

SCD164-17

AMS Elections 2017

Elections Administrator Max Holmes

Dates (Nothing has changed)

- ▶ Feb. 17th at 2PM Nominations Close
- ▶ Feb. 17th at 5PM All Candidates Meeting
- ▶ Feb. 27th Campaign Period Begins
- ▶ Mar. 6th Voting Opens
- ▶ Mar. 10th at 5PM Voting Closes
- ▶ Mar. 27-31 Constituency Elections

Candidate Events

- ▶ We are planning to have Three Events
- ▶ Coffee with the Candidates
- ▶ Political Pit Night
- ▶ AMS Elections Results Party In the Pit (Ticket needed to get in from 5-8PM)

Third Party Run Candidate Debates Update

- ▶ We still have Three debates
- ▶ February 27th Run by the **Debate Society**
- ▶ March 1st Run by **the Debate Society**
- ▶ March 3rd Great Debate Run by **the Ubysey**
- ▶ Debates will be supervised and all material will be approved by the Elections Committee

Impartiality Rules For Debates (From Candidate's Handbook)

- ▶ **The teams creating the questions will be vetted to ensure no one involved in a candidate's campaign is helping create the questions. The questions will be checked and approved by the Elections Administrator. Only two people will have the final list of questions for the debate; the Elections Administrator and the Moderator. If for any reason, you hear someone else has the questions please contact the Elections Administrator immediately. Possessing this list will be considered a severe campaign violation. If a candidate or their campaign gets a hold of the questions for their debate new questions will be created by the Elections Administrator. During the debate the Elections Administrator will be present to ensure the moderator stays impartial. If the moderator for any reason acts grossly biased the Elections Administrator may ask the moderator to step down and take the place of the moderator for the remainder of the debate.**

Election Rule Changes Update

- ▶ Referendum Handbook and Elections Handbook have been finished
- ▶ New Detailed Conflict of Interest rules
- ▶ New Rules for Volunteers
- ▶ New Rule for Endorsements
- ▶ New Rule Regarding Spending and Reimbursements
- ▶ New Rule regarding the order of Referendums
- ▶ All Handbooks must be signed by candidates and all referendum campaigns and yes/no committees

Detailed Conflict Of Interest Definition (From the Candidate's Handbook)

- ▶ Elections Committee members and candidates must abide by the conflict of interest rules set out for the Elections Committee. **Violating these rules in any way will be considered a major campaign violation and could result in the disqualification of a candidate and the firing of a committee member. In other words, PLEASE DON'T DO IT!**
- ▶ Direct Conflicts of interest between candidates and committee members include:
 - ▶ Family Member/Relative
 - ▶ Member of the Same Club/Association
 - ▶ Former employer/employee/colleague (does not include current work on the elections committee with AMS staff, volunteers, and/or executives)
 - ▶ A Friend (Hard to define but when in doubt declare a conflict of interest)
 - ▶ A Candidate whose nomination form the committee member signed (obviously before they were hired)
- ▶ Note: A majority vote by the Elections Committee can also declare a conflict of interest between a committee member and a candidate for any reason.
- ▶ At the all candidates meeting our committee members must declare all conflicts of interest they may have with candidates who are running for any position the AMS Elections Committee oversees.

Detailed Conflict Of Interest Definition (From the Candidate's Handbook)

- ▶ Conflicts of interest behavior between candidates and committee members include:
 - ▶ Buying/offering Committee Members anything
 - ▶ Interacting with Committee Members in a public setting
 - ▶ Requesting/relinquishing confidential elections committee information
- ▶ **Note:** Although you may or may not have a direct conflict of interest with a committee member you should never participate in behavior that could be perceived as a conflict of interest. For example, don't take a committee member to lunch in the Gallery in the middle of the elections. The Elections Committee understands candidates and Elections Committee members may have personal relationships with one another. However, to avoid the perception of conflicts of interest all candidates and committee members must abide by the Conflict of Interest Behavioral rules as well as the Direct Conflict of Interest rules.

New Conflict of Interest Rules (From the Candidate's Handbook)

- ▶ **At the all candidates meeting our committee members must declare all conflicts of interest they may have with candidates who are running for any position the AMS Elections Committee oversees. If a committee member for any reason fails to declare a conflict interest it falls to the candidate to do so. When a committee member declares a conflict of interest with a candidate the committee member and that candidate may not discuss/communicate about any elections issues. The only exception to this rule is if the committee member is discharging the duties of their office by communicating with a candidate. For these exceptions, the committee member and candidate must always include a committee member with no conflict of interest in the communications. Otherwise it will be treated as a conflict of interest violation.**

Conflict of Interest Reporting Procedure (From the Candidate's Handbook)

- ▶ **Also, when a committee member declares a conflict of interest with a candidate, that committee member must abstain from voting on any committee motions (punishments, appeals, etc.) involving the candidate and their campaign.** The committee member may stay for the committee meeting but is encouraged to refrain from speaking on any issues involving candidates they have a conflict of interest with. If the EA has a conflict of interest, they are required to ask another committee member to take the chair during the discussion and during the vote on the issue.
- ▶ **If for any reason, you witness a conflict of interest violation tell the EA immediately.** The only exception is if the conflict of interest violation involves the EA. In that case, please notify a member of the Elections Committee (so a meeting can be convened) and notify the AMS Ombudsperson so council can be notified. If at any point, you accidentally violate these rules, please notify the elections committee immediately. Self-reporting an incident as a committee member or candidate before a complaint is received will be considered when the punishment is decided.

New Rules for all Candidates' Volunteers (From the Candidate's Handbook)

- ▶ **Candidates must give us a full list of all the volunteers working on their campaign by Sunday February 26 at 11:59PM.** On this list please include everyone who will be doing any work for your campaign. Every volunteer must provide an email on the list. If anyone joins or leaves your campaign after you turn in your list, please let us know so we can remove them from the list. **This list will be used by the Elections Administrator to alert your team if you have violated a campaign rule and what the punishment is.** The list will also be used to announce if your campaign privileges have been revoked in any form. **A master list of all volunteers' and candidates' emails will be used to announce any major election announcements.** This will ensure quick and seamless communication and avoid volunteers making mistakes that can affect the candidates.

Two New Committee Members

- ▶ Two new Elections Committee members will be appointed to help make decisions from now until the end of march
- ▶ With the new conflict of interest rules we could have had an issue where only one committee member was making a decision
- ▶ In order to remedy this situation we added two poll clerks to the committee to serve as volunteers on the committee (Students at Large)
- ▶ We also feel we may benefit from having 5 voices on the committee when it comes to serious elections issues as oppose to only 3 voices

New Rules for How Candidates Endorse one Another

- ▶ Last years rules were somewhat convoluted when it came to how candidates can endorse other candidates.
- ▶ The rules from last year said you could endorse another candidate but not to a group of more that three people.
- ▶ This made absolutely no sense when the Elections Committee talked about it so we scrapped the three person rule. We condensed the rule and added a new rule:
- ▶ **Notwithstanding the rules regarding slates, candidates may endorse one another. However, they may not endorse a group of candidates. For any candidate you wish to endorse that announcement must be separate from any endorsement for another candidate.**

New Reimbursement Rules

- ▶ We were looking at previous elections and we noticed that in the past a candidate running in two campaigns received twice the money
- ▶ We realized this can be perceived as unfair since that person can then out-campaign anyone who is only running for one position
- ▶ However, we also realized that running for two positions often means you need to reach out to more people and may need to spend more
- ▶ Therefore the elections committee reached the following compromise:
 - ▶ **The maximum expenditure for candidates running for two positions (AMS Executive, UBC Senate and UBC Board of Governors races) is \$750.** This means that you **CANNOT** exceed this amount of spending on your campaign, regardless of the source. You will be considered one campaign when it comes to spending limits, reimbursements, and campaign material.
 - ▶ **The maximum reimbursement for candidates running for two positions (AMS Executive, UBC Senate and UBC Board of Governors races) is \$525.** The partial reimbursement limit in these races is \$225.

New Rule on Referendum Question order on the Ballot

- ▶ In the absence of any rule, the committee has decided to create a rule on how referendums will appear on the ballot this year
- ▶ Referendums will appear in the following order:
 - ▶ Bylaw Changes
 - ▶ Fee Changes of any kind
 - ▶ All other kinds of referendums
- ▶ Within their respective categories referendums will appear in the order they were submitted
- ▶ We recommend this be addressed more permanently after the elections this year

Your Job in the Upcoming Election

- ▶ We need every councilor to vote the very first day voting opens
- ▶ After voting please send me an email (elections@ams.ubc.ca) to let me know you could vote and everything looks good or if it doesn't
- ▶ We need every councilor to do this so we can make sure that every student from every constituency can vote
- ▶ PLEASE REMEMBER TO DO THIS! (I will remind you all on March 3rd)

Questions...