

Graduate Students' Association – University of Saskatchewan

Elections 2017 – Rules and Regulations

Important Dates (2017)

Tuesday, 14 March	Call for nominations
Thursday, 16 March, 7pm	Orientation meeting
Wednesday, 22 March, 12pm	Nomination period closes
Wednesday, 22 March, 12 – 1pm	Procedures meeting
Thursday, 23 March, 9am	Campaigning begins
Monday, 27 March, 12 – 1pm	All-candidates forum
Monday, 3 April, 9am	Voting begins; campaigning ends
Wednesday, 5 April, 4pm	Voting ends

Eligibility

To be eligible for election to an executive position, nominees must:

- Be a member of the Association in good standing
- Not be an election official
- Not nominate another person for the same position that they are seeking
- At the discretion of the Elections Committee, have demonstrated prior experience on GSA or similar student association governing bodies or their committees at the U of S or another Canadian university.
- VP Operations and Finance position, candidates must demonstrate, at the discretion of the Elections Committee, some experience or education in finance or a related field.
- Candidates shall submit a CV or resume containing content of their choice (maximum two pages in PDF format) to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) which will be made available on the Association website during the campaign period.
- Currently serving executive members or Councillors need not resign during the election period to run for an available position.

A nomination form for an Executive position must include:

- The full name, signature, and student number of the nominee; and,
- The full name, signature, and student number of ten (10) nominators.
- The University confirmation of enrollment of the nominee.
- In addition, confirmed candidates will be asked to submit a personal statement to voters of not more than 250 words.

A nominator must:

- Be a member of the association;
- Not be an election official; and
- Not be a nominee for the same position for which he or she has nominated another person.

A nominee or their delegate for an Executive or Council position must attend the Procedures Meeting to be eligible for ratification as a candidate.

The names of nominees and nominators are to be kept confidential. This does not apply to nominees who have been approved to be candidates for election.

No person may seek more than one position on the Executive.

A nominee must provide a \$50 deposit that is refundable at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

Campaigning

- Prior to the campaign period, no one shall: a) publicly advertise the intent of any person to seek election; or b) campaign on behalf of any candidate.
- Campaigning is limited to official GSA channels, posters, personal e-mail/social media contacts and word-of-mouth as outlined below. There may not be any secret campaign materials (e.g., secret social media/web groups/pages), and all campaign websites or social media channels/groups shall be made available to the CEO.
- An official elections webpage will be made available to voters and will consist of general elections information, a list of candidates, their personal statements not to exceed 250 words, and a PDF copy of their CV or resume which shall not exceed two pages.
- Candidates or their representatives shall not misrepresent the character or policies of other candidates, nor shall they interfere in any manner with the campaign materials of other candidates.
- No candidate or representative shall deliver campaign speeches or information about a slate in regularly scheduled classes, labs, computer labs, the Commons, or University Culinary Services locations, except during scheduled election forums.
- No candidate or representative shall engage in door-to-door soliciting within the University residences.
- Candidates and representatives shall adhere to the poster restrictions for each building on campus.
- Any poster on which a candidate's name appears shall count towards the candidate's poster limit.
- Candidates and representatives may use websites and may send email for campaign purposes and are responsible for learning and following applicable University rules, regulations, and policies regarding electronic communication. However, no candidate may send e-mail to voters via any university or mass e-mail list or through any university staff or faculty member. E-mail is limited to the candidates' personal contacts.

- No candidate or representative shall offer gifts or products to voters.
- No candidate or their representative(s) shall use personal funds to acquire campaign materials. Any such material to promote a candidate will be considered unauthorized and any such incident shall be remedied at the discretion of the CEO.
- The Association will cover costs for printing up to fifty (50) posters on standard 8.5”x11” letter paper.
- Candidates shall ensure that their campaign materials are taken down by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of voting.
- Council shall be a neutral forum. No promotional materials shall be displayed or distributed to Council.
- No campaigning of any kind may take place inside the GSA Commons, save i) the all-candidates forum, and ii) one poster per candidate which will be posted by the CEO.
- All campaign materials must be removed by 11:59pm on the last day of voting. No campaigning may take place during the voting period.

Violations and Complaints

- Candidates are liable for violations by representatives.
- Registered campaign committees are liable for violations during referenda, including the actions of any individual or group working on behalf of the campaign.
- Complaints arising out of any election or referendum must be submitted in writing to the Association office within five working days after the final ballot count.
- The CEO, in consultation with the Elections Committee, shall investigate and deal with alleged violations of this bylaw and the schedules arising from the beginning of the academic year to the deadline to file complaints.
- Complaints concerning the CEO shall be reviewed during a meeting of the Elections Committee excluding the CEO, who shall forward complaints to Council if appropriate.
- The CEO shall investigate all other complaints of violations of this bylaw and its schedules and provide advice to the Elections Committee at the earliest possible meeting.
- The Elections Committee may take such steps as it deems necessary to fulfil its mandate.

- The Elections Committee may disqualify a candidate where appropriate.
- Any person affected by a decision of the Elections Committee may make an application for review by submitting a complaint to the Office Manager.
- The Office Manager shall forward the application to the Code of Ethics Committee.
- Where the Code of Ethics Committee is of the opinion that the application is not frivolous or vexatious, he or she shall notify the Council of the complaint.
- Where a hearing is required, the matter shall be referred to the Code of Ethics Committee, to hear the complaint. The CEO shall not participate in the hearing.
- The review panel may overturn a decision of the Elections Committee if the Elections Committee:
 - a) acted without authority, acted beyond its jurisdiction, or refused to exercise its jurisdiction;
 - b) failed to observe a principle of natural justice or procedural fairness;
 - c) based its decision on an erroneous finding of fact that it made in a perverse or capricious manner or without regard for the material before it; or
 - d) acted in any other way that was contrary to law.
- A decision of the review panel is final.
- All applications must be made within 14 days of the Elections Committee's final decision.

Other

If there is only one candidate for one position on the Executive the acclamation must be affirmed in a vote of confidence in which the candidate receives a majority of 'yes' votes.

Eight percent (8%) of the total student graduate body must vote in a general or by-election. In cases where this does not occur a new vote must be held.