

SUBJECT	Code Changes 2020: Constituency Elections
MEETING DATE	January 8th, 2020
MOTION	<p>From the Elections Committee</p> <p>“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMS Council adopt the report of the Elections Committee entitled “Code Changes 2020: Constituency Elections” and thus amend the Code as recommended”.</p>
PREPARED BY	Ahsan Sahibzada – Chief Electoral Officer
DOCUMENTS	1. Code Changes 2020: Constituency Elections

DESCRIPTION & RATIONALE

The Elections Committee recommends that Article 9 of Section IX (A) of AMS Code be amended to modify the rules for Constituency elections by banning slates and posters.

This amendment would ensure that Constituencies are following the same basic rules as AMS Elections, i.e. slates and posters being banned.

BENEFITS

Reputational,
Financial,
Sustainable, Social

- For banning posters:
 - Sustainable option, would reduce paper waste drastically
 - Reduce the reimbursement levels, resulting in budgetary savings
 - Reduces chances for petty complaints, thus allowing the Constituency Elections Administrator to focus on bigger issues
- For banning slates:
 - Consistent with the basic rules for AMS Elections
 - Would ensure that all candidates are running their individual race

RISKS

Financial,
Operational,
Reputational

None

COSTS None
Financial,
Resources, Lifecycle

TIMELINE Immediate upon resolution
Implementation
Timeline

CONSULTATION AMS Elections Committee
Internal & External AMS Archivist
Groups

**CODE CHANGES 2020:
CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS**

TO: Council
FROM: Elections Committee
January 2020

Amendment to modify the rules for Constituency elections by banning slates and posters.

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

1. SECTION IX A: ELECTORAL PROCEDURES

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:
 - (a) the Constituency must appoint a chief elections official and an elections committee to conduct its elections;
 - (b) the Constituency's chief elections official and its elections committee must conduct elections in an unbiased and impartial manner;
 - (c) candidates in a Constituency election may not serve during that election on the Constituency's elections committee or on any other election appeal body in the Constituency; nor may they serve as the Constituency's chief elections official;
 - (d) a Constituency's elections officials must undergo training provided by the AMS Chief Electoral Officer;
 - (e) if using the Society's electronic voting system, the Constituency must abide by the rules prescribed by the AMS Chief Electoral Officer;
 - (f) the Constituency must establish rules governing election procedures and the penalties for violating such rules;
 - (g) the Constituency's rules and penalties must be in writing, and the Constituency must not introduce non-written rules or penalties;

- (h) the Constituency must not introduce new election rules, or alter existing election rules, during the period lasting from the beginning of an election campaign until the final determination of the election results;
- (i) no votes shall be deducted as a penalty in any Constituency election;
- (j) for similar offences in the same election or referendum, the Constituency's elections committee shall impose similar penalties;
- (k) the Constituency's council shall not have the right to overturn or refuse to accept the results of a Constituency election;
- (l) all members of a Constituency in good standing shall be entitled to vote in all elections and referenda conducted by that Constituency;
- (m) all members of a Constituency in good standing shall be entitled to run for any elected position in that Constituency;
- (n) voting in all elections and referenda shall be by secret ballot;
- (o) notice of elections and referenda shall be advertised in the Constituency publication or another campus publication and posted in prominent locations at least seven (7) days prior to the election or referendum;
- (p) notice of deadlines for nominations shall be advertised in the Constituency publication or another campus publication and posted in prominent locations at least seven (7) days prior to the deadlines;
- (q) if only one candidate is nominated for a position, an election must still be held using a "Yes or No" ballot, and the candidate shall be declared elected only if more than half of the voters vote Yes for that candidate;
- (r) a candidate who loses a "Yes or No" election for a position as described in paragraph (o) above must not be appointed to that position;
- (s) in the case of a referendum to alter Constituency fees, the Constituency must follow the quorum requirements and other procedures in Bylaw 14 and Code Section XIII, Article 6;
- (t) the Constituency must establish an internal appeals procedure to deal with protests and complaints concerning its elections and referenda;
- (u) the Constituency shall require its chief elections official to not approve campaign material they deem to be offensive;
- (v) the decision of a Constituency chief elections official to not approve campaign material shall be appealable within the Constituency and may be subsequently appealed according to the procedures outlined in paragraph 2 below;

- (w) results of Constituency elections and referenda shall be certified by the AMS Chief Electoral Officer in reports made both to the Constituency and to Council-;
- (x) ***posting shall not be permitted as a form of campaigning in Constituency elections or referenda, but posters may be used to advertise Constituency elections and referenda; and***
- (y) ***candidates in Constituency elections shall not run in slates, real or apparent, or share expenses for campaign materials, and shall abide by the other rules against slates in Article 2(11)-17 above.***