



University Students' Council Of Western University

Elections Rules and Violations Policy

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Related Document(s):	
Review Committee(s): Elections Governance Committee; Governance Committee	
Delegates:	

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1. 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:

1.1.1. **Candidate** shall refer to students running for the roles of USC President, USC Vice-President University Affairs, USC Vice-President External Affairs, Faculty Council President, Faculty Councillor, Western Student Senator, or Western Board of Governors.

1.1.2. **Committee** or **The Committee** shall refer to the Election Governance Committee.

1.1.3. **Designated Polling Station** means a physical location setup and run by The Committee with access to the online ballot.

1.1.4. **Slate** means a group of candidates running together as a team or party.

2. RULES FOR ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA

2.1. Responsibility of Candidates

Candidates shall be responsible for the 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.

- 2.1.1. 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.
- 2.1.2. 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.
- 2.1.3. Candidates cannot create false information regarding other candidates in the election.
- 2.1.4. Candidates cannot interfere with or change the voters list.
- 2.1.5. No candidate shall attempt to change the vote tally in any way other than soliciting votes from voters.
- 2.1.6. Candidates are required to swear an oath of fair campaigning with a focus on the following values
 1. Responsible - Understand their role as a candidate and follow rules and regulations.
 2. Diligent - Educate themselves, be prepared for meetings, ask questions, and be respectful.
 3. Committed - Have the time, energy and motivation to participate in the election.
- 2.2. Resources acquired from previous roles at Western or The USC
 - 2.2.1. 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.
 - 2.2.2. 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.
- 2.3. Pre-Campaigning

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

2.4. Cross-Campaigning

2.4.1. Candidates must maintain separate finances, and produce unique campaign materials.

2.4.2. Candidates may not endorse other candidates.

2.4.3. Candidates cannot be a campaign volunteer on any other candidate's campaign.

2.5. On-Campus Campaigning

2.5.1. Candidates shall not campaign in the USC Main Offices (including the workspace or office of any Staff, Executive, or volunteer), Clubs Spaces or Council Chambers, or during any meeting of Council or the Standing Committees of Council regardless of location.

2.5.2. 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".

2.5.3. 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.).

2.6. Campaigning During the Voting Period

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

1. All campaigning shall be prohibited within the sightline of all Designated Polling Stations; and
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.

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

3. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

3.1. If a student's actions satisfy Section C of the Student Code of Conduct, the Elections Governance Committee shall refer the student to the Vice Provost (Students).

3.1.1. The Elections Governance Committee will not continue its investigation if a student has been referred to the Vice Provost (Students)

4. SANCTIONS AND DISQUALIFICATION

4.1. The EGC shall sanction candidates in accordance with the Elections Violations Procedure.

4.2. If a winning candidate in any election is disqualified, the process for determining a winner shall be as follows:

4.2.1. If a winning candidate in any election is disqualified, the candidate who received the greatest number of votes and who has not been disqualified shall be deemed the winner.

4.2.2. If preferential balloting was used, the disqualified candidate shall be removed and their votes will be reallocated and the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes and who has not been disqualified shall be deemed the winner.

4.3. Disqualification of a candidate shall not take effect until the candidate has exhausted their right of appeal.