

Bylaws
York Federation of Students
Local 68 Canadian Federation of Students

AMENDED November 2024

By-Law 1: Definitions

In the Articles, Constitution and By-Laws and any other document of the Federation:

- 1.1. "Articles" shall mean any instrument that incorporates the Federation or modifies its incorporating document or instrument, including articles of incorporation, restated articles of incorporation, articles of amendment, articles of amalgamation, articles of arrangement, articles of continuance, articles of dissolution, articles of reorganization, articles of revival, letters patent or supplementary letters patent; and
- 1.2. "Act" shall mean the Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act, 2010 (Ontario); and
- 1.3. "Annual General Meeting" shall mean the Annual General Meeting of the Federation as set out in By-Law 9; and
- 1.4. "Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Federation as set out in By-Law 4.1; and
- 1.5. "BPM" shall mean Best Practices Manual created by the CRO to be used as referenced in By-Law 11.1; and
- 1.6. "Business Days" shall mean any day any day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or statutory or civic holiday in Toronto, Ontario; and
- 1.7. "By-Law" shall mean any By-Law of the Federation; and
- 1.8. "CFS" shall mean the Canadian Federation of Students; and
- 1.9. "Chair" shall mean the person holding the office of "Chair", who shall preside over a committee; and
- 1.10. "CRO" shall mean the Chief Returning Officer of the Federation, as set out in By-Law 11.3; and
- 1.11. "Club" shall mean any student organization or association recognized by the Federation; and
- 1.12. "College" shall mean a College at York University; and
- 1.13. "College Council" refers to the student government of a College at York University; and
- 1.14. "Commissioner" shall mean a part-time staff hired to assist Executives fulfill their roles as set out in Operations Policy #18; and
- 1.15. "Constituency" shall mean any one of the undergraduate College or Faculty constituencies, recognized by the Federation, as set out in By-Law 4.1; and
- 1.16. "CSG Council" shall mean the standing committee of the Council comprised of one representative from each Community Service Group, as set out in By-Law 7.2.(d); and
- 1.17. "Director" shall mean the directors of the Federation, consisting of the Executive and Directors-at-large of the Federation; and
- 1.18. "Directors-at-large" shall mean the 18 non-executive members of the Board representing College and Faculty at York University; and
- 1.19. "Elected Term" shall mean the terms of office of the Board which align with the fiscal year of the Federation as set out in By-Law 16; and
- 1.20. "Executive" shall mean the 5 Executive members of the Board as set out at By-law 4.1, and consisting of the persons holding the offices of the President, Vice President Operations, Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, Vice President Equity, and Vice President Campus Life; and

- 1.21. "Executive Committee" shall mean the committee set out in By-Law 7.2.(a); and
- 1.22. "Executive Director" shall mean the staff person as set out in By-Law 13.(d); and
- 1.23. "Faculty" shall mean a Faculty at York University; and
- 1.24. "Fall Term" shall mean the first term of the academic year, typically beginning in September and ending in December; and
- 1.25. "Federation" shall mean the York Federation of Students, the central university-wide undergraduate students' union at York University; and
- 1.26. "General Meetings" shall mean the Annual General Meeting and Special General Meetings of the Federation; and
- 1.27. "Member" shall mean a member of the Federation in accordance with these By-Laws; and
- 1.28. "Officers" shall mean, collectively, the persons who have authority to sign on behalf of the Federation; and
- 1.29. "Operations Policy" shall mean the Operations Policies of the Federation; and
- 1.30. "Policy Booklet" refers to, collectively, the Operations and Issues Policies of the Federation; and
- 1.31. "Secretary" shall mean the person who holds the office of Secretary of the Board unless otherwise specified; and
- 1.32. "Speaker" shall mean the person hold the office of Speaker, whose responsibility it is to facilitate Board meetings and who is appointed as set out in By-Law 4.11; and
- 1.33. "Summer Term" shall mean the third term of the academic year, typically beginning in May and ending in August; and
- 1.34. "Term" shall mean the period of time that a Director of the Federation is elected or appointed to their position unless specifying an academic semester; Fall Term, Winter Term or Summer Term.
- 1.35. "Winter Term" shall mean the second term of the academic year, typically beginning in January and ending in April; and
- 1.36. "YODA" shall mean the York Orientation Directors Association.

By-Law 2: Membership

2.1 Membership

- a. The Federation shall have one class of members.
- b. All registered undergraduate students at York University shall be deemed to be members of the Federation.
- c. No person shall be excluded from the Federation for reasons related to age, gender, race, nationality, ancestry, citizenship, marital status, illness or results from medical tests, sexual orientation or preference, place of residence, school of thought, beliefs, religious affiliations or activities, criminal record, any disability, or participation or non-participation within the Federation.
- d. Members of the Executive Committee who are not registered undergraduate students at York University shall nonetheless be deemed members of the Federation for so long as they are Members of the Executive Committee and have all the rights and privileges and responsibilities of the membership as per these By-Laws.

2.2 Cessation of Membership

- e. Individuals shall cease to be members of the Federation when they cease to meet the requirements of By-Law 2.1.

2.3 Rights, Privileges and Responsibilities of Membership

Members of the Federation shall have the following rights and privileges:

- a. To act as the sole authority of the Federation to make decisions through referenda or General Meetings on all questions of membership in the Federation, subject to the other provisions of the Federation's Articles, Constitution and By-Laws; and
- b. To have their interests represented collectively in the Federation through their constituency representatives, but will not themselves have voting rights at Board meetings, or Executive Committee meetings; and
- c. To be represented collectively in the Federation and, through membership in a national and provincial student association, to the federal and provincial governments; and
- d. To the protection and support of the Federation in accordance with the objectives of the Federation; and
- e. To attend meetings of all decision-making bodies of the Federation, with the exception of in camera sessions and other situations in which confidentiality is required; and
- f. To speak and vote at General Meetings; and
- g. To speak, at the discretion of the Speaker, at Board meetings; and
- h. To run for Executive and Director-at-large positions; and
- i. To vote in Federation elections, by-elections, recalls and referenda; and
- j. To access all minutes of the Federation Board, and Executive Committee, subject to restrictions in these bylaws; and
- k. To access the services, research, information, materials, and other resources of the Federation; and
- l. To access the Federation's Health and Dental Plan within the provisions of the plan; and
- m. To access information on associations to which the Federation belongs including, but not limited to, the CFS.

2.4 Members of the Federation shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. Payment of the designated Federation and CFS membership fees; and
- b. To respect the goals and objectives as they are specified in the Preamble of the Constitution, the Articles of the Federation and, the rules of the present Constitution, Articles and By-Laws, as well as any legal agreement adopted by the Federation in their name.

By-Law 3: Membership Fees

3.1 Setting of Membership Fees

- a. Except as hereinafter provided, Federation membership fees may be set by the members of the Federation voting in a referendum provided that sufficient notice has been served as per these By-Laws.
- b. CFS provincial and national fees shall be set as per the relevant provisions in the CFS Constitution and By-Laws.

3.2 Amount of Federation Membership Fees

The membership fee shall consist of \$1.42 per enrolled credit for the 2008-2009 academic year. The membership fee shall be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Hereinafter membership fees may also be set by members of the Federation voting in a referendum.

3.3 Amount of Provincial Federation Membership Fees

The membership fee shall consist of \$3.25 per semester for the 2008-2009 academic year. The membership fee shall be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

3.4 Amount of National Federation Membership Fees

The membership fee shall consist of \$3.90 per semester for the 2008-2009 academic year. The membership fee shall be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

3.5 Verification of Federation Membership Fees

The President and Vice President of Operations shall be jointly responsible for verifying the correct rates of the Federation and CFS membership fees in each academic year, and those rates shall be reflected in the Federation's budget.

3.6 Fee Collection and Remittance

York University will collect a national and provincial fee on behalf of the CFS and remit both of them directly to the Ontario office of the-CFS in a timely fashion.

By-Law 4: Board of Directors

4.1 Composition of the Board of Directors

The affairs of the Federation shall be managed by a Board of 23 persons, and 1 external person who is appointed to act as Speaker in accordance with By-Law 4.11. The composition of the Board will be:

Executive:

President

Vice President Operations,

Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy

Vice President Equity

Vice President Campus Life

Directors-at-Large:

A representative from each of the following Faculties and Colleges:

Faculty of Education

Faculty of Environment and Urban Change

Faculty of Arts, Media, Performance and Design

Faculty of Health

Faculty of Lassonde School of Engineering

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

Faculty of Science

Bethune College

Calumet College

Founders College

Glendon College

Markham College

McLaughlin College

New College

Schulich School of Business

Stong College

Vanier College

Winters College

4.2 Term of the Board

Each Director shall hold office from the first day of May of the current year until such time as their rightfully elected successor takes office on the first day of May of the following year or until their duly appointed replacement has been selected in accordance with the by-laws of the Federation.

4.3 Indemnity

Subject to the Act, all Directors, Officers and other employees and their respective heirs, executors and administrators shall at all times be indemnified and saved harmless by the Federation against all liability incurred as a result of the execution of duties owed to the Federation, provided that the individual acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Federation and, if the matter is a criminal or administrative proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the individual had reasonable grounds for believing that his or her conduct was lawful, and except to the extent that such liability results from the individual's willful neglect or default.

4.4 Director Qualifications

At all times, every Director shall comply with the qualification requirements of the Act and other qualification requirements set out in these By-Laws, including that they shall:

- a. be at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
- b. not have the status of bankrupt; and
- c. be a Member.

4.5 Director-at-large Duties

Each Director-at-large shall:

- d. comply with the Act and the regulations adopted thereunder, the Articles and these By-Laws;
- e. act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Federation in respect of matters for which the Board has the authority to act; and
- f. exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances; and
- g. act in the best interest of the Constituency that they are representing; and
- h. attend all meetings of the Board, any Committees to which they are elected, and of their respective Constituencies, unless other arrangements approved by a majority of that Council have been made; and
- i. act as a liaison and act with consultation between their Constituencies and the Federation, and vice-versa; and
- j. carry out such other duties as the Board may from time to time assign them with.

Directors-at-large shall be eligible to receive \$500 honorarium for the fall and winter semester as determined in Operation Policy 13. Directors-at-large shall be entitled to be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses properly incurred in the course of transacting affairs on behalf of the Federation.

4.6 Disciplining Directors-at-large

The Federation shall have the right to discipline its Directors-at-large. Grounds for disciplinary action include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. poor attendance at Board meetings;
- b. just cause;
- c. theft, fraud, or embezzlement of funds;
- d. failure to disclose a significant or obvious conflict of interest;
- e. breach of confidentiality;
- f. failure to attend YFS Board retreat;
- g. misuse of Federation property; or
- h. failure to perform their duties as specified by the Articles, Constitution or By-Laws.

The disciplinary action to be taken against any Director shall be decided on a case by case basis in an in-camera session of the Board. Any disciplinary action must be approved by a two-thirds majority of Directors present. Disciplinary action can include, but is not necessarily limited to, verbal reprimand, letter of censure, and removal from the Board.

4.7 Vacation of the Office of Director-at-large

The office of a Director-at-large shall be automatically vacated upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

- i. if a Director is appointed to fill the vacancy of an Executive or Speaker, and such Director accepts the position, such Director shall be deemed to have immediately vacated their seat on the Board as a Director in favour of the new office;
- j. if a Director ceases to be eligible under the Act or these By-laws;
- k. if a Director is adjudged a bankrupt under the Canada Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act;
- l. if an order is made declaring such Director to be a mentally incompetent person or incapable of managing their affairs;
- m. if by notice in writing to the Federation such Director resigns their office (in which case such resignation, if not effective immediately, becomes effective in accordance with its terms);
- n. if such Director is absent, without valid excuse, for a total of two Board meetings during the summer Term, or a total of three the Board meetings during the fall and winter terms;
- o. upon expiry of the Director's term, unless re-elected; or
- p. on death.

4.8 Determination of Valid Excuse

For the purposes of Section By-Law 4.7, the determination of valid excuse shall be made by the Board.

4.9 Appointment of Directors

If the position of a Director becomes vacant for any reason, that position may be filled by a person who meets the qualifications set forth in the Act and these By-laws and who is approved by a simple majority vote of the Board. An election shall be held in the Fall term for any vacancies in the Board that occur before September 1. The dates of the nominations and election shall be approved by the Board based on the recommendation of the Elections Committee provided that it must occur in the fall semester of each year. Any person appointed to the Board under these circumstances, shall serve the unexpired remainder of the term of the departed Director.

4.10 Advertising of Appointments

Where the position of a director-at-large is to be filled by an appointment of the Board, notice of such process must be posted in and around the York University building(s) most closely related to the applicable Constituency for no less than 14 days prior to the meeting of the Board at which the appointment is to take place.

Such notice shall invite expressions of interest from or on behalf of interested persons and shall include the date of the meeting at which such appointment is to take place, the requirements and responsibilities of the position, contact number(s) for further information, and information on the appointment process.

4.11 Appointment of Speaker

At the first meeting of the Board within the Elected Term, the Board shall appoint an external Speaker.

By-Law 5: Powers of the Board

5.1 The Board shall administer the affairs of the Federation in all things and may make or cause to be made for the Federation, in its name, any kind of contract which the Federation may lawfully enter into and, save as hereinafter provided, generally, may exercise all such powers and do all such other acts and things as the Federation, by its Articles or otherwise, is authorized to exercise and do.

5.2 The Board shall have the power to authorize expenditures on behalf of the Federation and may delegate, by resolution, to the Executive Committee the right to make such expenditures on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

5.3 The Board may appoint such agents and engage such employees as it may deem necessary and such persons shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the Board at the time of such appointment.

5.4 The Board is expressly empowered, to purchase, lease or otherwise acquire, sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of shares, stocks, rights, warrants, options, and other securities, lands, buildings and other property, movable or immovable, real or personal, or any right or interest therein owned, for such consideration and upon such terms and conditions as the Board may deem advisable.

5.5 The Board shall have the authority to establish committees to exercise any function of the Federation.

5.6 The Board shall exercise general supervision over all the disbursements of the members' monies to all members' organizations and generally exercise supervision over financial operations.

5.7 The Board shall consider the budgets of all committees, operations, and services, and approve the annual operating budget for the Federation no later than June 30 of the current fiscal year.

5.8 The Board shall have the power to inspect and audit any activity sponsored by the Federation.

5.9 The Board shall set down and implement any financial programmes and procedures, including the method of requisition of funds, which shall govern the operations of the Federation and its committees.

By-Law 6: Executive

6.1 There shall be a President, a Vice President Operations, a Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, Vice President Equity, a Vice President Campus Life, who shall be the Executives of the Federation and thus comprise the Executive Committee of the Federation.

6.2 The President, Vice President Operations, and the Executive Director shall be the Officers and have authority to sign on behalf of the Federation;

6.3 Executives shall work a minimum forty (40) hours per week per Operations Policy 5 during their term in office, at a salary of \$25,000 and shall be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI);

6.4 It is recommended that Executives be enrolled in no more than one 3 credit class in the Fall Term and one 3 credit Winter Term,. It is further recommended that no classes be taken in the Summer Term or be taken during the Standard Hours of Operations as per Operational Policy 5;

6.5 Executives are entitled to:

- a. two weeks vacation, not including the Winter Holiday shut down, to be taken at times to be determined with the President's approval;
- b. medical and dental coverage, equivalent to the benefit plans received from the Federation by members of the Federation staff

In the event that there is a conflict between this list of entitlements and other contractual obligations of the Federation with regards to the position of Executive Director, the contract shall prevail.

6.6 Responsibilities of Executive

a) President

- i. shall be the CEO and official spokesperson of the Federation to the general public, York University, campus groups, and at University functions; and
- ii. shall be Speaker until an external Speaker is appointed by the Board; and
- iii. shall be a Officer of the Federation; and
- iv. shall be responsible, along with the Vice President Operations, for ensuring that all contracts entered into by the Federation are with due authority and in the best interests of the Federation; and
- v. shall supervise the Executive Director; and
- vi. shall act as the Federation's staff relations officer and liaise between the Federation's staff and the Board; and

- vii. shall be responsible for the general management and supervision of the affairs and operations of the Federation; and
- viii. shall act on behalf of the Board and the Executive Committee between meetings, and where action is immediately necessary; and
- ix. shall work with the Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy and the Vice President Equity to develop political and equity-based campaigns on issues that affect York University students; and
- x. shall Chair the Executive Committee and the By-Laws Committee; and
- xi. shall participate as a voting member on all Committees of the Federation except for the Elections Committee or where there is a conflict of interest; and
- xii. shall act as the representative of the Federation on the York University Senate; and
- xiii. shall represent the Federation at the Student Representatives Roundtable; and
- xiv. shall be a member of the York University Student Centre Board of Directors; and
- xiv. shall ensure that Vice Presidents carry out their assigned duties in accordance with these By-Laws and as directed by the Board; and
- xv. shall be responsible for developing a media protocol in cooperation with the Executive Committee and ensuring that this media protocol is implemented; and
- xvi. shall attend all meetings of the Board and of the Executive Committee; and
- xvii. shall create a transition binder for the incoming President; and
- xviii. shall train and advise the incoming President;
- xix. shall be responsible for sending notice for meetings of the Board, coordinating the creation of Board meeting agendas, keeping a record of attendance at Board meetings, arranging proxies for General Meetings when necessary.

b) Vice President Operations

- i. shall be a Signing Authority of the Federation; and
- ii. shall be responsible, along with the President, for ensuring that all contracts entered into by the Federation are with due authority and in the best interests of the Federation; and
- iii. shall be responsible for updating the Federation's Policy Manual and Operational Policy in accordance with the motions passed, amended, or repealed by The Board or the general membership; and
- iv. shall develop, recommend and present the annual budget to the Board in consultation with the Executive Committee and Finance Committee; and
- v. shall liaise regularly with the Executive Director during the yearly audit of the Federation and the preparation of the Federations audited financial statements; and
- vi. shall prepare and present the budget to the Board; and
- vii. shall present financial reports and audited statements to the membership at a duly called membership

meeting; and

- viii. shall monitor the financial status of the Federation including budget variances and makes recommendations to the Board regarding major expenditures; and
- ix. shall assist with the co-ordination of fundraising endeavors; and
- x. shall be responsible for processing and keeping an accurate account of all club funding requests received and granted by the Federation; and
- xi. shall be responsible for the development, hiring and coordination of work-study positions for the Federation; and
- xii. shall oversee the coordination of the YFS Members handbook and dayplanner; and
- xiii. shall be responsible for the coordination of a the Board retreat within the first five months of the Elected Term; and
- xiv. shall be responsible for ensuring that the Federation uphold all responsibilities in relation to the operation and delivery of any business initiatives; and
- xv. shall act as Chair for the Clubs Committee and Finance Committee; and
- xvi. shall participate as a voting member of the By-Laws Committee; and
- xvii. shall be an ex-officio and non-voting member of all other Federation Committees except the Elections Committee or where there exists a conflict of interest; and
- xvii. shall be responsible for carrying out the duties of the President in the absence of the President; and
- xviii. shall attend all meetings of the Board and Executive Committee; and
- xix. shall create a transition binder for the incoming Vice President Operations; and
- xx. shall train and advise the incoming Vice President Operations.

b) Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy

- xvii. shall liaise with and lobby the York University Administration on issues that affect the undergraduate student population; and
- xviii. shall work with the President and Vice President Equity to develop political and equity- based campaigns; and
- xix. shall officially represent the Federation to community coalitions, external organisations and CFS; and
- xx. shall be the chief delegate to CFS meetings and conferences; and
- xxi. shall be responsible for coordinating delegations of York University students to attend CFS meetings and conferences; and
- xxii. shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee and to the Board regarding educational and related policies; and
- xxiii. shall act as Chair of the Campaigns and Advocacy Committee; and

xxiv. shall participate as a voting member of the, By-Laws Committee, Equity Committee, Community Service Group The Board , and Events Committee; and

xxv. shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of all other Committees of the Federation except the Elections Committee and committees where there exists a conflict of interest; and

xxvi. shall represent the Federation on relevant York University committees and taskforces concerning but not limited to academics, tuition, security, ancillary and other York University fees; and

xxvii. shall attend all meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee; and

xxviii. shall create a transition binder for the incoming Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy; and

xxix. shall train and advise the incoming Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy.

a) Vice President Campus Life

i. shall develop, recommend and present the YFS Events Calendar to the Board ; and

ii. shall be responsible for liaising with the Executive Committee and the Campaigns and Advocacy Committee in the development of the Events Calendar to ensure that there be coordination between the events and the campaigns of the Federation; and

iii. shall co-ordinate the programming and delivery of all Federation events; and

iv. shall be responsible for working with the Events and Outreach Director to ensure that all events are planned and run smoothly; and

v. shall be responsible for working with the Internal and Communications Director to ensure the timely and regular advertising of all events; and

vi. shall be responsible for the recruitment and coordination of YFS volunteers to assist; and

vii. shall act as Chair of the Events Committee ; and

viii. shall participate as a voting member of the Campaigns and Advocacy Committee, Clubs Committee, Equity Committee, Finance Committee and the York Orientation Directors Association; and

ix. shall be an ex-officio and non-voting member of all other Federation committees except the Elections Committee and committees where there exists a conflict of interest; and

x. shall represent the Federation on the on campus radio governing board

xi. shall represent the Federation on but not limited to relevant York University committees and taskforces concerning residences, food and licensing; and

xii. shall act as the liaison between the Federation and the Residence Life Committees on the Keele, Markham, and Glendon campuses; and

xiii. shall attend all meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee; and

xiv. shall create a transition binder for the incoming Vice President Campus Life; and

xv. shall train and advise the incoming Vice President Campus Life.

a) Vice President Equity

- i. shall promote the Board's initiatives and activities that aim to raise awareness of discrimination on campus and in the community; and
- ii. shall be responsible for ensuring that all activities and endorsements of the Board reflect the anti-oppressive mandate of the Federation; and
- iii. shall be responsible for ensuring that all Directors and staff receive anti-oppression training within five months of the Elected Term; and
- iv. shall be responsible for observing all activities of the Board and those supported by the Board to ensure that they are not exclusionary or discriminatory in nature and address any problems as they arise; and
- v. shall act as the official liaison between the Federation and relevant York University organizations, offices and departments dedicated to the awareness and elimination of discrimination; and
- vi. shall represent the Federation when issues regarding discrimination and equity are raised in the York University community and need to be addressed; and
- vii. shall work with the President and Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy to develop political and equity-based campaigns; and
- viii. shall act as Chair of the CSG Council and the Equity Committee; and
- ix. shall participate as a voting member of the Clubs Committee, and Events Committee; and
- x. shall be an ex-officio and non-voting member of all other Federation committees except the Elections Committee and committees where there exists a conflict of interest; and
- xi. shall represent the Federation on relevant York University committees and taskforces concerning use of York University space, and admissions; and
- xii. shall attend all meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee; and
- xiii. shall create a transition binder for the incoming Vice President Equity; and
- xiv. shall train and advise the incoming Vice President Equity.

6.7 Disciplining Executives

The Federation shall have the right to discipline its Executives. Grounds for disciplinary action include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. poor attendance at the Board meetings;
- b. just cause;
- c. theft, fraud, or embezzlement of funds;
- d. failure to disclose a significant or obvious conflict of interest;
- e. breach of confidentiality;
- f. misuse of Federation property; or
- g. failure to perform their duties as specified by the Articles, Constitution or By-Laws.

6.8 Removal of Office

Members of the Executive may be recalled to election in a by-election after the receipt by the CRO of a petition of ten percent (10) of all of the members of the Federation respectively. Such a by-election shall be held so that the last day of polling is no later than forty (40) days from the filing of the petition. The CRO has the authority to verify the validity of the petition, subject to

regulations governing this recall process. Should the position of the CRO be vacant, the duties provided for in this Section are carried out by the Speaker of The Board, which attends to the prompt appointment of a CRO.

By-Law 7: Committees

7.1 Standing Committees

The Board shall maintain the following eight standing subcommittees:

- a. Executive Committee
- b. Campaigns and Advocacy Committee
- c. Clubs Committee
- d. Community Service Group Council
- e. By-Laws Committee
- f. Equity Committee
- g. Events Committee
- h. Finance Committee

7.2 Composition and Terms of Reference for Standing Committees

a) Executive Committee

- i. The Chair of the Executive Committee shall be the President.
- ii. The voting members of the Executive Committee shall be the President, the Vice President Operations, the Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, Vice President Equity, and Vice President Campus Life.
- iii. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Executive Committee.
- iv. The Executive Committee shall appoint from among its members a secretary of the Executive Committee, who shall be responsible for forwarding all minutes and records of transactions to the Secretary of the Board .
- v. Not less than half the appointed members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. Each member of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to vote.
- vi. The Executive Committee may review any matters relating to the property, revenue, business, and affairs of the Federation. The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility to consider all matters relating to fiscal policy, revenue and expenditure.
- vii. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that all necessary books and records required according to the By-laws of the Federation or by any applicable statute or law are regularly and properly kept.
- viii. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to approve expenditures consistent with each approved line item. Authority to exceed this limit shall be granted by the Board as they deem appropriate.
- ix. The Executive Committee shall recommend policy, but shall not initiate policy without the approval of the Board or unless prior permission to establish any policy has been given by the Board.
- x. The Executive Committee is required to report to the Board during each Board meeting summarizing its activities.
- xi. Subject to the limits in the Act, the Executive Committee may act in the absence of the Board provided such action is recorded in the minutes and is submitted to the next regular meeting of the Board.

b) Campaigns and Advocacy Committee

- i. The Chair of the Campaigns and Advocacy Committee shall be the Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy.
- ii. In the absence of the Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, the Campaigns and Advocacy Commissioner shall preside at meetings
- iii. The members of the Campaigns and Advocacy Committee shall be the President, Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, Vice President Equity, the Campaigns Commissioner, two Directors appointed by the Board and any members of the Federation who have expressed interest in participating.
- iv. Each member of the Campaigns Committee shall be entitled to vote.
- v. The Campaigns and Advocacy Committee shall appoint from among its members a secretary of the Campaigns and Advocacy Committee, who shall be responsible for forwarding all minutes and records of transactions to the Secretary of the Board .
- vi. The Campaigns and Advocacy Committee shall meet as needed to develop new campaigns, determine how these campaigns will be implemented, assess the success of campaigns that have been implemented, determine how to improve upon those campaigns, and report the final results of campaigns that have concluded.
- vii. The Campaigns and Advocacy Committee shall have the responsibility to consider academic policy established by York University and recommend to the Board campaigns on all matters relating to academic policy.
- viii. The Campaigns and Advocacy Committee shall have the responsibility to consider all matters relating to municipal, provincial and national educational policy and recommend to the Board campaigns on all issues relating to this educational policy.
- ix. The Campaigns and Advocacy Committee is responsible for implementation of federal, provincial and municipal campaigns at local level.

c) Clubs Committee

- i. The Chair of the Clubs Committee shall be the Vice President Operations.
- ii. In the absence of the Vice President Operations, the Operations Commissioner shall preside at meetings.
- iii. The voting members of the Clubs Committee shall be the President, Vice President Operations, Vice President Campus Life, two members of the Board, and two other members of the Federation who shall each hold an executive position with a recognized Student Club and who shall each be appointed by the Board.
- iv. The Clubs Committee shall appoint from among its members a secretary of the Clubs Committee, who shall be responsible for forwarding all minutes and records of transactions to the Secretary of the Board .
- v. Not less than half the appointed members of the Clubs Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- vi. The Clubs Committee shall meet as needed.
- vii. The Clubs Committee shall have the responsibility to develop policy recommendations for the Board and relevant York University organizations, offices, or departments that aim to improve the viability of the clubs community at York University.
- viii. The Clubs Committee shall have the responsibility to consider expenditures using Federation funds allocated to clubs funding and club services funding.

- ix. The Clubs Committee shall assist the Equity Committee in working to facilitate campus wide discussion and action on issues of equity.
- x. The Clubs Committee shall be in charge of ratifying clubs no later than September 30 of each year

d) Community Service Group Council

- i. The Chair of the CSG Council shall be the Vice President Equity.
- ii. The voting members of the CSG Council shall be the President, the Vice President Equity, Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, and one representative from each of the Federation's Community Service Groups.
- iii. The CSG Council will meet at least once per term.
- iv. The CSG Council shall appoint from among its members a secretary of the CSG Council, who shall be responsible for forwarding all minutes and records of transactions to the Secretary of the Board.
- v. Not less than half the appointed members of the CSG Council shall constitute a quorum.
- vi. The CSG Council will assess the structures of the Federation as they pertain to the Community Service Groups and work together to develop services, outreach programmes and joint initiatives for the respective Community Service Groups.
- vii. The CSG Council may make recommendations to the Board regarding relevant structural changes that will improve the ability of the Community Service Groups to contribute positively and viably to the York University community.
- viii. The CSG Council shall assist the Equity Committee in working to facilitate campus wide discussion and action on issues of equity.

e) By-Laws Committee

- ix. The Chair of the By-Laws Committee shall be the President.
- x. The voting members of the By-Laws Committee shall be the President, Vice President Operations, Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, and two members of the Board.
- xi. The Speaker of the Board shall be a non-voting member of the By-Laws Committee.
- xii. The By-Laws Committee shall convene within the Elected Term to assess the state of the Federation's Articles, Constitution and By-Laws and develop initial amendments. These amendments shall be presented to the Board, and shall be ratified at a Federation Annual General Meeting.

f) Equity Committee

- xiii. The Chair of the Equity Committee shall be the Vice President Equity.
- xiv. In the absence of the Vice President Equity, the Equity Commissioner shall preside at meetings.
- xv. The members of the Equity Committee shall be the President, Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, Vice President Equity, the Equity Commissioner, two Representatives from the YFS Community Service Groups as appointed by the Board and any members of the Federation who have expressed interest in participating.
- xvi. The Equity Committee shall meet ~~on~~ as needed.

- xvii. The Equity Committee shall appoint from among its members a secretary of the Equity Committee, who shall be responsible for forwarding all minutes and records of transactions to the Secretary of the Board .
- xviii. The Equity Committee shall also report at meetings of the Board via the Vice President Equity.
- xix. Not less than half the appointed members of the Equity Committee shall constitute a quorum. Each member of the Equity Committee shall be entitled to vote.
- xx. The Equity Committee shall discuss and develop, and formulate policy recommendations for the Federation and for the York University that aim to raise awareness of discrimination and promote equity in the York University community.
- xxi. The Equity Committee shall work to facilitate campus wide discussion and action on issues of equity, and, in this spirit, work with the Clubs Committee and CSG Council and the Board with the aim of promoting these discussions.
- xxii. The Equity Committee shall ensure that members of all the Federation's committees are aware of The Federation's position with respect to equity issues.

g) Events Committee

- i. The Chair of the Events Committee shall be the Vice President Campus Life.
- ii. In the absence of the Vice President Campus Life, the Campus Life Commissioner shall preside at meetings.
- iii. The voting members of the Events Committee shall be the President, Vice President Campus Life, Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy, Vice President Equity, the Campus Life Commissioner, and two Directors appointed by the Board.
- iv. The Events Committee shall meet as needed.
- v. The Events Committee shall appoint from among its members a secretary of the Events Committee, who shall be responsible for forwarding all minutes and records of transactions to the Secretary of the Board .
- vi. Not less than half the appointed members of the Events Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- vii. The Events Committee shall be responsible for assisting in the coordinating in all of the Federation's events.
- viii. The Events Committee shall be responsible for working with student clubs, YFS Community Service Groups, and other student organisations to offer a diversity of events.
- ix. The Events Committee may be struck at the discretion of the Board.

h) Finance Committee

- x. The Chair of the Finance Committee shall be the Vice President Operations.
- xi. The voting members of the Finance Committee shall be President, Vice President Operations, the Executive Director, and two Directors who are to be appointed by the Board.
- xii. Not less than half the appointed members of the Finance Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- xiii. The Finance Committee shall appoint from among its members a secretary of the Finance Committee, who shall be responsible for forwarding all minutes and records of transactions to the Secretary of the Board.
- xiv. The Finance Committee shall aid in the creation of the annual budget for the fiscal year that coincides with

the Elected Term and shall present a recommended operating budget to The Board for ratification no later than June 30.

- xv. The Finance Committee must meet as needed

7.3 Meetings of Standing Committees

- i. Meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair of the Standing Committee.
- ii. Meetings may also be held at the request of any two members of the committee.
- iii. Meetings shall be held in person or virtually at such times as the Chair or members of the committee, respectively, may designate to be appropriate and convenient.
- iv. Notice of the time and place of the meeting of a Standing Committee shall be communicated by the Chair to each member of that committee at least forty-eight hours prior to the scheduled commencement of such a meeting. The notice should, if possible, be accompanied by an agenda.
- v. A meeting may also be held at any time and at any place in person or virtually without notice if all the members of the committee are present and consent thereto, or if, either before or after the meeting is held those absent members signify in writing their consent to the meeting being held in their absence.
- vi. The unintentional omission to give notice to any member or any accidental irregularity in connection with the giving of notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at a meeting.
- vii. The Chair of each committee shall preside at meetings and in their absence; the committee shall appoint another of its members to act as Chair.
- viii. A record shall be kept of the proceedings of every meeting of each Standing Committee, and it is the responsibility of each committee to submit minutes of such proceedings to the Secretary of the Board as soon as possible thereafter.

7.4 Resolutions of Standing Committees

A resolution signed by all members of a committee shall have the same force and effect as if passed at a regularly constituted meeting.

7.5 Ad-Hoc Committees

The Board may establish ad hoc committees for such purposes and on such terms as it deems appropriate.

By-Law 8 – Meetings of The Board

- a. The Speaker of the Board shall be any person duly appointed by the board as per By Law 4.11.
- b. Eight members of the Board shall form quorum for the transaction of business during the summer term.
- c. A majority of the Board shall form a quorum for the transaction of business during the fall and winter terms.
- d. Meetings of the Board may be formally called by the President, any Vice President, or upon the direction in writing of two Directors.
- e. Notice of meetings of the Board shall be communicated (telephoned, or electronically mailed) to Directors not

less than two business days before the meeting is to take place.

- f. The unintentional omission to give notice to any member of the Board or any accidental irregularity in connection with the giving of notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at a meeting.
- g. The Board may appoint a day or days in any month or months for regular meetings at an hour to be named, and for such regular meetings no notice need be sent.
- h. A meeting of the Board may also be held at any time and at any place within the Province of Ontario without notice if all the members of the Board are present and consent thereto or, if either before or after the meeting is held, those absent members signify in writing their consent to the meeting being held in their absence. If a two-thirds majority of the Board consents to such a meeting, that meeting shall be considered in order and the absence of consent from any other Board members shall not be taken to invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.
- i. Meetings of the Board may also be held, without notice, immediately following the annual meetings of members of the Federation.
- j. Directors may consider or transact any business, either special or general, at any meeting of the Board.
- k. Except as otherwise required by law, the Board may hold its meetings at such place or places or in such manner as it may from time to time determine.
- l. Any member of the Federation may attend any regular or special meeting of the Board subject to the provisions of the Act and these By-Laws. Speaking privileges shall be obtained from the Chair.
- m. No meeting of the Board, when formally assembled as the Board, shall be closed to any member of the Federation, except for at in camera sessions voted on by the Board.
- n. The Board shall not communicate to any third party in any manner whatsoever, other than to a member of the Board, or an Officer of the Board, anything concerning any matter or decision discussed or made at an in camera meeting, except with the permission of the Board.
- o. Any member of the Board attending an in camera meeting of the Board or any Committee of the Board shall be deemed by their attendance at the meeting to have undertaken to respect the confidentiality attached to the proceedings of the Board while sitting in camera.
- p. If any person, not being a member of the Board, shall attend a meeting of the Board or any Committee of the Board held in camera, no further business shall be conducted in camera while such person remains present.
- q. Questions arising at any meeting of the Board shall be decided on a majority of votes.
- r. Cases not provided for in the By-Laws of the Federation shall be governed by the current version of Robert's Rules of Order, the interpretation of which shall be made by the Chair.
- s. A ruling of the Chair may be appealed at any time. A two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Board present shall be required to override the Chair's ruling.
- t. All votes at any meeting of the Board shall be from Robert's Rules of Order or by ballot if requested by any Board member present. If no such demand is made, the vote shall be taken by simple indication of assent or dissent. This procedure may be superseded by a ballot vote, which in turn may also be superseded by a roll call vote.
- u. A declaration by the Speaker that a resolution has been carried or defeated and an entry to that effect in the minutes shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution.

- v. A record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Board shall be kept in a book or books provided for that purpose and the minutes of every such meeting shall be submitted at the next meeting of the Board and shall be open to the inspection of any member of the Federation at any time during the regular office hours of the Federation.

By-Law 9 – Annual General Meeting

- a. Every year, one annual meeting of the membership shall be held during the Elected Term.
- b. The Annual General Meeting of the Federation shall always be held on campus. In the event of an emergency, the Board may, by a two-thirds majority vote, authorize a virtual Annual General Meeting.
- c. The agenda and other such relevant material concerning the annual or special meetings of the membership shall be made available for distribution to the members not less than forty-eight hours prior to such meetings.
- d. Any error or omission in giving notice of an annual or general meeting or any adjourned meeting, whether annual or general, of the members of the Federation shall not invalidate such meeting or make void any proceedings taken thereat and any member may at any time waive notice of any such meeting and may ratify, approve and confirm any or all proceedings taken or had thereat.
- e. At the Annual General Meeting the audited financial statements for the Federation's preceding fiscal year shall be presented by the Vice President Operations.
- f. At the Annual General Meeting, a report to the membership will be supplied by the Executive Committee
- g. Two Hundred Fifty (250) members present either in person or by proxy shall form a quorum at the annual, or any other meetings of the members of the Federation. If no quorum is present the meeting shall be adjourned until the next regular meeting of The Board.
- h. Subject to the provisions, if any, contained in the Articles of the Federation, each member of the Federation shall at all meetings of the members be entitled to one vote and may hold up to three proxies.
- i. Unless otherwise required by the Act, at all meetings of the members every question shall be decided by a simple majority of votes of the members present in person.
- j. If a poll on a question put to the members is demanded, unless otherwise required under the Act, the question shall be decided by a majority of votes of the members present in person, and such poll shall be taken in a manner that the Chair shall direct. The result of such a poll shall be deemed the decision of the Federation in general meeting upon the matter in question.

By-Law 10 – Special Meetings of the Federation

- a. A Special General Meeting of the members may be called by the Executive Committee solely for the purpose of considering specific resolutions proposed by the Executive Committee, such resolutions to be included in the notice of meeting. Special General Meetings may amend such proposed resolutions to the extent that such amendments pertain to the same topic as the original resolution. Resolutions adopted by a Special General Meeting of members are binding upon the Federation until they have been repealed or amended by the members in a Special General Meeting or a referendum. The Quorum for a Special General Meeting of members shall consist of two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the members present or present by proxy.
- b. A Special General Meeting of the members may also be called by the presentation of a petition signed by at least 10 (ten) percent of the members to the Speaker of the Board. Such petition must comply with the Act and must set out the reasons for the meeting and the specific resolutions to be considered at such meeting. The Speaker of the Board must inform the Board of such a petition at the earliest possible time and call the meeting within thirty days from receiving the petition.

- c. The petition must designate up to three members of the Federation as the promoters of the petition. The promoters may cancel the Special General Meeting called by their petition by giving written notice to this effect to the Speaker or the President of the Board.

By-Law 11– Elections

11.1 Administration of Elections

The Federation shall govern all the elections of the Federation. Procedures for elections shall be found in the By-laws of the Federation. A BPM will be maintained to ensure consistency in annual elections and codify practices that enhance the transparency and strength of the Elections Process. No candidate shall run for more than one position during the same election. In circumstances where there is a contradiction between the By-Laws and the BPM, the By-laws shall supersede the BPM. A fact sheet, based upon the BPM, will be drafted in accessible language to assist students' understanding of the Elections Processes.

11.2 Election Committee

The Elections Committee will be as follows:

- Executive Director (Chair)
- Two Members of the Board
- Chief Returning Officer of the Elections

The Elections Committee will be empowered to:

- a. Recommend CRO candidates to the board as per By-law 11.4
- b. Recommend election dates to the Board.
- c. Publicise important election dates and information.
- d. Oversee logistics of the elections.
- e. Solicit feedback from members regarding the Elections Process in each year.
- f. To study the recommendations of the CRO and ensure they are fully considered; review good practices from previous elections and be responsible for implementing any recommendations approved by the Board.
- g. Maintaining and updating the BPM; and secure office space outside of the YFS offices for the CRO to work.
- h. Members of the Elections Committee are not permitted to seek office with the Federation and must remain neutral during the election process.

11.3 Roles and Responsibilities of the Chief Returning Officer

The CRO is responsible for the overall logistical administration of YFS elections. The CRO's responsibilities will include the following:

- a. The hiring and training of Deputy Returning Officers (DROs).
- b. The hiring and training of polling clerks.
- c. Obtaining a voters list from the York University Administration in order to verify a voter's identity as well as the voter's Faculty and College.
- d. Securing voting spaces on campus to set up polling stations as well as obtain tables and Chairs.
- e. Prepare and maintain the voter registration database.

- f. Obtain ballot boxes, seals, and voter screens from Elections Canada.
- g. Organize and run the All Candidates Meeting(s).
- h. Approval of all campaigning material.
- i. Adjudicate and provide rulings on complaints filed by candidates during the electoral process.
- j. Prepare the CRO's report to be presented to the Board for ratification.

11.4 Methodology for Hiring of the CRO

The job posting for the CRO will be publicized on the YFS website, and the job posting will be advertised for two weeks in a student newspaper. The job posting will include the CRO job description and the necessary qualifications. The Elections Committee will review all applications and select the successful candidate by secret ballot. The Elections Committee shall recommend the successful candidate to the Board of Directors.

11.5 Election Periods

Winter Elections

An election shall be held in the Winter Term for the election of Directors and elected Executives. The date of the nominations and election shall be approved by the Board based on the recommendation of the Elections Committee, provided that elections must occur in the Winter Semester of each year. Notice of the date of the election and the nomination procedures shall be given to members by publication in a student campus news outlet at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the nomination period.

Fall Elections

An election shall be held in the Fall term for any vacancies in the Board or Executive that occurs before September 1. The dates of the nominations and election shall be approved by the Board, based on the recommendation of the Elections Committee provided that it must occur in the Fall Term of each year. Notice of the date of the election and the nomination procedures shall be given to members by publication in a student campus news outlet at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of nomination period. If no member is nominated to fill a vacancy from among the members of the Constituency to which the vacancy applies the Board shall appoint an eligible person to fill the vacancy.

11.6 Eligibility of Candidates

All members who meet the qualifications as outlined in By-Law 2.1. shall be eligible to seek election as a Director provided that a person seeking election as a Director-at-large must be a student of such Constituency.

11.7 Vacancy of Director-at-large Office

In the event of a vacancy in the Directors-at-large offices that occurs before September 1, the Board shall call a by-election as outlined in the Fall Election By-Law 11.5. to fill the vacant position. The Board shall appoint an interim Director-at-large of the respective constituency to fill the vacancy if the vacancy occurs at least 30 days before the Fall Election. If such an office becomes vacant after September 1, the Board shall appoint a member of the respective constituency to fill the vacancy, no later than 30 days following such vacancy.

11.8 Nomination of Directors

Candidates for the Director positions shall be nominated pursuant to a nomination form found in the BPM, signed by at least 30 members of the said Constituency (College or Faculty) that they are running for, and submitted to the CRO. To the extent possible, candidates will be notified if their nomination form is deficient or incomplete to permit re-submission before the nomination deadline. It is the responsibility of the candidate to submit a bona fide nomination form.

11.9 Nomination of Executive

Candidates for the Executive positions shall be nominated pursuant to a nomination form found in the BPM, signed by at least 100 members of the Federation, and submitted to the CRO. To the extent possible, candidates will be notified if their nomination form is deficient or incomplete to permit re-submission before the nominations deadline. It is the responsibility of the candidate to submit a bona fide nomination or application form.

11.10 Vacancy of Executive Offices

In the event of a vacancy in the Executive offices that occurs before September 1, the Board shall call a by-election as outlined in the Fall Election By-Law 11.5. to fill the vacant position. The Board shall appoint an interim Executive to fill the vacancy if the vacancy occurs at least 30 days before the Fall Election. If such an office becomes vacant after September 1, the Board shall appoint a member to fill this vacancy no later than 30 days following such vacancy. Until the vacancy is filled, the Executive Committee shall designate another member of the Executive Committee or a Commissioner to fill the vacant office.

11.11 Withdrawals of Candidates

A candidate may withdraw from the YFS elections so long as their withdrawal is in writing and is submitted to and accepted by the Elections Committee twenty-four (24) hours before the voting period commences.

11.12 All-Candidates meeting

- a. All nominees, or an authorized representative of each nominee, must attend the All-Candidates meeting in its entirety or arrange to meet with the CRO in person within twenty-four (24) hours of the meeting.
- b. For an authorized representative to be valid, they must possess a signed statement from the nominee that the representative has the authority to act on their behalf for the duration of the meeting.
- c. Any candidate who fails to attend or send an authorized representative to the All-Candidates meeting, or fails to meet with the CRO, shall be disqualified from the election.
- d. The topics at the All Candidates meeting shall include, but not limited to:
 - I. The elections process established in By-law 11;
 - II. The Election schedule;
 - III. The duties and functions of the Election officials.
- e. Each candidate, or authorized representative, will sign a statement before leaving the meeting that indicates they understand the rules and regulations governing the Election.
- f. It is the responsibility of each candidate to understand all information provided at the All- Candidates meeting.

11.13 Campaigning

All candidates must abide by the following rules relating to conduct and behavior of candidates during campaigning and assume responsibility for those campaigning on behalf of candidates. Campaigners are bound by the same rules as candidates. A list of official campaigners for each candidate or team shall be provided to the CRO prior to the commencement of campaign period. This list shall remain confidential and is for CRO use only.

- a. No campaigning shall take place before the nomination period and before the start of the campaigning period.
- b. Any current member of the Board, staff, volunteers, and committee members of the Federation who decides to run for an elected position shall disassociate from all areas of their position relating to the Elections from the commencement of the nomination period.
- c. Candidates shall campaign in accordance with the rules of fair play. Breaking the rules of fair play include, but

are not limited to, breaching generally accepted community standards, libel, slander, general sabotage of the campaigns of other candidates, malicious and/or intentional breach of elections policy, any attempt to undermine the electoral process and misrepresentation of fact.

- d. It is the responsibility of the candidates that all campaign materials and/or advertisements conform to all policies and regulations of the Federation, and with all municipal, provincial, federal laws, as well as individual campus residences.
- e. All campaign material and/or advertisement need approval by the CRO in advance of posting or distribution. All submissions made to the CRO shall be returned with or without approval within two (2) business days. Though not an exhaustive list, campaign material can include: posters, leaflets, banners, websites, new media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), clothing, buttons, stickers, logos, audio & video recordings, etc. Publications like opinion pieces and advertisements created and/or provided by a candidate or campaign volunteer. Tactics for the distribution of campaign materials, such as but not limited to, the distribution of student newspapers, are not subject to approval and are permitted.
- f. All campaign materials, where feasible, are to contain the following phrase somewhere in plain sight on the material: "Please recycle after the election."
- g. A limit on the quantity of posters shall be the following:
 - I. Executive candidates 400
 - II. Director candidates 100
- h. The following shall also apply to candidate posters and relevant campaign materials:
 - I. Poster size shall not exceed 11'x17' (297mmx420mm)
 - II. No more than three banners are allowed, and are not to exceed 9'x3' (2.75mx0.92m).
 - III. No laminated posters are allowed.
 - IV. Each candidate's poster may not overlap another candidate's poster.
 - V. Each candidate may not post one of their posters within one (1) foot of another one of their own posters.
 - VI. All posters may only contain information that is relevant to the election.
 - VII. All posters must be removed within 72 hours after the close of the voting period.
- j. Campaign materials shall not:
 - I. Overlap or be attached to campaign materials already affixed to something.
 - II. Be posted in classrooms or seminar rooms.
 - III. Be removed from any posted location, legal or illegally, without the authorization of the CRO or designate, except a candidate's own materials removed by that candidate or person(s) authorized by that candidate to remove such materials.
- k. Restrictions regulating campaigning, that are unique to the following, shall be followed. It is the responsibility of the candidates to familiarize themselves with the different rules that govern each of the aforementioned entities such as:
 - I. No campaigning of any form is permitted in the Federation offices, or any area that can be perceived to be under the jurisdiction of the Federation unless otherwise stated by the CRO.
 - II. Campaigning within a classroom is forbidden without the expressed permission of its presiding faculty member(s). To campaign in a classroom, a candidate must obtain consent from the professor/lecturer before the start of class.
 - III. Campaigning is not allowed within student residence.
 - IV. Campaigning is not allowed within the Libraries.
 - V. Campaigning is not allowed within computer labs.
- l. Restrictions concerning Federation polling stations include:
 - I. Campaigning shall not take place within ten (10) metres of a designated polling station during the election voting days.
 - II. Any and all campaign materials found within ten (10) metres of a designated polling station shall be removed during the election voting days.
 - III. Designation of polling station is at the discretion of the CRO.

- m. Cross campaigning is allowed between candidates in the election governed by this Code.
- n. Cross campaigning is allowed between candidates being elected through other organizations and candidates in the election governed by this code.
- o. Campaigning During Voting Period will be permitted.

11.14 Campaign Expenses and Campaign Financing

- a. All candidates shall submit to the CRO original receipts of all campaign expenditures within seventy-two (72) hours of the close of voting. The CRO may at any time request from any of the candidates original receipts for expenditures prior to the close of voting.
- b. All campaign donations must be brought to the attention of the CRO and included in the campaign expense report to be submitted by each candidate. Donated materials shall be assigned a dollar value based on fair market value by the CRO and shall be calculated as campaign expenses but will not be considered in the calculation of a refund against election campaign expenditures.
- c. Fair market value of a product or service shall be the lowest price, without special concessions or discounts that is available in Toronto, Ontario for that product or service, to all persons who approach a person or company that sells, or deals in, that product or service.
 - I. The CRO shall contact three (3) major suppliers in the Toronto area and shall adopt the lowest price as the FMV. The candidate may rebut such FMV if the candidate is able to produce/submit receipts from the Toronto area merchants which evidence a lower FMV than that obtained by the CRO.
 - II. Where a candidate purchases goods or services at a discounted price, or receives them as a donation, the FMV of the purchase will be used to determine a candidate's campaign expenditure.
 - III. In determining a candidate's total campaign expenditure, the CRO reserves the right to include the Fair Market Value (FMV) of any materials that endorse or support a candidate. This may be at the discretion of the CRO, including situations whereby a party producing the material or advertising does so without the consent of the candidate, but where the candidate knows, or reasonably ought to know, about such material or endorsement.
- d. Candidates are not entitled to use in their campaign, any service or monies, conferred onto them by virtue of holding any position in any campus organization unless such services would still be available to them otherwise. This includes, but is not limited to, office supplies, equipment, advertising space and staff.
- e. Student Clubs and Faculty and College Councils may endorse but not financially support a candidate.
- f. Funds for the purpose of elections shall be provided for in the operating budget of the Federation.
- g. Campaign expenses shall not exceed \$300 for each Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidate. The campaign expense limit will be adjusted annually by the rate of change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- h. Campaign expenses shall not exceed \$100 for Director candidates. The campaign expense limit will be adjusted annually by the rate of change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- i. Alcoholic beverages or purchase of any substances will not be considered a legitimate campaign expense.
- j. Failure by a candidate to submit a campaign expense form and original receipts by the deadline may result in disqualification upon decision of the CRO. Any candidate who exceeds the campaign limit shall be disqualified by the CRO. Disqualification may be appealed only to the Election Appeals Committee whose decision shall be considered final and binding as per By-Law 11.21(e).
- k. Each candidate, except those who are declared ineligible for refund by the CRO, shall receive a full refund from the Federation against election campaign expenditures as prescribed herein.

- I. A sample budget form shall be provided in the BPM for all candidates to review.

11.15 Violation of Campaign Rules

- a. CRO shall have the sole authority to administer the provisions of these By-laws.
- b. The CRO reserves the right to make rulings on issues and events not otherwise covered in this code, or to add in such rulings to supplement existing sections.
- c. Allegations of violations of these By-laws shall be submitted to the CRO in writing. Such allegations must be made within 48 hours after the incident occurred.
- d. The CRO may lay charges of violations of campaign rules at their own initiative.
- e. The CRO shall render a decision within 48 hours in writing to the candidates in questions and the complainant, unless the complaint is time sensitive, in which case the CRO shall render a decision within one business day. A complaint shall be deemed time-sensitive when the activity outlined in the complaint is ongoing. All rulings of CRO shall be done in a fair and consistent manner.
- f. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ascertain their position with respect to decisions made by the CRO regarding alleged violations committed by the candidate. This shall be done on a regular basis by consulting the CRO, a published list, or minutes posted on the designated elections space in the Federation office.
- g. Where the CRO finds there has been a violation of these By-laws, the CRO must publish the details of the violation in a designated elections space in the Federation office. Published notification of violations will only take place once all appeals have been exhausted.
- h. Regarding penalties for violations the CRO may:
 - I. Assign a demerit point penalty.
 - II. Assign multiple penalties where the violation encompasses more than one offence.
 - III. Declare that an election of a candidate be ruled void.
- i. Demerit points as outlined in the above section is assessed on, but not limited to, the following basis. The values listed below are a guide for issuing demerit points. Values may be increased or decreased at the discretion of the CRO.

a. Campaign Material	
Violation	Demerit Point
Unintentional Misrepresentation of Facts	3
Multiple violations in the same location/building	4
Unapproved material	5
Displayed in an unauthorized area	5
Pre-campaign materials	6
Intentional misrepresentation of facts	10
b. Campaigning	
Violation	Demerit Point
Unintentional Misrepresentation of Facts	3
Distribution of campaign material within 10 metres of a polling station.	10
Improper distribution of campaign materials	8
Multiple violations within ten (10) metres	8
Intentional misrepresentation of facts	10
Campaigning in an unauthorized area	12
Pre-campaigning	10
c. Fair Play	
Violation	Demerit Point
Candidates enforcing these By-laws	5

Unsanctioned use of Federation resources	15
Gross misrepresentation of facts	20
Malicious or intentional violation of these By-laws	25
Abuse of position or status	15

- d. Violations of the following nature will result in an automatic disqualification of a candidate:
- I. Anyone improperly declared an eligible candidate.
 - II. Failure to attend the All-Candidates Meeting.
 - III. Any candidate spending over the maximum spending limit as set by these By-laws or failing to submit a campaign expense report.
 - IV. Intentional misrepresentation of campaign expenditures.
 - V. A candidate accruing greater than one-hundred (100%) percent of their allowable demerit point limit, as follows is disqualified:

• Executive candidates	35
• Director candidates	20
 - VI. Solicitation of York University Administration to interfere in the Election Process. Solicitation of Interference includes, but is not limited to, actions that encourage the York University Administration to apply pressure on the CRO or Elections Officials to make or change specific decisions, interference in the voting or ballot counting process, withholding vital election document such as voters' list and ballot boxes, and withholding YFS funds.
- e. In the event a winning candidate in any election is disqualified, the runner-up will take the place of the disqualified winner.

11.16 Polling Stations

- a. Campaigning is strictly prohibited within the polling station vicinity of at least 10 metres.
- b. Polling clerks will be trained to assist students in the voting process.
- c. Polling clerks will be responsible for checking each polling station after a voter leaves the station to ensure that any campaign material left behind by a voter is removed and returned to the relevant candidate or team.
- d. Each polling station will be equipped with written instructions on how to vote and how to bring forward concerns regarding inconsistencies in ballots given to the voter and other voting procedures.
- e. Where possible it will be regular practice to obtain ballot boxes, seals and voter shields from Elections Canada for physical polling stations.
- f. Scrutineers will be given the opportunity to examine the construction of the ballot box at the opening of the polling station and the closure of the ballot boxes at the closing of the polling station. Failure to send a scrutineer will not invalidate the opening and closing of the polling stations.
- g. A minimum of one (1) virtual polling station will be open during the prescribed voting hours to ensure all members may participate in the election.
- h. Polling clerks will be trained to assist students in the virtual voting process through a secure virtual voting platform.

11.17 Voting Process

- a. The method for voting in the Election Process shall be through a paper ballot voting process at physical polling stations and through individualized keys at virtual polling stations; valid identification from members is required for voting.

- b. Each ballot will be numbered.
- c. The names of candidates for each Executive and Director-at-large candidate will appear alphabetically on watermarked paper at physical polling stations.
- d. For uncontested positions, the ballot shall include the name of the candidate for each Executive and Director-at-large position and shall include a yes and no option.
- e. The Team names where applicable will appear under each candidate's name.
- f. Sealed ballot boxes shall be stored in a location to which no other individual student, administrator or Elections Committee official other than the CRO would have access to. Locations may include but not be limited to the Ombuds Office or campus security. The ballots will be removed by the CRO when the vote is to be counted.
- g. If the York University Administration fails to provide the Elections Committee with an up-to-date voters list to verify the identity of a voter, a double envelope system will be used to protect the sanctity of the ballot and the integrity of the vote.
- h. Those with special needs shall be instructed to contact the CRO who will ensure the appropriate voting accommodations are made.
- i. Physical ballots for each election year shall have a different design.

11.18 Ballot Counting Process

- a. The ballot counting process will commence no later than 24 hours after the polls officially close.
- b. Independent candidates non-affiliated with a team may select one scrutineer.
- c. Each team will be permitted one scrutineer per counting table.
- d. The results of the ballot counting process will be announced within 24-48 hours.
- e. Failure to send a scrutineer(s) will not invalidate the ballot counting process.
- f. Detailed practices of the ballot counting process shall be maintained in the BPM.

11.19 Election of Candidates

- a. In the event that the candidates nominated for a Director-at-large or Executive office is greater than the number of candidates available to be elected, the winner(s) shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast.
- b. In the event that the number of candidates nominated for election for any Director-at-large or Executive position is lesser than the number of candidates available to be elected, the winner shall be elected by a majority affirmative vote.

11.20 Equality of Votes

In the event of a tie, the winner(s) shall be decided in a run-off election held two-weeks (14 days) after the closing of the voting period.

11.21 Elections Appeals Committee

The Elections Appeals Committee will be as follows

- the Speaker of the Board
- two (2) general members not elected to the Federation or hired by the Federation

The Elections Appeals Committee will be empowered to:

- a. Candidates have up to 48 hours after the decision of the CRO to make an appeal to the Appeals Committee.
- b. Any candidate appealing a ruling of the CRO will present their case to the Elections Appeals Committee.
- c. The Elections Appeals Committee will convene a meeting within 72 hours of a receipt of appeal. At the said meeting the appellant will have the opportunity to address the committee; the committee may at its discretion invite other individuals to the meeting.
- d. Following the meeting of the Elections Appeals Committee shall render a decision within 24 hours.
- e. There will be an automatic meeting of the Elections Appeals Committee if a candidate is disqualified.
- f. Once the Elections Appeals Committee makes a decision, it will be final and not open to be appealed again; the Elections Appeals Committee will ensure detailed reasons are given when decisions are made.

11.22 Methodology for appointing the Elections Appeals Committee

- a. The request for applications for the Elections Appeals Committee will be publicized on the YFS website, and the request will be advertised for two weeks in a student newspaper. The request will include the Elections Appeals committee duties and the necessary qualifications. The Elections Committee will review applications and recommend the top three candidates—where possible—to the Board; the top three candidates will have the ability to answer questions from the Board to help Directors make an informed decision. The Board shall select the successful candidate by secret ballot.

11.23 Appeals of Election Results

- a. Any candidate may challenge the validity of their election result in a written submission containing their reasons to the Elections Appeals Committee no later than 72 hours after the close of the voting period.
- b. The Elections Appeals Committee shall investigate any appeal and make a recommendation to the Board on the appropriate action.
- c. The Board, at its discretion, may refuse to ratify any singular Director or Executive office election, upon the recommendation of the Elections Appeals Committee. The Board may not amend rulings of the CRO or Elections Appeals Committee.

11.24 Recounting Ballots

If there is a difference of 5 per cent or less between candidates an automatic recount shall take place. The CRO at their discretion reserves the right to call a recount.

11.25 Ratification

Candidates shall not be deemed elected until they have:

- a. Been ratified by the Federation's Board at the subsequent meeting following the election results with the condition that there is no outstanding appeal involving the candidate.
- b. Attained the age of majority of eighteen (18) years of age.
- c. Upon ratification by the Board all ballots will be destroyed.

By-Law 12 – Referenda

12.1 Proclamation of Referenda

- a. The Federation shall give not less than thirty (30) calendar days and not more than sixty (60) calendar days

notice of a referendum.

- b. Sufficient notice shall be deemed to have been given by the posting of not less than 30 proclamations on or about York University not less than 8.5"x11" in size, which shall include the following:
 - i. notice of intent to conduct a referendum;
 - ii. the tentative date(s) and time(s) of voting for the referendum;
 - iii. the tentative location of the polling booths for the referendum;
- c. The Board may issue a proclamation of referendum, consistent with the policy herein, at any time following a majority vote cast at a regular meeting of the Board.
- d. One or more members of the Federation may require the Board to issue a proclamation of referendum, by submitting to the Board a completed petition in the form prescribed by the Federation, containing the following:
 - i. a referendum question that complies with clause 2-c.; and
 - ii. The signatures of, and other required information relating to, at least ten percent of all current members of the Federation.
- e. At the first meeting of the Board after receipt of a petition pursuant to clause 1-c, the Board shall appoint members to a Petition Review Committee consisting of three members of the Board who have had no previous involvement with the petition in question and no greater interest in the substantive issues to which it relates than does the Federation's membership in general.
- f. Within ten (10) working days after such Board meeting, the Petition Review Committee shall file a report to the Board as to whether the petition complies with clause 1-c. and was compiled in a fair and reasonable manner.
- g. Upon receiving the report from the Petition Review Committee approving the petition, the Board shall cause the referendum to be conducted as provided herein.

12.2 Referenda Question

- a. Before issuing the proclamation, the Board shall approve the referendum question in accordance with 2-c.
- b. Subject to 2-c., the proposed question for a referendum shall be submitted to the Board of Directors, which may approve the question in the form submitted, amend the question and approve it as amended, or reject the question.
- c. A referendum question shall be positively worded, so that a vote of "yes" signifies agreement with the initiative proposed, and a vote of "no" signifies disagreement with it.

12.3 Referendum Committee

- a. The Board or its designate shall appoint a CRO and a Referendum Committee, who shall exercise and perform the duties specified herein and in the Federation's by-laws.
- b. The term of office of the CRO and Referendum Committee shall expire upon the completion of such duties.
- c. As soon as possible after the issuance of a proclamation, the Referendum Committee shall:
 - i. inform the membership, by such means as the Referendum Committee considers appropriate, of the referendum question, the date(s) and time(s) of voting for the referendum, the location(s) of the polling booths and the general manner in which the referendum will be conducted; and
 - ii. appoint at least one deputy returning officer; and
 - iii. hire two poll clerks for each poll declared in due course by the Referendum Committee in accordance with clause 3-c-i.
- d. If a member of the Referendum Committee dies, resigns in writing to, or is removed by the Board or individual authorised to make appointments to that officer's position, the Board or individual, as the case may be, shall appoint another individual to that position.
- e. The CRO and the Referendum Committee shall:
 - i. exercise general direction and supervision over the administrative conduct of the referendum and enforce compliance with this policy and the pertinent provisions of the Federation's by-laws;

- ii. issue such instructions as may be necessary to ensure effective execution of the provisions of this policy and the pertinent provisions of the Federation's by-laws; and
 - iii. exercise all other powers and perform all other duties assigned to their respective offices by this policy and the Federation's by-laws.
- f. The CRO may authorise any member of the Referendum Committee to exercise any of the powers and perform any of the duties assigned to the CRO by this policy or the Federation's by-laws. shall appoint another individual to that position.

12.4 Advocating Committees

- a. If requested, the Referendum Committee shall register one committee authorised to promote the "yes" answer to a referendum question, and one committee authorised to promote the "no" answer, provided that the members of each committee shall be members of the Federation unless otherwise agreed by the Referendum Committee.
- b. In order to participate in the referendum campaign, individuals must familiarise themselves with the referendum rules as outlined in this and any other relevant policies. Any person who wishes to campaign in the referendum may request and shall receive an orientation to the referendum policies by the members of the Referendum Committee.
- c. An advocating committee may apply for registration by filing with the Referendum Committee, at any time during the referendum period, an application signed by the chief agent of the advocating committee setting out:
 - i. the full name of the committee;
 - ii. the name, address, email address and telephone number of the chief agent of the committee; and
 - iii. the name, address, telephone number and title of each member of the committee.
- d. Each advocating committee shall:
 - i. ensure that all campaigners are aware of and understand all relevant Bylaws, referendum policies and rulings of the Referendum Committee;
 - ii. ensure that all campaigners comply with all relevant Bylaws, referendum policies and rulings of the Referendum Committee.
- e. The Referendum Committee shall determine the resources to be made available to each advocating committee in a particular referendum, and the Referendum Committee shall administer those resources in a fair and reasonable manner at the request of each such committee.
 - i. No advocating committee shall invest resources in any aspect of a particular referendum other than those allocated to it by the Referendum Committee.
- f. The Referendum Committee shall maintain a registry of registered advocating committees.
- g. Where the position of chief agent of a registered advocating committee or of an advocating committee that has applied for registration becomes vacant or the chief agent is unable to perform the duties of the position, the committee shall forthwith appoint a new chief agent and inform the Referendum Committee in writing of the name, address and telephone number of the new chief agent.
- h. No one other than a registered advocating committee shall advertise in any medium, or post or distribute any material, for the purpose of supporting or opposing a referendum question.
- i. Advocating committees shall provide the Referendum Committee with a written description of the proposed campaign material. The Referendum Committee shall provide in confidence a written approval or refusal of campaign materials, and shall respond within either 12 hours or 4 working hours of receiving a completed request, whichever is greater.
- j. The Referendum Committee will not approve materials that are defamatory, potentially libelous or factually incorrect. Materials that have not received Committee approval cannot be distributed.
- k. The Referendum Committee will not approve materials that: cannot be removed at the conclusion of the campaign; materials that are likely to damage property including stickers and paint applied to building surfaces; or cannot be monitored for compliance with all relevant Bylaws and referendum policies.
- l. No registered advocating committee shall advertise in any medium, or post or distribute any material, unless the advertisement or other material:
 - i. identifies that committee and indicates that the advertisement is authorized by it; and
 - ii. has the documented, prior authorisation of the Referendum Committee.
- m. Where the Referendum Committee determines that campaign materials which have not been approved by the Referendum Committee are being distributed, displayed or used by a campaign, then the Committee shall order the materials immediately withdrawn or removed and shall confiscate the materials from the campaign for a period of not less than 24 hours.

The Referendum Committee may assign an additional penalty, which may include destruction of the material or a restriction on campaigning provided that the penalty is balanced against the volume of the materials distributed or its effect, and that no destruction shall take place until the appeal period is expired.

- n. No one, whether a member of a registered campaign committee or otherwise, shall disseminate information verbally, electronically or otherwise that is defamatory, potentially libelous or factually incorrect. Campaigners shall act reasonably, responsibly and in good faith.

Further, no one, whether a member of a registered advocating committee or otherwise, shall:

- i. make any statement of fact either in support of or opposition to a referendum question, without evidence substantiating that statement of fact to the satisfaction of the Referendum Committee; or
 - ii. discuss any aspect of the referendum in a manner that the Referendum Committee considers to constitute harassment.
- o. During the referendum period, the Referendum Committee may, at its discretion, arrange public forums for the advocating committees to make oral presentations to the membership.
 - p. No person shall, for the purpose of supporting or opposing a referendum question, violate any pertinent regulations contained in the Federation's by-laws or this or any other policy issued pursuant thereto.

12.5 Polling Procedure

- a. Each member of the Federation shall be allowed to cast one (1) secret, non-transferable ballot.
- b. The Referendum Committee shall establish and maintain a register of members of the Federation, to be known as the register of electors.
- c. Each physical polling station shall abide by the following;
 - i. Each polling station shall contain either one or two voting compartments so arranged that each elector may be screened from observation and may mark a ballot without interference or interruption.
 - ii. In each voting compartment, there shall be a table or desk, and a suitable writing instrument.
 - iii. At the time set for opening a poll, one agent for each registered advocating committee may inspect each ballot box to ensure that it has not been tampered with.
 - iv. The deputy returning officer shall ensure that no elector is impeded or discouraged from voting at the polling station.
 - v. The deputy returning officer and poll clerk at each poll shall initial the back of each ballot before it is given to an elector.
 - vi. Each elector shall produce the elector's student card or other conclusive identification, whereupon the poll clerk shall strike the elector's name off the register of electors and give the elector a ballot paper bearing the deputy returning officer and poll clerk's initials on the back in accordance with clause 11.5-g.
 - vii. After receiving a ballot, an elector shall proceed directly to the voting compartment, mark the ballot to clearly indicate the elector's choice opposite the word "yes" or "no", fold the ballot so that the initials on the back are visible without unfolding it, and place it in the ballot box.
- d. Each virtual polling station shall abide by the following;
 - i. A minimum of one (1) virtual polling station will be open during the prescribed voting hours to ensure all members may participate in the Referendum.
 - ii. Polling clerks will be trained to assist students in the virtual voting process by providing individualized keys to members to be used through a secure virtual voting platform.
- e. Poll clerks shall under no circumstances instruct an elector how to vote or provide information about the referendum other than the referendum question.

12.6 Security of ballot boxes

- a. All ballot boxes and ballots shall be secured in a location approved by the Referendum Committee.
- b. The ballot boxes shall be sealed and not opened until counting.

12.7 Counting of Votes

- a. Immediately after the close of a poll, in the presence and full view of the agents of registered advocating

committees or witnesses who are present, the deputy returning officer and poll clerk shall cause all ballot boxes to be transported to the location prescribed by the Referendum Committee for the counting of ballots.

- b. Advocating committees shall each appoint two scrutineers to observe the counting procedure, provided that once the scrutineers have entered the count room, they may not leave the facility until completion of counting or with the consent of the Referendum Committee.
- c. As soon as reasonably possible after all ballot boxes have been transported to the location prescribed for the counting of ballots, in the presence and full view of all Referendum Committee members and the scrutineers, the Referendum Committee shall, with respect to each polling station and in the following order:
 - d. Count the number of names stricken from the register of electors, and make an entry on the line immediately below the name of the last elector on the list that states, "The number of electors who voted at this referendum in this polling station is (stating the number)", and sign the list;
 - i. open the ballot box and empty its contents on a table; and
 - ii. count the number of votes cast for the "yes" answer and those cast for the "no" answer to the referendum question, as well as the number of spoiled ballots, on one of the tally sheets supplied, giving full opportunity to those present to examine each ballot paper.
- e. In counting the votes, the Referendum Committee shall declare spoiled all ballot papers:
 - i. that have not been supplied by the Referendum Committee;
 - ii. that have not been marked with any answer to the referendum question;
 - iii. on which more than one answer to a referendum question has been marked;
 - iv. on which there is any writing or mark by which the elector could be identified.
- f. Spoiled ballots shall count towards the establishment of total voter participation but will not be considered in the calculation of a majority.
- g. The votes cast at virtual polling stations will then be added to the final vote count.
- h. Forthwith after the official addition of the votes, the Referendum Committee shall prepare a written statement showing the total number of votes cast for each of the "yes" answer and the "no" answer to each referendum question and the number of spoiled ballots. The Referendum Committee shall, at least two (2) business days but not more than five (5) business days after all polls have closed, submit that statement to the Board.
- i. Upon receiving the Referendum Committee's statement showing the votes cast in a referendum, the Board shall by resolution ratify the result of the referendum.
- j. Before the close of polling on the last day of voting, the chief agent of each registered advocating committee shall file with the Referendum Committee a true return, signed by the chief agent, showing all referendum expenses incurred by the committee for which the committee wishes to be reimbursed.
- k. The Referendum Committee shall retain all documents submitted in connection with a referendum for at least two (2) months after submitting the statement provided for in clause 11.6-g.
- l. Quorum is only required for a referendum concerning an external organization where quorum shall be no less than ten percent (10%) of the general membership.

12.8 Grievance Procedure

- a. All alleged violations of the Bylaws, policy or referendum rules shall be investigated and ruled upon by the Referendum Committee.
- b. The complaint must include the following:
 - i. the specific Bylaw or referendum policy that is alleged to have been violated;
 - ii. the specific campaign or individual that is alleged to be in violation;
 - iii. the specific facts which constitute the alleged violation;
 - iv. the evidence of these facts; and
 - v. the name and contact information including e-mail address and telephone number for the complainant.
- c. No complaint will be considered by the Referendum Committee unless it is in writing and is received within 24-hours of the alleged violation.
- d. Where a complaint is received and found to be complete, the Referendum Committee shall investigate the facts, and shall rule on the complaint within 24-hours thereof.
- e. Where a violation has occurred, regardless of cause or intent of the parties involved, and that violation has provided an unfair advantage to a campaign, the Referendum Committee shall assign a penalty that:
 - i. fully counterbalances any unfair advantage gained;
 - ii. penalises the campaign for committing a violation; and
 - iii. is of the same type or character as the advantage which was gained.

- f. Penalties available to the Referendum Committee include but are not limited to:
 - i. the confiscation or destruction of campaign materials;
 - ii. limits, restrictions and prohibitions on any type of campaigning, for any period of time; and
 - iii. Disqualification.

By-Law 13 – Staff Positions and Personnel Policies

- a. All employment positions of the Federation must be approved by the Executive Committee; and
- b. Each full-time employment position created by the Federation must have terms of reference and an explicit job description prepared by the Executive Committee of the Federation and;
- c. The Executive Committee shall determine the Federations staff and personnel requirements as deemed necessary and;
- d. The Executive Committee shall hire an Executive Director who shall;
 - i. participate in Board and Executive Committee meetings; and
 - ii. shall be a Officer of the Federation; and
 - iii. shall be ultimately responsible to the Board and to the Executive Committee at the direction of the Board; and
 - iv. shall be a non-voting member of all Federation committees unless otherwise stated; and
 - v. shall be the Chair of the Elections Committee; and
 - w. whose duties and responsibilities may be defined by their contract and approved by the Board.

By-Law 14 – Conflict of Interest

- a. **A** Subject to the Act, a conflict of interest arises when a current member of the Board or any Committee of the Federation has or could be seen to have an opportunity to use the authority, knowledge, or influence derived from their position to benefit improperly the member or another person. Such situations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. Participating as a Director, Officer, or in any other capacity as a manager in the management of a firm which is a supplier of materials or services to the Federation; or
 - ii. Having personal financial dealings with an individual or company whose business with the Federation involves the member's sphere or responsibility; or
 - iii. Participating in the hiring or contract review process affecting an immediate relative (i.e. a spouse, parent, in-law, sibling, child, or step-child).
- b. If any Federation member or employee should be faced with a situation involving an existing or potential conflict of interest, or should be in doubt about the application of these policies, they shall report the situation to the President, the Speaker, or the Chair of the Committee, as appropriate. The disclosure of the potential conflict of interest may be given orally or in writing.
- c. On hearing of a potential conflict of interest, the presiding officer listed above shall either determine that no conflict of interest exists or will exist or find that a conflict of interest exists and reach an agreement with the members involved by which that conflict can be removed or avoided.
- d. Subject to the Act, possible courses of action to be taken in the event that the presiding officer declares there is a conflict of interest include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Requiring the individual to abstain from discussion on the issue; or
 - ii. Requiring the individual to abstain from voting on the issue and requesting that that abstention be noted in the minutes; or
 - iii. Asking that individual to excuse themselves from any meeting during which the conflict arises; or
 - iv. Requiring the individual to withdraw from the activity or situation in which the conflict arises.

- e. Any member of the Board having an interest in any matter before the Board other than the interest of the Federation whether or not it is in conflict, whether a pecuniary interest or otherwise, whether directly or indirectly, shall, if present at the meeting at which the matter is considered, declare such interest before the Board. The Secretary shall record all such declarations.
- f. A general notice that a member of the Board is a member of any specified partnership, firm, company or corporation, shall be sufficient disclosure whether or not the interest of the member is nominal or consists of the holding of a qualifying share or shares, and after such general notice, it shall also be necessary to give separate notice relating to any particular transaction with such partnership, firm, company or corporation.
- g. Subject to the Act, when notice of interest has been given by a member of the Board, either general or with respect to a particular matter, any such member must abstain from voting and debate upon any motion or on any matter in which they have such interest. The Board secretary shall record all such votes.
- h. The Board member having an actual or potential conflict of interest with respect to a matter before the Board shall forthwith disclose it to the Board and shall refrain from participating in the discussion of the matter other than to answer questions from other members of the Board, and shall refrain from voting on the matter.
- i. A member having an actual or potential conflict of interest with respect to a matter before the membership shall forthwith disclose it to the membership and shall refrain from participating in the discussion of the matter other than to answer questions from other members of the Federation, and shall refrain from voting on the matter.
- j. An employee having an actual or potential conflict of interest with the Federation shall forthwith disclose it to the President and the Executive Director, in the case of the Executive Director, to the President and Vice President Operations, and shall act as instructed thereby.
- k. Failure to disclose a potential conflict of interest constitutes grounds for disciplinary procedures.

By-Law 15 – Disclosure of Information

- a. The Federation espouses an Open Information Policy. In accordance with this policy:
 - i. All minutes of the Board and Standing Committees shall be available to all interested parties with the exceptions noted below.
 - ii. Upon request of a member of the Federation, the President must confidentially reveal all details of employee salaries. This may be done in person or at a meeting of the Board or Executive Committee.
 - iii. For the purposes of these By-Laws “confidential minutes” means “non-public records taken during a meeting of the Board or any Committee of the Federation”.
 - iv. Confidential minutes may only be viewed by the Board members and, in the case of Committee minutes, by members of the Committee from which the confidential minutes originated.
 - v. Confidential minutes must be viewed in the presence of the Chair or an Executive of the Federation. No notes may be taken or copies made of these minutes. In addition, the contents of confidential minutes must not be discussed with any person who is not eligible to view the confidential minutes. Confidential minutes must only be discussed in non-public environments.
 - vi. Employees of the Federation are entitled, in the presence of an Officer, to examine their personnel files.
 - vii. Matters pertaining to sensitive academic and administrative problems of individuals shall be considered the private property of those individuals.

By-Law 16 – Financial Policy

- a. The fiscal year of the Federation shall be from the first day of May of any given year to the thirtieth day of April in the following year.
- b. The securities of the Federation shall be deposited for safekeeping with one or more bankers, trust companies or other financial institutions to be selected by the Board. Any and all securities so deposited may be withdrawn, from time to time, only upon the written order of the Federation signed by any two of the President, Vice President Operations or the Executive Director, and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by

resolution of the Board and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. The institutions which may be so selected as custodians of the Board shall be fully protected in acting in accordance with the directions of the Board and shall in no event be liable for the due application of the securities so withdrawn from deposit or the proceeds thereof.

- c. An independent external agent shall prepare a statement of the Federation's financial position for the preceding fiscal year.
- d. The Executive Committee may authorize variations in the budget approved by the Board if the amount approved does not exceed \$1500. These variations are to be reported to the Finance Committee and then to the Board as soon as possible following their authorization.
- e. Any two of the President, Vice President Operations and Executive Director shall sign all deeds, transfers, licenses, contracts, and engagements on behalf of the Federation, unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- f. The President and Vice President Operations are required to sign any loan agreements.
- g. Any two of the President, Vice President Operations and the Executive Director may acquire and/or transfer, upon ratification, any and all shares, bonds or other securities from time to time standing in the name of the Federation is its individual or any other capacity or as trustee or otherwise may accept in the name and on behalf of the Federation transfers of shares, bonds, or other securities from time to time transferred to the Federation, and may affix the Seal to any such transfers or acceptance of the transfers, and may make, execute and deliver under the Seal any and all instruments in appointment of an attorney or attorneys to make or accept transfers of shares, bonds or other securities on the books of any company or corporation.
- h. Subject as herein otherwise provided, all cheques, bills of exchange or other orders for payment of money, notes or other advances of indebtedness issued in the name of the Federation shall be signed by any two of the President, Vice President Operations or the Executive Director.
- i. Any one of the President, Vice President Operations, or Executive Director may alone endorse notes and drafts for collection on accounts of the Federation through its bankers, and endorse notes and cheques for deposit with the Federation's bankers for the credit of the Federation or same may be endorsed "for collection" or "for deposit" with the bankers of the Federation for the purpose.
- j. Any one of the President, Vice President Operations, or Executive Director may arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts between the Federation's bankers and may receive all paid cheques and vouchers and sign all the bank's forms or verification slips.
- k. The Board may from time to time:
 - i. borrow money on the credit of the Federation;
 - ii. issue, sell or pledge securities of the Federation;
 - iii. charge, mortgage, hypothecate or pledge all or any of the real or personal property of the Federation, including book debts, rights, powers, franchises and undertakings, to secure any securities or any money borrowed or other debt, or any obligation or liability of the Federation.
- l. From time to time, the Board may authorise any Director, Officer or employee of the Federation or any other person to make arrangements with reference to the moneys borrowed or to be borrowed as aforesaid and as to the terms and conditions of the loan thereof, and as to the securities to be given therefore, with power to vary or modify such arrangements, terms and conditions and to give such additional securities for any moneys borrowed or remaining due by the Federation as the Board may authorise, and generally to manage, transact and settle the borrowing of money by the Federation.

By-Law 17 – Policy of the Federation

17.1 Establishment of Policy

Policy for the Federation may be established from time to time by the Board in accordance to the following guidelines:

a. Operational Policy:

Operational Policy consists of policy that outlines the framework of managing the operations of the Federation.

- i. To adopt, amend, or rescind Operational Policy, a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board must vote in favour.

b. Issues Policy:

Issues Policy consists of policy that the Federation takes a stance on. It is policy that either opposes, supports and/or condones, but not limited to, actions that the Federation or a third- party carries out. An example of such policy is taking a stance on international, national and domestic issues, such as tuition fees.

- i. To adopt, amend, or rescind Issues Policy, (2/3) of the Board must vote in favour.

17.2 Duration of Policy

All policy of the Federation remains in force until changes, or retraction by a vote of the same or higher authority as that which established the policy takes place

17.3 Policy Binder

All policy of the Federation shall be maintained in the Policy Booklet of the Federation.

By-Law 18 – Former By-Laws Revoked

These By-Laws, once in force, replace all previous By-Laws, written or implied.