

Elections Governance Committee Violations Policy

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Review Committee(s): Governance and Finance Standing Committee	
Delegates:	

1. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, in addition to definitions from **Bylaw #1** and **Bylaw #2**, these terms shall be defined as follows regardless of capitalization:

1.1 Consultation means a meeting held to gather information for the purposes of assembling a campaign team and/or platform.

1.2 Designated Polling Station means an electronic polling station installed and under the control of the CRO during balloting.

1.3 Platform means the basic tenets and goals a candidate is basing their campaign upon.

2. Rules for Elections, Plebiscites, and Referenda

2.1 Contempt of Committee

Candidates shall comply with all Elections Governance Committee directives and not act in contempt of the committee.

2.2 Responsibility of Candidates

Candidates shall be responsible for the actions, and the violations stemming from such actions, of any campaign volunteer(s) unless the Candidate satisfies the Committee that they did not direct the action and could not have reasonably foreseen that the action would occur.

2.2.1 Candidates shall compile and maintain an up-to-date list of the names and email addresses of all campaign volunteers. The list shall be forwarded to the CRO within six (6) hours of the CRO's request.

2.3 Existing Policies

It is the responsibility of the Candidate to ensure that all campaign plans, materials, and/or advertisements conform to all policies and regulations of the USC and University, including King's University College, Brescia University College, Huron

University College and student residences, and with all municipal, provincial, and federal laws. Campaign displays and the distribution of literature on campus are also subject to the requirements of the Facilities Management and/or Reservations Office and/or Housing.

2.4 Benefits Acquired by Virtue of Office

2.4.1 Candidates and campaign volunteers are not entitled to use in their campaign any service, tangible benefits, or resources conferred on them by virtue of holding any position in any organization. This includes but is not limited to: mailing lists, office space, office supplies, equipment, advertising space, social media platform and secretarial services.

2.4.2 Any student who is a USC Executive, Associate Vice-President, Intern, or Coordinator cannot endorse a candidate or be a campaign volunteer during the campaigning or balloting periods of the election, unless they take an unpaid leave of absence for the duration of the campaign period.

2.5 No Solicitation of the Executive and USC

Candidates shall not ask for the aid or endorsement of any USC Staff or Executive member for the purposes of campaigning. This does not restrict candidates' ability to carry out consultations.

2.5.1 This extends to all members of Council during internal USC elections, including the Vice Presidential elections.

2.6 Approval of Campaign Materials and Activities

2.6.1 All printed campaign materials and advertisements require approval by the CRO in advance of posting, printing, and/or distributing.

2.6.1.1 Campaign material shall only be approved in the immediate leadup to and during the campaign period.

2.6.2 All candidates are required to submit an event proposal to the CRO for approval for any USC elections-related events including, but not limited to, volunteer rallies, campaign rallies, campaign launch parties, and campaign social events. This shall be a requirement for events both on and off of the University's campus.

2.6.2.1 The CRO shall provide an event proposal template to be used by candidates at the beginning of the campaign period.

2.6.2.2 Proposals shall be submitted to the CRO for approval at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the intended event.

2.7 Pre-Campaigning

2.8 Candidates are not permitted to-distribute campaign materials prior to the campaign period.

2.8.1 Prior to the campaign period, the maximum number of campaign volunteers a candidate is permitted to have on their campaign team is limited to fifty (50).

2.9 Cross-Campaigning

Each candidate must maintain separate finances, and produce unique campaign materials. Candidates cannot be a campaign volunteer on any other candidate's campaign.

2.10 On-Campus Campaigning

2.10.1 Candidates shall not campaign in the USC Main Offices (including the workspace or office of any Staff, Executive, or volunteer) or Council Chambers, or during any meeting of Council or the Standing Committees of Council regardless of location. This prohibition shall include but not be limited to the display of campaign materials, verbal campaigning, and discussion of campaign logistics.

2.10.2 In the case of Vice-Presidential Elections, the USC Main Office shall not be taken to include the USC Conference Rooms. Usage of the USC Conference Rooms for the purpose of campaigning shall not be taken to be a benefit acquired by virtue of office as long as the candidate obtains access to the USC Conference Rooms through the CRO. All access to the USC Conference Rooms for the purpose of campaigning must be obtained through the CRO. The CRO shall be responsible for ensuring that candidates' access to USC Conference Rooms is supplied equitably and equally. The EGC may establish, repeal, and amend procedures to manage the allocation and usage of the USC Conference Rooms by candidates at any time.

2.10.3 Approved campaign posters may only be posted on poster boards that are reserved by the Committee and designated as an elections poster board. Any campaign material posted in an area designated by the Committee for posters shall not exceed a size greater than 11"x17".

2.10.4 Physical campaign materials shall not be distributed to vacant surfaces throughout the University (i.e. candidates may not leave campaign materials on desks in libraries, or tables in eateries, etc.).

2.11 Off-Campus Campaigning

2.11.1 Candidates and their volunteers may campaign in locations off of the University's campus. These occurrences may include but are not limited to: the physical distribution of campaign materials, volunteer rallies, campaign rallies, campaign launch parties, and campaign social events.

2.11.2 Any and all off-campus campaign events must receive approval from the CRO as per Section 11.6 of this Bylaw.

2.11.3 Physical campaign materials may not be distributed to any residence, apartment complex, or place of business without consent.

2.11.3.1 Candidates and their volunteers are required to seek and receive express written permission from the building manager of any apartment complex prior to attending said building to campaign. This written permission must establish all relevant conditions including but not limited to:

- (a) The time frame candidates and their volunteer(s) may visit;
- (b) The number of candidates and volunteers that may visit; and
- (c) The manner in which candidates and their volunteer(s) may distribute physical campaign materials to residents (i.e., whether or not consent is required from each individual resident before posting campaign materials on doors).

2.11.3.2 The permission must be submitted to the CRO prior to attending the residence.

2.12 Campaigning During the Voting Period

2.12.1 While the polls are open, candidates and their volunteer(s) are permitted to continue campaigning as normal, pursuant to the following restrictions:

2.12.1.1 All campaigning shall be prohibited within the sightline of all Designated polling stations; and

2.12.1.2 No candidate, campaign volunteer, or any other party shall: cause an intentional disturbance, interfere, or attempt to interfere, with an individual's right to vote; or coerce, or attempt to coerce, a vote through the use of intimidation.

2.12.2 Candidates and their campaign volunteer(s) shall not establish their own polling station to solicit votes.

3. Campaign Materials and Branding

3.1 Candidates in all elections shall refrain from the use of the USC or University logo and any other USC or University copyrighted material or image when producing materials printed, written, or otherwise produced for the purposes of campaigning.

3.2 Candidates shall not be able to choose as their campaign color the color purple or any color that could be reasonably perceived to be purple.

3.3 Candidates may campaign and distribute campaign materials at their own discretion, subject to the limitations of this Policy.

3.3.1 Campaign material cannot contain copyrighted material or images without the prior consent of the copyright holder;

3.3.2 Campaign materials may not depict images of alcohol or drug use;

3.3.3 All campaign material must not be in violation of the **UWO Code of Student Conduct** or the **USC Community Standards Policy**.

3.3.4 All campaign materials must not contain materials identical or similar to those of other candidates whether in this election or those in the past 4 years.

3.4 Physical campaign materials may not be distributed to individuals without their consent.

3.5 Posters and other campaign materials shall not be within a direct line of sight of a Designated Polling Station during the balloting period and may be removed at the discretion of the CRO.

4. Campaign Finances

Campaign finances shall be governed in accordance with the **Elections Governance Committee Finance Procedure**. The CRO shall be responsible to ensure all procedures are properly followed in accordance with that document.

5. Interference by Outside Parties

5.1 No USC recognized organization or organization executive member shall act as an arm's-length party or campaign volunteer in order to engage in conduct that violates this Bylaw or brings the elections into disrepute.

5.2 Where a USC recognized organization or organization executive member has been alleged to violate Bylaw #2:

5.2.1 The Committee shall send a summary of the alleged violations to the organization email address on file with the USC, including information about any subsequent action that may be taken under this Policy and any relevant times or dates.

5.2.2 The organization shall have a reasonable period of time to send a written response to the CRO, having regard to the timing and nature of the alleged violation.

5.2.3 The Committee shall hold a hearing to determine if the organization has violated Bylaw #2 and may impose sanctions or prohibitions on the club or individual at the Committee's discretion that shall last for the remainder of the campaign and balloting period.

5.2.4 Upon the announcement of the electoral results, the sanctions shall be suspended, and the matter shall be referred to the relevant governing body for further measures at their discretion.

5.3 Notwithstanding provisions dealing with candidates, campaign volunteers, and clubs, no student of the University may engage in actions that are likely to bring the electoral process into disrepute. Where such an action takes place, the following procedure shall be followed:

5.3.1 Any student alleged to be violating this Policy by the Committee shall be notified via their UWO email address, including information about any subsequent action that may be taken under this Policy and any relevant times or dates.

5.3.2 The student shall be given the opportunity to respond with a written statement to the Committee within a reasonable period of time.

5.3.3 Where the Committee finds a violation has occurred, the Committee may refer the matter to an outside person or body with recommendations, including but not limited to: the Associate Vice-Provost, Student Experience and Information and Technology Services.