

**CODE CHANGES 2019:  
ELECTORAL PROCEDURES**

TO: Council  
FROM: Elections Committee  
*March 2019*  
*As amended at Council April 3, 2019*

Amendment to change a variety of election procedures, including:

- a) banning posters,
- ~~b) forbidding student staff to endorse or assist the person they work for,~~
- c) requiring the Elections Committee to create a chart of penalties,
- ~~d) requiring the VPAUA to forward referendum petitions within four days,~~
- e) shortening the time for an appeal committee to come to a decision.

Additions are indicated by ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated by striking through (~~this~~).

**SECTION IX: CODE PROCEDURES**

**A. ELECTORAL PROCEDURES**

**Article 1. Elections Committee**

...

**C. Duties of Committee Members**

1. The Elections Administrator shall:

...

~~(g) — organize the All-Candidates Meeting pursuant to Article 2(4);~~

*[and renumber]*

...

(v) ensure that Constituencies have a chief elections official and provide training to such officials;

(w) ~~assist Constituencies that wish~~ ***actively encourage Constituencies*** to use the Society's electronic voting system ***and assist them in doing so;***

~~(x) — report to Council on the rules Constituencies must follow if they choose to use the Society's electronic voting system;~~

...

4. The Events Officer shall:

- (a) ~~assist the Elections Administrator in organizing the All-Candidates Meeting~~  
**organize the All-Candidates Meeting pursuant to Article 2(3);**

...

## **Article 2. Nomination and Campaign Regulations**

...

### 3. All-Candidates Meeting and Candidates' Handbook

- (a) The ~~Elections Administrator~~ **Events Officer** shall organize an All-Candidates Meeting to take place following the close of nominations, on the same day as the close of nominations.

- ~~a~~**(b)** At the All-Candidates Meeting, the Elections Administrator shall provide instructions concerning the parts of the Electoral Procedures relevant to candidates and shall distribute a copy of a candidates' handbook to all candidates.

...

- (h) If a referendum is taking place in conjunction with the elections, the Elections Administrator may combine the Referendum Meeting required by Article 4 below with the All-Candidates Meeting.**

### 4. Interview by a Campus Publication

- ~~(a) The Elections Committee shall arrange for the publication in a campus publication of an interview with each candidate at no cost to the candidate.~~

- (b) The Elections Committee shall **facilitate the publication of interviews with the candidates in a campus publication.** ~~determine which campus publication shall conduct and publish these interviews.~~

- ~~(c) The Elections Committee, in consultation with the designated campus publication, shall set the time or times for conducting the interviews and the date of publication of the interviews.~~

- (d) Candidates who decline to be interviewed shall have a statement to that effect published by the Elections Committee

### 5. ~~All-Candidates Forums~~

- (a) The Elections Committee shall organize two or more ~~All-Candidates Forums~~ during the Official Campaign Period prior to the commencement of voting.

- (b) The ~~All-Candidates Forums~~ shall be publicized in at least one issue of a campus publication or publications as determined by the Elections Committee.

- (c) Each ~~All~~-Candidates Forum shall be for one or more positions in the Society's Executive elections and for one or more positions in non-Society elections such as the elections for the University Senate and for the University Board of Governors.

6. Campaigning

- ...
- (e) Notwithstanding the prohibitions in paragraph (b) above, the following activities shall be permitted even if engaged in before the beginning of the Official Campaign Period, but only after the All-Candidates Meeting:

- (i) ~~meeting privately with the leaders of organizations in order to seek endorsements;~~
- (ii) responding to inquiries from the media about elections plans.

- (f) Only the following forms of campaigning, and no others, shall be permitted during elections and referenda:

- ...
- (x) any other form of campaigning approved by the Elections Committee before the beginning of the Official Campaign Period, **except posterings**.

- (g) **Posterings shall not be permitted as a form of campaigning in elections or referenda, but the Elections Committee may use posters to advertise elections and referenda.**

- (i) All campaign material must be approved by the Elections Administrator **or the Chief Returning Officer**, or their designate in case of a conflict of interest, before it is used.

10. Declaration of Expenses and Application for Reimbursement

- (a) To demonstrate compliance with the spending limits established pursuant to paragraph 9(a) above, every candidate must submit to the Elections Committee a statement of campaign expenses. This statement, signed by the candidate and supported by itemized receipts, must be submitted no later than **one week after** the end of the Official Campaign Period. The submitted material may be audited at the discretion of the Elections Committee. Additional statements may be considered at the discretion of the Elections Committee, but in no case more than ~~forty-eight (48) hours~~ **nine (9) days** after the end of the Official Campaign Period.

- ~~14. Candidates are expected to campaign independently, but if joint campaign activities, including but not limited to classroom announcements and leafleting, do occur, they must be reported to the Elections Committee. Such reports must be made every seventy-two (72) hours. At its discretion, the Elections Committee may approve such activities or order them to cease.~~

...

18. Third Party Endorsements

- (a) Candidates must publicly declare their acceptance or rejection of third party endorsements by media outlets and any other group or individual.
- ~~(b) — These acceptances and rejections shall be posted by the Elections Committee. This posting by the Elections Committee shall constitute the public declaration required of candidates as far as rejections are concerned. Candidates must themselves post the names of all groups or individuals whose endorsements they accept.~~

**Article 3. Violations and Penalties**

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11. ***The Elections Committee shall create a violations chart with examples and specific punishments.***

**Article 4. Referendum Regulations**

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- 3. On receiving a petition in accordance with Bylaw 4(1)(b), the Vice-President Academic and University Affairs shall verify that it meets the requirements of the Bylaw and of this Article. If it has done so, the Vice-President Academic and University Affairs shall forward the question on the petition to the Elections Administrator, the President, and Council so that a referendum may be held on it.
- 7.
  - (a) Campaign material must be approved by the Elections Administrator ***or the Chief Returning Officer*** before being posted or published.
  - (b) The Elections Administrator ***and the Chief Returning Officer*** shall not approve campaign material which ~~he or she deems~~ ***they deem*** to be offensive.
  - (c) A decision of the Elections Administrator ***or the Chief Returning Officer*** to approve or not approve campaign material may be appealed to the Elections Committee, in accordance with the appeal procedures in Article 8(2) below.
- ...
- (g) The Elections Committee shall publicize the availability of funding for Yes and No committees by means of advertisements appearing ***on the Committee's and the Society's social media sites*** ~~in a campus publication or publications~~ within two (2) business days of the receipt of a referendum petition by the Vice-President Academic and University Affairs or the passing of a motion by Council calling for a referendum.
- 10. The Elections Administrator shall organize a Referendum Meeting to take place no later than seven (7) days prior to the referendum. At this meeting, the Elections Administrator

shall provide interested parties with information about the parts of the Electoral Procedures relevant to referenda and shall distribute a copy of a referendum handbook to interested parties. ***If the referendum is taking place in conjunction with elections, the Referendum Meeting may be combined with the All-Candidates Meeting.***

#### **Article 5. Polling Regulations**

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2. Polling stations shall be in conspicuous locations, including ~~locations~~ **a location** in the AMS Student Nest and in other conspicuous locations at the discretion of the Elections Committee. Staffing times shall be at the discretion of the Elections Committee, but each polling station must be staffed for at least four (4) hours per voting day during Society elections and referenda.

...

4. Except in the case of by-elections, paper ballot elections, or other special elections, voting during Society elections and referenda through electronic or paper means shall be available for at least five (5) ~~calendar~~ **school** days.

...

6.

~~(e) — At the discretion of the Elections Committee, other groups or individuals wishing to publicize their point of view on a referendum question may be granted the same right to have a statement on the election website as is granted to the Yes and No committees.~~

#### **Article 8. Interpretations, Rulings, Complaints, and Appeals**

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2. Protests or complaints of irregularities regarding candidates, referendum campaign groups, or election officials may be submitted to the Elections Committee, provided that the protest or complaint is in writing, is signed by at least three (3) Active Members, and is submitted no more than three (3) ~~calendar~~ **school** days after the close of balloting. The Elections Committee must reach a decision on the protest or complaint no more than twenty-four (24) hours after it has been received in person by a member of the Committee.

~~3. — Complainants are encouraged to submit their complaints promptly. Excessive delays in bringing complaints forward shall be taken into consideration by the Elections Committee in making its decision.~~

...

18. An Election Appeals Committee must come to a decision no more than **twenty-four (24) forty-eight (48)** hours after holding its first meeting.

## Article 9. Constituency Elections and Referenda

1. Constituencies shall determine the rules and procedures to be followed in conducting their elections and referenda, provided however that the following conditions are adhered to:  
  
...
2. ***Constituencies may not introduce election or referendum rules that contradict the requirements of this Article or are otherwise in conflict with the Society's Code or Bylaws.***

*[and renumber]*

## Article 10. Club Elections

1. The Operations Committee shall develop procedures to regulate the elections of Clubs constituted under Bylaw 13(3).
2. ***The electronic voting system used for Constituency elections is not to be used for Club elections, but the Operations Committee may use other electronic means for Club elections.***

## Article 12. Conduct of Elections for Other Organizations

1. The Elections Committee shall conduct elections and referenda for other organizations, including ***but not limited to*** the election of students to the Senate and Board of Governors ***and elections for the Ubysey Publications Society and the Student Legal Fund Society***, only under the following conditions:
  - (a) The election must primarily involve the Society's Active Members.
  - (b) A contract to run the election must exist between the Society and the other organization, such a contract to be approved by Council.
  - (c) The contract between the Society and the other organization must specify that the Elections Committee shall ~~manage and administer~~ **oversee** the whole election from the close of nominations through to the counting of ballots.