 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"
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. "University"

2.3. 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.

jj. "Federation"

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

kk. "Campaign Committee" shall mean the organized group of individuals responsible for campaigning for a position or candidate.
ll. "Campaign Period" shall mean the duration of time for which Elections SSMU has designated for campaigning;
mm. "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;
nn. "Demerit System" shall mean the reference tool used by Elections SSMU that assigns values to particular offences and provides suggested or established sanctions when particular thresholds of demerits have been exceeded.
oo. "Disqualification" shall mean the removal of a Candidate from consideration and the nullification of all votes cast for the Candidate.
pp. "Deputy Returning Officer" shall mean the person appointed by the Society, in accordance with the Internal Regulations, who shall report to the Chief Returning Officer and be responsible for the administration of the Society's Elections and Referenda;
qq. "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;
~~rr. "Elections Coordinator" shall mean the person(s) appointed by the Society to assist the Chief Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officer in the administration of the Society's Elections and Referenda;~~

ss. "Elections SSMU" shall mean the Chief Returning Officer, the Deputy Returning Officer; and up to two (2) Elections Coordinators.

tt. "Electoral Period" shall include, but is not limited to, Nomination Periods, Campaign Periods, Referendum periods, debates, and Polling Periods;

uu. "External Bodies" shall refer to any entity outside the scope of the University or the SSMU.

i. The scope of the University or the SSMU encompasses SSMU Clubs, SSMU Services, SSMU Athletic Teams, and Clubs or Services recognized under a faculty association.

vv. "First Year Council" shall refer to the elected body of the Society that represents all first year students;

ww. "Instant-Runoff Voting" shall refer to the method of voting where 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.

xx. "Nomination Period" shall mean the duration of time that Elections SSMU designates for the collection of nomination signatures for Election;

yy. "Pensketch" shall mean a brief outline of the platform of a candidate for Election;

zz. "Polling Period" shall mean the duration of time that Elections SSMU designates for the casting of votes in an Election;

aaa. "Polling Station" shall mean a place established by Elections SSMU for Members to cast their votes in an Election;

bbb. "Public Notice" shall mean a written notice that is sent to all Members by electronic means;

ccc. "Signing Officer" shall mean the individuals responsible for authorizing all Elections SSMU materials and documents in accordance with the Internal Regulations of Finances. The signing officers of Elections SSMU shall be the Chief Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officer.

ddd. "SSMUnion" shall mean the labour union of employees of the Student's Society of McGill University (SSMU), and

eee. "Undergraduate Senator" shall include the Elected Undergraduate Senators, the Vice-President (University Affairs) and the Undergraduate Representative to the Board of Governors.

3. Administration

3.1. No Electoral Officer may be:

1. a member of the Board of Directors, a member of the Legislative Council (including the Speaker), an Officer, a member of the Judicial Board, or a member of the Senate Caucus;
2. a Councillor or Executive of a Student Association;
3. a member of Society Staff in any other capacity;
4. a member of the editorial staff of any campus media; or
5. a candidate or member of a campaign committee.

3.2. In the event of a contradiction between the decisions of the Electoral Officers, the ruling and interpretation of the Chief Returning Officer shall prevail over those of other Electoral Officers. A decision by the Chief Returning Officer shall be considered binding, subject only to appeal to the Judicial Board.

3.3. The Legislative Council may pass a resolution by two-thirds (2/3) vote to issue a complaint to the direct supervisor of the Chief Returning Officer, who shall investigate the complaint through due process. The supervisor may implement a warning or further disciplinary action, in line with the HR guidelines of the SSMU and the most up-to-date collective agreement at their discretion.

3.4. Elections for the following positions shall be conducted under the purview of Elections SSMU:

a. the Officers;
b. the Executive Members of the First Year Council;
c. any position requiring special Election which are assigned to Elections SSMU by the Legislative Council; and
d. Any position requested by a Student Faculty Association.

3.5. 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 assigned to Elections SSMU by the Legislative Council.

3.5. Elections SSMU shall conduct any ratification vote required by the Governing Documents.

3.6. During an Election or Referendum, additions or changes to rules may be passed through the Legislative Council via an Interim Provision in consultation with the Chief Returning Officer. This can occur no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the beginning of the Voting Period.

3.7. The following reports shall be presented by the Chief Returning Officer:

a. A report to the Legislative Council at the end of each semester ~~academic year~~ summarizing all activities related to Elections and Referenda.
b. A report to the Board of Directors in confidential session at the end of each semester summarizing all demerit points accrued and sanctions administered by candidates and campaign committees.
c. Any additional reports as requested by the Legislative Council or Board of Directors.

3.8. All motions pertaining to the administration of Referenda, must be approved by Legislative Council and transmitted to Elections SSMU prior to the end of the Nomination Period.

3.9. There shall be three periods, with the dates designated by the Legislative Council, during which Elections shall be conducted. They shall be:

a. The Nomination Period, that is ~~ten (10)~~ fifteen (15) days, which shall refer to the period during which Candidates can be nominated for elections and Referendum questions can be submitted.
b. The Campaign Period, that is four (4) days, which shall refer to the period during which Candidates can campaign for elections and groups can campaign for Referendum questions.
c. The Polling Period, that is ~~fourteen (14)~~ twelve (12) consecutive days, which shall refer to the period during which Members may vote.

3.10. Campaigning may occur only during the Campaigning and Polling periods.

3.11. The Chief Returning Officer, in collaboration with the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary, shall recommend the electoral dates for Elections and Referenda to the Legislative Council for approval.

3.12. 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 the first and last day of classes of the fall or winter academic semester.

3.13. Duration of the Campaigning Period may be extended at the Chief Returning Officer discretion. The duration of the Nomination, Campaigning or Voting Periods may be changed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Legislative Council.

3.13.1. In the event that fewer than two (2) nominations for a given position are received, the Chief Returning Officer shall extend the Nomination Period by two (2) working days, regardless of the scheduled Campaign Period.

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4. Elections

4.1. All Members wishing to stand for Election will receive a Nomination Package, which must be completed in its entirety during the Nomination Period.

4.2. Nominations for Elections require signatures from the Members as follows:

a. one hundred (100) signatures for nominations of Officers, with no more than thirty-five percent (35%) of signatures coming from any one (1) faculty; and
b. Twenty-Five (25) signatures by other first-year students for executive members of the First Year Council.

4.2.1. 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.

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

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

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

4.6. All candidates are responsible for remaining informed of all applicable Governing Documents and must indicate they have reviewed the relevant regulations and dates before the beginning of the Campaign Period.

4.7. Elections SSMU shall organize and promote at least one debate for all Officer candidates. The debate shall be held during the Campaigning or Polling Period.

4.8. 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 Chief Returning Officer ~~before the start of the Campaign Period~~. All campaign committee individuals must be Members.

4.9. All Campaigns must adhere to all SSMU Governing Documents.

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5. Referenda

5.1. The Legislative Council may initiate a Referendum question by way of a resolution of Council. If passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority, it will be put to Members during the following Referendum period.

5.2. The process for student-initiated referendum questions shall be as follows:

a. A preliminary draft must be sent by a Member to the Chief Returning Officer, who, in consultation with the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary, must ensure that the question does not violate the governing documents, is concise, and that its meaning and intent are clear.

b. Once approved, the member shall collect the signatures of at least five hundred (500) members or the signatures amounting to two (2) percent of the membership, whichever is less, on a petition. The total signatures submitted shall be from at least seven (7) different faculties or Schools, with not more than thirty-five percent (35%) being from any one Faculty or School.
    i. Members must have viewed the Referendum question in its completed state to provide their signature.
    ii. All signatures must be collected in the academic semester in which the Referendum is held.
    iii. Signatures must be accompanied by a corresponding name, McGill student email, faculty, and program year.
    iv. Changes to the Internal Regulations or the Constitution shall be made as recommendations to the Legislative Council for consideration.

c. The Member must submit the completed list of signatures by the end of the Nomination Period.

d. Elections SSMU will review the list of signatures and either approve or reject the Referendum question based on 5.2.b.

e. Approved Referendum questions will be circulated and voted on by the Board of Directors at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the Polling Period.
    i. If the Board of Directors rejects the question, they must provide a written explanation.

f. The Chief Returning Officer will publicize all questions that will be placed on the ballot at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the Polling Period.

g. Members may form a "yes" or "no" campaign by submitting a list of fifty (50) signatures following the same criteria as outlined in 4.2.1. of Members seeking to participate in the campaign.

5.2.1. Student-initiated Referenda may amend, establish or rescind any policy of the society except:

a. the Constitution or Internal Regulations;
b. Membership fees or the finances of the Society;
c. the composition of the Society's staff; or
d. legal matters.

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

5.3. All campaigns are subject to the same campaign regulations and must report all committee members to Elections SSMU.

5.4. In addition to the processes for Non-Fee Questions, the following rules will apply to Fee Questions:

a. All new Fee or a Fee increase proposals must be reviewed by the Vice-President (Finance) ahead of its submission to the Legislative Council. Submissions to the Vice-President (Finance) must include the following:
    i. The Fee amount being requested;
    ii. A description of the group proposing the new Fee or Fee increase;
    iii. A detailed annual budget for the group with justifications for every expense;
    iv. All other documentation reasonably requested by the Vice-President (Finance)
b. Fee questions must be reviewed by the University.
c. Fee questions' proposed final version must be established one (1) week in advance of the deadline provided by the University in the MOA.
d. Any Fee question requiring the disclosure of personal information to a party outside of the Society or University must be submitted six (6) months in advance of the implementation date prescribed in the question.
e. Following the University's review, Referendum questions will be submitted to the Board of Directors for final approval at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the Polling Period.

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

5.6. The Legislative Council may approve semesterly using the established processes for non-fee Referendum questions a list of no more than five (5) single-part questions on which students will be asked to voice their opinion.

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

6. Campaigning

6.1. Campaigns shall respect the spirit of a fair campaign and shall conduct themselves with full respect of other candidates and committees.

6.2. Campaigning and related activities may only be carried out by Members. Any Campaign believed by the Chief Returning Officer to have participation, either direct or indirect, from by non-Members will be subject to sanction up to and including disqualification and/or invalidation of an Election or Referendum. The burden shall be on the Campaign to prove their Membership.

6.2.1. Current SSMU Staff, including Officers, may encourage voting in general, but not directly support Campaigns.

6.3. The Chief Returning 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.

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

6.5. 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.

6.6. 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.

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

6.8. 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.

6.8.1. 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.

6.9. The Chief Returning Officer will inform Campaigns of the approved spaces for campaigning. Campaigning outside of these spaces is not permitted and will result in sanctions.

6.10.Campaigns shall act in accordance with all SSMU Governance Documents. Any activity deemed by the Chief Returning Officer to violate provisions of SSMU Governance Documents will be subject to sanction.

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

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

6.12.1. Officers and Society employees may campaign for Referendum questions so long as they directly relate to their portfolio and receive prior approval from the Legislative Council.

6.13. 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.

6.14. During the Campaign Period, all Campaigns with a position providing access to broadcasting and/or programming abilities, or who have editorial duties, shall not use their position to Campaign through the channels granted by their position. Notwithstanding the above, should a Fee Referendum be underway for the relevant publication, they are permitted to utilize their programming and broadcasting abilities to support their Campaign.

6.14.1. 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.

6.15. All campaign literature or material shall be subject to approval by Elections SSMU prior to distribution.

6.16. All in-person campaigning activity must be reported to Elections SSMU at least 24 (twenty four) hours in advance.

6.17. All Elections campaigns will be provided the opportunity to utilize a pensketch which will appear on the ballot.

6.18. The Chief Returning 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.

6.19. Where the Chief Returning 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.

6.20. 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. Electronic communications must not be abusive or excessive, 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.

6.21. 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 Returning Officer shall have final consideration as to what constitutes unauthorized support on a social media, mobile, or online platform.

6.21.1. External bodies, Officers, and SSMU Staff may campaign for Referendum questions so long as they directly relate to their portfolio and receive prior approval from the Legislative Council.

6.21.2. Should an Existence Referendum or Fee Referendum be underway for an Independent Student Group (ISG), they are permitted to campaign for said fee.

6.21.3. Campus publications or student media may exceptionally endorse candidates so long as the endorsements only appear in their official media publications.

6.22. Campaigns may not distribute or promise gifts, including food, of any kind during the Electoral Period.

6.23. The distribution of gifts in exchange for votes is prohibited, as well as electoral promises in exchange for monetary or material gifts.

6.24. 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) at fair market value.
b. Campaigns seeking a position as an executive of the First Year Council or as a Councillor representing the Society's Clubs, or as a Councillor representing the Society's Services shall be permitted to spend a maximum of one hundred dollars ($100) at fair market value.

6.27. All Campaigns and Referendum committees shall submit a complete expense report and campaign receipts to the Chief Returning Officer within five (5) days of the end of the Polling Period. Failure to do so will result in sanctioning. The Chief Returning Officer shall then make available the complete expense report following their own audit.

6.28. Any organization which is not an External Body shall be entitled to issue endorsements, 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.

6.29. Campaigns promoting endorsements must:

a. ensure compliance with all SSMU Governance Documents before interacting with the endorsement;
b. not promote endorsement from any Student Faculty Association; and
c. disclose any affiliations to the organization providing the endorsement.

6.30. The Officers shall remain neutral in a Society Election or any other Elections run by Elections SSMU. This does not apply for Officers seeking re-election or a new position so long as they do not abuse their current position.

7. Polling & Voting

7.1. Voting related to the Society shall be conducted using Elections SSMU's electronic voting system.

7.1.1. In the event that the electronic voting system is not operational, Elections SSMU shall make paper ballots available to all eligible voters. The Chief Returning 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.

7.1.2. 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.

7.2. 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.

7.3. Any official ballot uploaded to Elections SSMU's electronic voting system shall be reviewed in advance by the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary.

7.4. The online voting system may be loaned by Elections SSMU subject to a contract established by the Society.

7.5. Where a ballot is found to be faulty, or in violation of Governing Documents, the Chief Returning Officer will cancel the ballot and immediately communicate said cancellation to SSMU Members. In such a case, the Chief Returning Officer shall endeavor to upload a corrected ballot as soon as possible and announce the new ballot to Members.

7.6. The referenda options shall appear unless otherwise required:

a. "Yes";
b. "No"; and
c. "Abstain".

7.7. Each Member shall have a single ballot and may cast their vote only once. No Campaigns member may observe, interfere, or be actively involved in the process of a Member casting their vote.

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

7.9. If the acclaimed candidate receives a majority of "yes" votes, the candidate shall be declared elected.

7.10. If "No" receives a majority of votes or an equal number of "yes" "no" votes, no candidate shall be declared elected. If no candidate is declared elected by this procedure, the Legislative Council may fill the position using procedures outlined in the Internal Regulations of Governance.

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

7.12. Upon completion of the ballot counting, the Chief Returning Officer shall submit in writing to the President and the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary and publicize the official results within twenty four (24) hours. The Chief Returning 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.

8. Investigation and Sanctions

8.1. Any investigative process will be equally applied to all candidates in an Electoral Period.

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

8.3. For all investigations conducted, the Chief Returning Officer shall solicit a statement from the accusing individual, any relevant witnesses, and a statement from the candidate under investigation, in order to preserve impartiality. The Chief Returning Officer shall also seek additional evidence that can corroborate testimony as needed.

8.4. Complaints submitted to the Chief Returning Officer must be submitted within five (5) days of the conclusion of the Voting Period.

> **8.4.1.** Complaints that arise following this five (5) day deadline must be presented to the Legislative Council.

8.5. Sanctions may be applied retroactively, even in such circumstances the Voting Period has ended.

8.6. Elections SSMU shall keep confidential the identity of all individuals submitting a report of an infraction or testimony, unless the facts make confidentiality impossible. In such a case, the individual shall be informed in advance of any communication to other parties.

> **8.6.1.** No individual involved in the investigation shall attempt to contact, intimidate or sway the testimony of other individuals involved in the investigation.

8.7. All investigations will be concluded with a written explanation, given to all parties, of any decisions taken by Elections SSMU regarding such investigation.

8.8. Elections SSMU has the discretion to administer sanctions as outlined in these Internal Regulations.

8.9. Sanctions can be applied to a Candidate for their own action as well as the actions of their Campaign Committee.

8.10. Elections SSMU shall have the discretion to sanction a candidate or Referendum committee for the infraction of an External Body if there is convincing evidence that the candidate or Referendum committee in question possessed knowledge of the violation before its realization and made no reasonable effort towards its prevention.

8.11. Material that contravenes the Governance Documents shall be confiscated by Elections SSMU.

8.12. The following table is a non-exhaustive list of sanctions to guide the determination of demerit points and their consequences. The Chief Returning 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**
1+ demerit points	- Minor offenses deemed accidental by the CRO that were rectified quickly. - After one such incident, further incidents will be treated with a higher degree of scrutiny.	
2+ demerit points	- Infraction of Online Campaign Guidelines. - Campaigning with material that has not been approved. - Campaigning in private group chats or listservs. - Campaigning in unauthorized locations.	
4+ demerit points	- Repeated violations* - Pre-Campaigning	Cessation of any active campaigning activity (e.g. new

	- Postering over another candidate's campaign literature. - Improper or late completion of required campaigning documents. - Failure to publish spending report.	posters, new social media posts) for 24 hours.
6+ demerit points	- Repeated violations* - Misuse of an appointed or elected position. - Unconsensual use of distribution lists for electronic mail. - Engaging external support.	Public announcement via Elections SSMU social media.
8+ demerit points	- Repeated violations* - Negative Campaigning. - Inhibiting other Candidates. - Ripping or destroying campaign material of other candidates.	Cessation of any active campaigning activity (e.g. new posters, new social media posts) for 72 hours. Formal warning to campaign in question.
12+ demerit points	- Repeated violations* - Spending over the allocated budget. - Knowingly promoting misinformation about Candidates or the Electoral Process	Dissolution of Campaign Committee (no further campaigning allowed).
15 demerit points	- Repeated violations* - Failure to submit financial documents upon request. - Bribery (attempted or successful). - Deception of Electoral Officers. - Interfering with a Member casting their vote - Any acts of voter intimidation. - Retaliation or intimidation of a	Automatic consideration of disqualification. Written ruling by Elections SSMU.

	witness. - Falsifying signatures	

*Demerit points shall compound.

8.12. The Chief Returning Officer shall consult the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary for all investigations and considerations of disqualification. The Chief Returning Officer may forward an investigation to the Judicial Board for consideration as necessary.

8.12.1. Any decision by the Chief Returning Officer may be appealed to the Judicial Board as necessary.

8.12.2. Any disqualifications would consider the level of intention and/or harm, following investigation and consideration of the strength of the evidence, which shall be weighed on a balance of probabilities.

8.13. 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.

8.14. Candidates may use an Advocate throughout the investigative process. Only Members of the SSMU, not remunerated for their services, may be designated as an Advocate.

8.15. Disqualified Candidates may not run in Elections SSMU elections moving forward.

8.16. 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.

8.17. Disqualified Referendum Questions may be submitted to Elections SSMU again, but must form a Campaign Committee without the members of the Campaign Committee from the period of disqualification.

9. Special Elections

9.1. Two (2) Councillors shall be nominated to the Legislative Council to represent the undergraduate student members of Senate, from among the Elected Undergraduate Senators. This Nomination shall be initiated by the Vice-President (University Affairs).

9.2. 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.

9.3. The Executive Members of the First Year Council shall be elected for a term lasting until the end of the Winter semester of the same year. ~~The Election shall occur before the second Legislative Council of the academic year.~~