Elections and Referenda Policy

Policy Information

Oversight Body: Bylaw and Policy Review Committee

Date Passed by Council: August 13, 2020

Title of Related Policies, Bylaws, Legislation: DSU Bylaws

Definitions

Campaign: a coordinated effort to elect any candidate and/or to pass or defeat any referenda question during DSU elections or referenda.

Campaigning: advertising by any medium designed to influence voters.

Campaign Worker: an individual who has been asked by a candidate or referendum spokesperson and has agreed to assist that campaign with campaigning in any capacity.

Community Society: a DSU-ratified society that officially represents the voice of members within a community.

Faculty-Level Society: a DSU-ratified society that officially represents the voice of members within a faculty.

Member: an individual who meets the membership criteria of the DSU as outlined in the DSU Bylaws.

Non-DSU Member: an individual who is not a member of the DSU but has been asked by a candidate or spokesperson to be a DSU elections or referenda campaign worker.

Spokesperson: the member of the DSU chosen by a referendum campaign team to act as the official lead spokesperson for the campaign and as the team’s sole liaison with the Elections Committee and CRO.

Candidate: any member who declares themselves to be running for any of the position up for election, has successfully completed all necessary documentation and submitted it by the deadline, and who is otherwise eligible to run as a candidate according to the DSU Bylaws and this policy.
Society: A student organization that receives resources or funding from the DSU, is subject to oversight by the DSU, and/or fulfills all necessary requirements to be designated as a DSU society as set out in the DSU Bylaws.

Special Resolution: a 2/3 majority vote.

 Ordinary Resolution: a simple majority vote.

 Resource: any material or asset that provides a non-monetary benefit to a candidate or campaign.

 Business Hours: the hours during the day when business is commonly conducted in Halifax, NS; 9am-5pm Atlantic Standard/Daylight Time, Monday through Friday.

 Elections Period: the period starting when nominations for an election or registration for a referendum opens and ending when the results of the elections or referendum become official.

 Nomination Period: the period during which members can nominate themselves for positions up for election and/or when referendum campaigns can register.

 Campaigning Period: the period during which candidates and referenda campaigns are permitted to advertise their campaigns.

 Voting Period: the period during which all members can vote in an election and/or referendum.

 Unofficial Results: elections and/or referenda results announced after the end of the Voting Period that may be appealed.

 Official Results: elections and/or referenda results that are considered binding following the end of the Results Appeals Period and the resolution of any appeals.

 Chief Returning Officer: CRO; the primary elections official.

 Elections Committee: The body which governs all DSU elections and referenda.

Purpose

To outline the rules and processes with which to conduct DSU elections, by-elections, and referenda to ensure fair, equitable, democratic, and transparent practices.

Scope

The provisions of this Policy will apply to Dalhousie Student Union elections, by-elections, and referenda. The CRO, Elections Committee, and all candidates, campaign spokespersons, campaign workers, and DSU staff, must abide by the provisions of this policy.

The entirety of this policy will apply to those candidates running for Executive Officer and Board of Governors Representative positions in a DSU election. The entirety of this policy will also apply to those Faculty and Community Representative positions that are determined through a DSU election.
Faculty Representatives to be elected or appointed by an internal process of a faculty-level society will only be bound to sections one (1) and three (3) of this policy but must be elected or appointed through fair and democratic processes.

Community Representatives to be elected or appointed by an internal process of a community society will only be bound to sections one (1) and four (4) of this policy but must be elected or appointed through fair processes.

**Policy Statement**

1. **Eligibility for Referenda and Elections**
   
   1.1. Any DSU member may run for office or serve as a referendum spokesperson. It is the responsibility of the CRO to authenticate candidate and spokesperson eligibility with the Registrar’s Office or Student Accounts.

   1.1.1. In the case where a Faculty or Community Representative is elected or appointed through an internal society process, the appropriate executive member of that society, as determined by that society’s internal processes, is responsible for determining candidate eligibility.

   1.2. Candidates running for office or serving as spokespersons must not sit on the Elections Committee or hold the position of CRO.

2. **Elections Nominations**

   2.1. Successful nominations for each position must be made by accurately submitting the completed nomination forms developed by the Elections Committee, before the end of the Nomination Period.

   2.1.1. The CRO must publish the nomination forms to the membership no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Nomination Period.

   2.1.1.1. Nomination forms must include at least the following information:

   2.1.1.1.1. Nominee Name

   2.1.1.1.2. Desired position

   2.1.1.1.3. Major(s)/Program(s) & Year of Study

   2.1.1.1.4. Full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least twenty-five (25) current students who support the candidacy of a nominee
2.1.1.5. Nominee signature and date

2.1.2. All nominees must attend the “All Candidates Meeting”. Any nominee who does not attend without making prior arrangements with the CRO at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting may have their nomination revoked at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

2.1.2.1. The All Candidates Meeting must occur no later than the last school day of the Nomination Period.

2.1.2.2. During the All Candidates Meeting the CRO and Elections Committee must present:
   2.1.2.2.1. All policy, rules, and regulations of a DSU Election.
   2.1.2.2.2. Any new, additional guidelines for the Elections Period not described in this policy.
   2.1.2.2.3. The location of all poster display areas must be provided.
   2.1.2.2.4. The official handles of all DSU election media accounts.

2.1.3. All nominees must attend the Anti-Oppression Training Session during the Nominations Period. Any nominee who does not attend without making prior arrangements with the CRO at least forty-eight (48) hours before the session may have their nomination revoked at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

2.1.3.1. The Anti-Oppression Training Session must occur no later than the last school day of the Nomination Period.

2.1.4. All successful nominations must be verified by the CRO and published for the membership to view no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the Nomination Period, at which point nominees become candidates.

2.1.5. Appeals regarding the verification of a nomination must be made in writing to the Elections Committee no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the Nominations Period. The Elections Committee must render a decision on any appeals before the start of the Campaigning Period.

2.2. The nomination process for the Vice-President Finance and Operations must have the following, additional requirements:

2.2.1. The CRO must publish a technical questionnaire no later than two (2) weeks before the start of the Nomination Period. The questions must relate to the requirements of the VPFO position and must be approved by the Elections Committee.
2.2.1.1. Candidates for Vice-President Finance and Operations must submit a completed questionnaire to the CRO no later than the end of the Nominations Period.

2.2.1.2. The CRO must publish all completed questionnaires online before the start of the Campaigning Period.

2.3. Until the Voting Period starts, a candidate may withdraw their nomination form and have their name removed from the election. Upon submitting written declaration of their withdrawal to the CRO, the candidate must meet with the CRO at the first possible opportunity to sign a declaration of withdrawal in their presence. The CRO must remove a candidate’s name from the list of candidates once that candidate has confirmed their intent to withdraw and with the approval of the Elections Committee.

2.3.1. A person who, to prevent the election of a candidate, knowingly publishes a false statement of withdrawal of a candidate that is not themselves, is guilty of an offence as defined by Appendix III of this policy.

2.4. If a candidate dies during any part of the Elections Period as described by this policy, a by-election must be held for that position.

2.4.1. If the candidate dies on the day that the Unofficial Results are published and the results favour the deceased candidate, the results are void and a by-election must be held for that position.

3. Faculty Representative Eligibility, Nominations, and Elections

3.1. Representatives from the following faculty constituencies must be elected or appointed through a verified process each year and given a voting seat on the Dalhousie Student Union Council:

1. Faculty of Agriculture
2. Faculty of Architecture and Planning
3. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
4. Faculty of Computer Science
5. Faculty of Dentistry
6. Faculty of Engineering
7. Faculty of Graduate Studies
8. Faculty of Health Professions
9. Faculty of Law
10. Faculty of Management

11. Faculty of Medicine

12. Faculty of Science

3.1.1. Eligibility to run for a Faculty Representative seat is based on a member’s association to that faculty, defined according to the Office of the Registrar’s records of the member’s declared major(s).

3.1.1.1. Should a member be enrolled in a joint program at the University where they complete two or more degrees either consecutively or concurrently, they are considered to belong to all faculties in which any of their degree programs fall.

3.1.1.2. Should a member be enrolled in a graduate program at the University, they are considered to belong to both the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Faculty under which their degree program falls.

3.2. Faculty-level societies have the option to elect their Faculty Representative through an election or appointment process laid out within their own Constitution or other governing document. The CRO must contact the President or suitable executive member of each faculty-level society at least three (3) weeks prior to the start of the Nomination Period to discuss this option.

3.2.1. Should a faculty-level society choose to elect their Faculty Representative through an internal election or appointment process, the society President or suitable executive member must provide the CRO with a copy of their governing documents outlining that process, as well as the text of a motion passed by special resolution at a meeting of the society’s governing body indicating their decision to determine their representative through an internal process. These documents must be submitted to the CRO for verification no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the Nomination Period to ensure they describe a fair, democratic process.

3.2.2. Faculty-level societies that elect their Faculty representatives internally must submit the name of their determined representative to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator directly following their election or appointment, and no later than May 31. The society must include the official minutes from the meeting of their governing body where their representative was determined.

3.3. Should a faculty-level society choose to elect their Faculty Representative through a DSU election, that society must notify the CRO and their constituents immediately and no later than one (1) week before the start of the Nomination Period. Faculty Representative candidates must follow the nomination requirements described in Section 2 of this policy.
3.3.1. Faculty-level societies that do not indicate to the CRO at least one (1) week before the Nomination Period starts that they choose to elect their representative through a DSU election will automatically default to an internal appointment or elections process.

3.3.2. Should a faculty-level society choose to elect their Faculty Representative through a DSU election, this choice will only apply to the present DSU Election Period. Faculty-level societies must re-indicate this choice for each Election Period where it is desired.

3.3.2.1. Faculty-level societies wishing to adopt the DSU Election process on a permanent basis should add a clause to this effect into their Constitution or other governing document. This decision must be communicated to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.

3.3.3. Only members who belong to a given faculty, as determined by the faculty under which their degree program(s) fall, must be permitted to vote for that Faculty Representative in a DSU election.

4. Community Representative Eligibility, Nominations, and Elections

4.1. Representatives from the following communities must be elected or appointed through a verified process each year and given a voting seat on the Dalhousie Student Union Council:

1. Black Students
2. Indigenous Students
3. LGBTQI2SA+ Students
4. Students with Disabilities
5. Woman Students
6. International Students
7. Students in Residence

4.2. The following Community Representatives must be elected during a DSU Election by members who belong to that community, based on the following criteria:

4.2.1. Black Students Representative

4.2.1.1. The Black Students Representative must self-identify as a Black student and be elected only by self-identifying Black Students.

4.2.2. LGBTQI2SA+ Students Representative
4.2.2.1. The LGBTQI2SA+ Students Representative must self-identify as a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Questioning, Gender-Fluid, Gender Non-Conforming, Non-Binary, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, and/or Queer student and be elected only by self-identifying LGBTQI2SA+ students.

4.2.3. Students with Disabilities Representative

4.2.3.1. The Students with Disabilities Representative must self-identify as a student with a disability and be elected only by self-identifying students with disabilities.

4.2.4. Woman Students Representative

4.2.4.1. The Woman Students Representative must self-identify as a woman and be elected only by self-identifying woman students.

4.2.5. Students in Residence Representative

4.2.5.1. The Students in Residence Representative must live in a Dalhousie residence during their term and be elected only by students in residences.

4.3. The Indigenous Students Representative must self-identify as an Indigenous student and be nominated to Council by the Dalhousie Indigenous Student’s Collective no later than May 31st of each year by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.

4.4. The International Students Representative must be classified as an International Student by Dalhousie University and be nominated to Council by the Dalhousie International Students Association no later than May 31st of each year by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.

4.5. Where membership in a community is through self-identification, the DSU must honour a candidate or nominee’s self-identification and must not request proof of their identity. Any declaration of self-identification with a community made by a candidate or nominee must be destroyed within thirty (30) days of the end of the Voting Period or their election/nomination to Council, whichever is later.

4.6. Should any of the societies listed in Section 4.3 or 4.4 of this policy cease to exist, the Community Representative positions for those constituencies must be determined through a DSU election until an alternative society is ratified and instated by ordinary resolution of the DSU Council.

4.7. Should a society wish to take on the responsibility of nominating a Community Representative listed under 4.1 of this policy through internal elections or nominations processes of their society rather than through a DSU Election, that society must be recognized as the official representative of that community through a referendum process carried out in accordance with the DSU Bylaws and this policy.
4.7.1. The general form of such a referendum question is: “Do you support the designation of [Society Name] as the official representative society of [Community] students within the DSU’s membership, and further do you support granting this society the authority to nominate the [Community] Representative on DSU Council and on any other bodies with a seat for a(n) [Community] Representative?”

4.7.1.1. Only students who are self-identified members of the community in question are be eligible to vote in said referendum.

4.7.1.2. Societies that wish to take on this responsibility must demonstrate meaningful efforts and/or willingness to connect with all members who self-identify as a part of that community, as determined by the DSU Council.

5. Referenda Registration

5.1. A referendum to increase DSU Fees over and above the rate of increase of the Canadian Consumer Price Index must adhere to the regulations laid out in DSU Bylaw 9.

5.2. Members wishing to register a society levy referendum question in the general election must adhere to the regulations laid out in DSU Bylaw 9.

5.2.1. The Referendum question must be found to meet the objectives of the DSU under Bylaw 3.

5.3. Any Referenda question initiated by DSU Council is bound only by the DSU Bylaws and Sections 5 and 6 of this policy.

6. General Procedure for Referenda

6.1. Referenda will be held alongside the DSU’s elections and are subject to the Elections Period schedule developed by the Elections Committee and approved by DSU Council each year.

6.2. Before posed to the membership, referendum questions must be approved by special resolution of the DSU Council. Approval must be granted prior to the start of the Nomination Period as determined in the Elections Period schedule.

6.3. A society or member wishing to propose a referendum question should reach out to the Chair of the DSU Council for guidance in phrasing their question and in bringing the motion forward to Council.

6.4. Council may only approve a referendum question that meets the following minimum criteria:

6.4.1. The question contains the dollar value of the proposed change.
6.4.2. The question is phrased to elicit yes/no answers and is phrased such that a vote of “yes” signifies agreement with the proposal and a vote of “no” signifies disagreement with the proposal.

6.4.3. The proposal supports the objectives of the DSU as defined in the Constitution.

6.4.4. For referenda questions on the creation of new society levies, the motion is accompanied by a petition in support of the proposal containing full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least ten (10) percent of all members to whom the society levy would affect.

6.4.5. For referenda questions on changes to existing society levies or society fees, the motion is accompanied by both:

6.4.5.1. Official minutes from a meeting of the society’s governing body indicating the proposal’s approval by special resolution; and

6.4.5.2. A petition in support of the proposal containing the full names, student numbers, and signatures of at least five (5) percent of members that the change in fees would affect.

6.5. Council has the authority to offer amendments to a proposed referendum question that does not meet these minimum requirements. All proposed amendments are subject to approval by the member or society that proposed the referendum question.

6.5.1. Approval of an amendment to a referendum question proposed by an individual may be granted by a written statement circulated to Council, or by verbal statement of the approval within a minuted session of Council.

6.5.2. Approval of an amendment to a referendum proposed in line with Section 6.4.4 of this policy may be granted:

6.5.2.1.1. Where a proposed amendment changes the wording of a referendum question but not its intention, dollar value, or effect, by a written statement circulated to Council signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the original petitioners; or

6.5.2.1.2. Where a proposed amendment changes the intention, dollar value, or effect of the referendum question, by a petition circulated to Council signed by at least ten percent (10%) of all members to whom the society levy would apply. The petition must include full names, student numbers, and signatures for each signee.

6.5.3. Approval of an amendment to a referendum question proposed in line with Section 6.4.5 of this policy may be granted:
6.5.3.1. Where a proposed amendment changes the wording of the referendum question but not its intention, dollar value, or effect, by a special resolution of the society’s council, board, or similar governance body; or

6.5.3.2. Where a proposed amendment changes the intention, dollar value, or effect of the referendum question, by both a special resolution of the society’s council, board, or similar governance body and a petition in support of the amendment containing the names, student numbers, and signatures of at least five percent (5%) of members that the change in fees would affect.

6.6. Referendum Campaign Teams must register during the Nomination Period using the Campaign Information Form, which must be developed and published by the Elections Committee prior to the beginning of the Nomination Period. The form must indicate the spokesperson for the referendum campaign team and whether the team will be campaigning for the “YES” or “NO” option in the referendum.

6.7. No more than one Referendum Campaign Team may register for each option presented in the referendum. For further clarity, there may only be one “YES” team and one “NO” team. Should the CRO receive Registration Forms from more than one group seeking to campaign in favour of a particular side, they must immediately contact all relevant spokespeople to advise them of the issue. It must be the responsibility of the prospective Campaign Teams to select one spokesperson.

6.8. The CRO must set and administer a Referendum Campaign Information Meeting to be held between the end of the Nomination and Campaign Registration Period and the beginning of the Campaign Period.

6.8.1. Based on the circumstances of a given year, the CRO may choose to combine this meeting with the All Candidates Meeting for DSU Elections, or to hold a standalone meeting regarding referenda.

6.8.2. This meeting is mandatory for all campaign spokespersons and must also be open to campaign workers.

6.8.3. Any spokesperson who is unable to attend the Information Meeting must make alternate arrangements with the CRO at least forty-eight (48) hours before the event. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the Referendum Campaign Team as a whole.

6.9. The Campaign Period and Voting Period must follow the Council-approved elections timeline.

6.10. Referendum results must be published alongside General Election results.
6.11. Fee or levy changes brought on by successful referenda will, subject to any restrictions imposed by the University, be implemented for the next fall term following the referendum vote.

7. **By-Election**

7.1. Should any Executive Officer, Board of Governors Representative, Faculty Representative, and/or Community Representative position remain vacant following the DSU’s annual elections or becomes vacant before October 1st, there must be a by-election held, but not necessarily finished, by October 31st. If necessary, DSU Council may appoint a councillor to act as an interim Executive Officer until the time where a by-election can be held.

7.2. Should any Executive Officer, Board of Governors, Faculty, or Community Representative position remain vacant following a by-election, the DSU Council must make an appointment.

7.2.1. After a by-election has been held, vacant Executive Officer, Board of Governors, Faculty, and Community Representatives may be filled by any member of the DSU.

7.2.2. The Oversight Committee must evaluate all candidates who have expressed interest in appointment to the vacant positions and provide recommendations to the DSU Council regarding the filling of those positions and Council must then make the appointment.

7.3. Faculty-level and Community societies must be given the opportunity to hold one (1) voting seat on the Oversight Committee during any appointment under Section 7.2 of this policy that may affect their constituency.

8. **Elections Officials**

8.1. **The Elections Committee**

8.1.1. DSU elections or referenda must be conducted and supervised by an Elections Committee as provided for in Section 9 of the DSU Bylaws.

8.1.2. The Elections Committee must be appointed by the DSU Council no later than September 30.

8.1.3. The Elections Committee must always be available during business hours and official events to serve as the supervising body of elections and referenda and to provide advice and guidance to the CRO or Deputy Returning Officer.

8.1.4. The Elections Committee must appoint a Deputy Returning Officer from among the Elections Committee members who will assume the responsibilities of the CRO in their absence.

8.1.5. The Elections Committee must assist in the completion of all elections and referenda procedures in collaboration with the CRO.
8.1.6. The Elections Committee must refer to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator for training and inquiries upon their appointment each year.

8.1.7. For a decision of the Elections Committee to be valid, three (3) of the Committee members must be present at a meeting and the decision must be made through special resolution.

8.1.7.1. The CRO must be present at all meetings of the Elections Committee but is not permitted to vote.

8.1.8. A written report of any Elections Committee minutes will be made available to the public upon written request within a forty-eight (48) hour period. Any discussion that may lead to a candidate or spokesperson/campaign being disqualified from the election must be held in-camera.

8.2. The Chief Returning Officer

8.2.1. Must report directly to and be supervised by the Elections Committee.

8.2.2. Must be autonomous from the executive officers of the DSU.

8.2.3. Must be appointed by the DSU Council no later than September 30.

8.2.4. Is to be paid hourly.

8.2.5. Must not be an executive officer, councillor, committee member, or employee of the DSU for the duration of their term.

8.2.6. Must not vote in the DSU elections or referenda.

8.2.7. Must not rule on any undefined violations, unspecified fine amounts, or interpretations of DSU policy and/or Bylaws without the demonstrated guidance of the Elections Committee.

8.2.8. In addition, the CRO must:

8.2.8.1. Authorize all official notices and elections and/or referenda publicity.

8.2.8.2. Set up the Elections Period schedule, subject to the provisions in this policy.

8.2.8.3. Compose the ballot subject to this policy and supervise the voting process.

8.2.8.4. Receive and analyze the Unofficial Results of the election and/or referenda from the official voting software, in collaboration with the Elections Committee.

8.2.8.5. Publish unofficial election and/or referenda results from the official voting software no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Voting Period has ended.

8.2.8.6. Issue official election, referenda, or recount results after any appeals have been ruled, should any occur.
8.2.8.7. Submit an electronic copy of a post-election report to the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator. The CRO must not be given their final paycheque until this report has been submitted.

8.2.8.8. Hold an All Candidates Meeting and Anti-O Training Session for nominees on the last school day prior to the end of the Nomination Period.

8.2.8.9. Reserve any rooms in the Student Union Building for the election and/or referenda with the DSU Meetings and Events Manager.

8.2.8.10. Send out one (1) campus-wide email on the first day of the Campaigning Period notifying members when the Voting Period will open and how they can vote.

8.2.8.11. Send out one (1) campus-wide email on the last day of the Campaigning period notifying members when the Voting Period will open and how they can vote.

8.2.8.12. Ensure the secure collections and destruction of all personal identification materials.

8.2.8.13. Monitor the conduct of all candidates, spokespersons, and campaign workers in collaboration with the Elections Committee, throughout the entirety of the Elections Period.

8.2.8.14. Prepare the online voting form to ensure that only members of a given faculty or community can vote in the election of that Faculty or Community Representative position.

8.2.8.15. Ensure they are fulfilling the extent of the CRO’s responsibilities in accordance with all sections of this policy and the DSU Bylaws.

9. **Elections and Referenda Rules and Regulations**

9.1. **General**

9.1.1. A DSU Election must be held once a year to appoint the Executive Officers of the Union, Board of Governors Representatives, Faculty Representatives, and Community Representatives.
9.1.1. The DSU Elections Period must conclude no later than March 31 of each year.

9.1.2. All DSU Elections and referenda must be administered using principles of democracy and fairness.

9.1.3. All DSU Elections and referenda must consist of a general Elections Period during which the Nomination Period, Campaigning Period, and Voting Period occur.

9.1.4. All members must be notified by the CRO of an Elections Period at least two (2) weeks before the Nomination Period starts. All positions up for election must be specifically listed.

9.1.5. Representatives elected to the Board of Governors or Senate are subject to approval and appointment by those bodies.

9.1.6. The Elections Committee must present the recommended Elections Period schedule to the DSU Council for approval at least three (3) weeks before the start of the Nomination Period.

9.1.6.1. The CRO must publish the approved Elections Period schedule to the membership and directly to all candidates no later than two (2) weeks before the Nomination Period.

9.1.6.2. The approved Elections Period schedule must include the time of day, Atlantic Standard Time, at which the Campaigning and Voting Periods start and end. It must also include the date(s) and time(s) of the All Candidates Meeting, Anti-O Training Session, a debate for each position, and all planned meetings of the Elections Committee.

9.1.7. All violations of rules or regulations outlined in this policy may be met with a penalty in line with Appendix III of this policy.

9.1.8. All members of the DSU are subject to the Dalhousie University Code of Conduct. Offences against persons and/or property as defined in the Student Code of Conduct are strictly prohibited. Candidates and their representatives are expected to adhere to the Code and should be aware that the CRO and Elections Committee reserve the right to sanction violators of the Code as is deemed appropriate. The CRO and Elections Committee may apply punishments ranging in severity up to and including expulsion from the election.

9.1.9. No campaign may engage in libel, nor distribute material which could be construed as slanderous towards an opponent.

9.1.10. Any new interpretation or clarification of elections rules by the Elections Committee that occurs during the Campaigning Period must be noticed to all candidates and spokespersons within twenty-four (24) hours of being ruled on. The ruling will come into effect once all campaigns have been notified.
9.2. **Nomination Period**

9.2.1. Any nomination which includes false information, including but not limited to forged nomination signatures must be rejected at the discretion of the CRO.

9.2.1.1. Any nomination found to include false information after its approval is subject to immediate disqualification at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

9.2.2. All nominations must occur in line with the procedure provisioned in Section 2 of this policy.

9.3. **Campaigning Period**

9.3.1. Elections candidates must submit the Candidate Questionnaire and Campaign Information Form to the CRO no later than 12 noon on the day before the Campaigning Period starts. Spokespeople must submit a Campaign Information Form.

9.3.1.1. The Candidate Questionnaire must include at least the full name, major(s)/program(s), and year of study of the candidate. Any other questions are to be determined by the Elections Committee each year.

9.3.1.2. The Campaign Information Form must include the full names, student numbers, and emails of all campaign workers. It must also include the name(s) and link(s) for any candidate websites and/or social media platforms to be used during the Campaigning Period.

9.3.1.3. Should a campaign worker cease to be a campaign worker after a Campaign Information Form is submitted, the candidate must notify the Elections Committee immediately via email.

9.3.1.4. Faculty, teaching assistants, and all other University staff must not serve as campaign workers.

9.3.2. No campaigning of any medium may take place outside of the Campaigning Period.

9.3.3. Campaigns must not accept offers from societies or external organizations. Offers include but are not limited to donated goods, funds, and/or services.

9.3.4. Candidates and spokespersons are responsible for the actions of their campaign workers and are solely liable for campaign violations.

9.3.5. There must be no campaigning of any kind at any of the University libraries, on-campus bars or residences except where the Elections Committee is holding an official event.
9.3.6. Campaigning must be restricted to Dalhousie University campuses. Public sidewalks adjoining campus buildings are considered for the purposes of this policy to be a part of the University.

9.3.7. Campaigns must not use coarse language or references to alcohol or drugs in any campaigning materials.

9.3.8. Candidates or spokespersons who work for the DSU in any capacity are not required to take a leave of absence for their work. However, these candidates must contact the CRO and inform them of their work. Candidates, spokespersons and campaign workers must not campaign while they are working.

9.3.9. DSU societies may endorse a campaign if the opportunity for endorsement is presented to all candidates for that position.

9.3.10. Candidates and spokespersons must not endorse one another, run in a slate, or campaign together except where the Elections Committee is holding an official event.

9.3.11. All candidates and spokespersons are permitted a total campaign value of two hundred dollars ($200.00), excluding the cost of printing official posters. The specific guidelines relevant to campaign expenditures can be found in Appendix IV of this policy, to which all campaigns are subject.

9.3.12. Candidates, spokespersons, Elections Committee members, and the CRO must also abide by the specific regulations outlined in Appendix II of this policy.

9.3.13. Incumbent candidates running for executive positions must:

   9.3.13.1. Not be permitted to campaign during any office hours, official meetings, or interactions with members while acting in their official capacity as an executive officer.

   9.3.13.2. Be permitted to carry out all essential duties reasonably incident to their portfolio.

   9.3.13.3. Submit a schedule of all office hours, official meetings, and/or events during which they are to act as a representative of the DSU and therefore are not permitted to campaign, to the CRO before the Campaigning Period starts.

   9.3.13.4. Not be permitted to use their incumbent status or the resources available to them as an executive officer in a manner which manipulates or extorts members or provides them an unethical advantage over other candidates.

9.3.14.

9.4. Voting Period

9.4.1. The Voting Period must be two (2) school days in length.
9.4.2. Voting must be done using an anonymous, online ballot.

9.4.3. Each ballot must include the option to spoil that ballot.

9.4.4. Votes will be collected using a preferential voting system.

9.4.4.1. Each candidate must be credited with the number of first votes for their name.

9.4.4.2. Where no candidate received more than fifty percent (50%) of the total number of first choices, then the candidate with the least number of choices will be struck off the ballot and the second choices marked on all ballots for that candidate will be credited to the candidates for whom they were cast.

9.4.4.3. Where a candidate whose name has been struck off the ballot is the next choice on the ballot, then the ballot will be counted in favour of the candidate subsequent in choice to the candidate whose name has been struck.

9.4.4.4. Where two (2) or more candidates are tied with the least number of votes, both or all must be struck from the ballot. Should this procedure result in only one candidate remaining, that candidate will be elected.

9.4.4.5. This process will continue until one (1) candidate has a majority of the votes.

9.4.5. Should a tie occur for any position, a run-off election must be held between the tied candidates. The timeline for the run-off must be as follows:

9.4.5.1. Nominations must not be reopened.

9.4.5.2. The Campaigning period must begin no later than (2) school days after the announcement of the Election Period for the run-off election and extend no more than five (5) days.

9.4.5.3. The Voting Period must be two (2) school days and follow all guidelines of a regular Voting Period as provisioned in this policy.

9.4.6. Should a candidate for any position run unopposed there will be a yes/no option after the candidate’s name on the ballot. Any candidate that runs unopposed must participate in any official Elections Committee events.

9.4.7. The online voting system must be in operation continuously from at least 8am to 8pm Atlantic Standard Time on each day of voting.

9.4.8. The methods of voting for all DSU elections and referenda must be as follows:

9.4.8.1. The full names of all candidates must be placed in random order on each ballot.
9.4.8.2. Candidate names must be grouped by position and referendum questions must be listed on a separate page.

9.4.9. Any one member’s vote must belong to that member alone. There must be no voting by proxy.

9.4.9.1. Online voting must not be done in a group setting or in the presence of persons who may influence the direction of a member’s vote.

9.4.10. Should a member with a disability require assistance to use the online voting software, they may seek it from the CRO.

9.4.11. Electronic balloting provides opportunity for abuse, intentioned or not, by voters, candidates, campaign workers, and spokespersons. Abuse of electronic balloting includes, but is not limited to the following types of action:

9.4.11.1. Efforts by voters to vote more than once.

9.4.11.2. Efforts by candidates, spokespersons, or campaign workers to influence voters by holding social events at which members are encouraged to vote on the premises.

9.4.11.3. Offering favours or gifts in exchange for votes.

9.4.11.4. Pressuring members to vote in the presence of a candidate, spokesperson, campaign workers, or any other member.

9.4.11.5. Bringing the means of electronic voting to a member.

9.4.12. In determining whether abuse of electronic voting has occurred, the CRO, as supervised by the Elections Committee, must consider potential abuses on a case-by-case basis. Abuse must be interpreted in the spirit of this section and in the spirit of upholding the principle of an anonymous, secret-ballot vote. The CRO and Elections Committee may apply punishments for abuses ranging in severity up to and including expulsion from the election.

10. Elections and Referenda Offenses

10.1. All candidates and spokespersons are solely responsible for their actions and those of their campaign workers and are liable for non-refundable fines according to Appendix IV of this policy.

10.2. The CRO will have the authority to enforce the provisions of this policy except in the case of an appeal.

10.3. The Elections Committee may lay charges of violations of its own volition.

10.3.1. Should the Elections Committee find there has been an egregious violation it may:
10.3.1.1. Declare that the election in its entirety, the election of a specific position, or the election of a specific candidate be voided.

10.4. Charges of violation against any campaign may be submitted in writing to the CRO who must contact the candidate or spokesperson which leads that campaign within twenty-four (24) hours to notify them of their right to appeal. The CRO must rule on the charge within two (2) days of receiving it.

10.4.1. The CRO must notify the candidate or spokesperson on the status of a charge immediately after ruling on that charge.

10.5. Appeals against charges of violation levied by the CRO must be made in writing to the Elections Committee within forty-eight (48) hours of the CRO’s ruling on that charge.

10.6. The Elections Committee must meet to discuss any appeals against charges of violation and decide no later than two (2) days after receiving an appeal on the appropriate action(s) to be taken. The Elections Committee must notify the CRO and the candidate or spokesperson who submitted the appeal immediately after ruling on the appeal.

10.7. Appeals against a ruling levied by the Elections Committee must be submitted in writing to the Judicial Board within two (2) days of the candidate or spokesperson being informed of the ruling. The Judicial Board will then investigate and return their findings.

10.8. Decisions to disqualify a campaign must not be made known to any party during the Voting Period. If a ruling to disqualify is made during the Campaigning Period, the candidate or spokesperson which leads that campaign must be notified immediately.

10.8.1. Should a spokesperson be disqualified, the referenda campaign must also be disqualified.

10.8.2. Should a winning candidate be disqualified after the Voting Period has ended, the position for which that candidate was running must be brought to by-election.

10.9. The CRO must publish an updated list of all offenses, except those that result in disqualification, outside of the designated DSU Elections Office.

10.10. A candidate or spokesperson is deemed to be informed of an Elections Committee ruling six (6) business hours after the ruling is emailed.

11. Appeals of Elections and Referenda Results

11.1. Any member may challenge the validity of election, referendum, or recount results in a written submission to the Elections Committee no later than two (2) school days of the end of the Voting Period.
11.1. Written submissions appealing election, referendum, or recount results must contain the appellant’s full name, student number, contact information, and signature, as well as a detailed explanation of the reason(s) for challenging the results.

11.2. The Elections Committee must investigate the appeal and rule on the appropriate action(s) within one (1) week of the submission.

11.2.1. Should a member challenge the ruling of an Elections Committee investigation into the validity of an election, referendum or recount result, the member may submit a petition to the Judicial Board to review the Elections Committee’s findings within one (1) week of the Elections Committee’s initial ruling.

11.3. No record of the vote for an election or referendum may be destroyed until thirty (30) days after the end of the Voting Period.

11.4. Should no appeals occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referendum will automatically become Official Results two (2) days after the end of the Voting Period.

11.5. Should an appeal occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referendum will automatically become Official Results two (2) days after the last ruling on the matter is made and verified by the CRO. Once the elections and/or referendum results are made official any challenges of the results must be made in accordance with the DSU Bylaws.
12. **Appendix I: Elections Timeline**

**Before the Elections Period Starts:**

I. The Elections Committee and CRO must contact the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator for training and to ask any questions.

**Elections Period Starts**

3 **Weeks Before the Nomination Period Starts:**

I. Deadline for the CRO to contact the President/suitable executive of each faculty-level society to discuss Faculty Representative election/appointment options

II. Deadline for the Elections Committee to present the recommended Elections Period schedule to the DSU Council for approval & for the Council to approve the schedule.

2 **Weeks Before the Nomination Period Starts:**

I. Deadline for the CRO to publish the nomination forms

II. Deadline for the CRO to publish the VPFO technical questionnaire

III. Deadline for the CRO to publish the Elections Period schedule to the membership and directly to all candidates.

IV. Deadline for the CRO to officially notice the Elections Period and specifically list all positions up for election.

1 **Week Before the Nomination Period Starts:**

I. Deadline for faculty-level societies to contact the CRO and indicate they wish to elect their Faculty Representative through an internal process and submit the required supporting documents.

II. Deadline for a faculty-level society that chooses to elect their Faculty Representative through a DSU election to notify the CRO, and their members to promote that choice.

   I. Faculty-level societies that do not make this indication by the deadline will automatically default to an internal appointment or elections process.

**Nomination Period Starts**

**Last School Day of the Nomination Period:**

I. Deadline for the All Candidates Meeting to occur

   I. Any nominee who is not able to attend the ACM must notify the CRO at least 48 hours before the meeting is scheduled to occur.

II. Deadline for Anti-Oppression Training Session to occur
I. Any nominee who is not able to attend the session must notify the CRO at least 48 hours before the meeting is scheduled to occur.

**Before the End of the Nomination Period:**
I. Deadline for VPFO nominees to submit the VPFO technical questionnaire
II. Deadline for all nominees to submit completed nomination forms
III. Deadline for CRO to verify the eligibility of all nominees with the Registrar’s Office or Student Accounts

**Nomination Period Ends**

**24 Hours After the End of the Nomination Period:**
I. Deadline for the CRO to publish the successful nominations for the membership
II. Deadline for appeals regarding the verification of a nomination to be made
III. Deadline for campaigns to submit posters and handbills to CRO.

**Before the Campaign Period Starts:**
I. Deadline for the Elections Committee to render a decision on any appeals regarding the verification of a nomination
II. Deadline for CRO to publish all completed VPFO technical questionnaires.
III. No campaigning of any medium may take place.
IV. Deadline for incumbent candidates running for executive office to submit their schedules to the CRO.

**12 Noon, the Day Before the Campaigning Period Starts:**
I. Deadline for all candidates to submit the Candidate Questionnaire and Campaign Information Form.
II. Deadline for referenda campaign spokespersons to submit the Campaign Information Form.

**Campaigning Period Starts**

**First Day of Campaigning Period:**
I. CRO must send out a campus-wide email with elections and voting details.
II. Deadline for campaigns to submit 1-minute videos for the DSU elections webpage.

**Last Day of Campaigning Period:**
I. CRO must send out a campus-wide email with elections and voting details.
Campaigning Period Ends

Before the Voting Period Starts:
   I. Deadline for a candidate to withdraw their nomination.

Voting Period Starts

   I. 2 days must transpire.

Voting Period Ends

No Later than 24 Hours After the Voting Period End:
   I. Deadline for CRO to publish unofficial election/referenda results to the membership.

No Later than 2 School Days After the Voting Period Ends:
   I. Deadline for a member to submit a written appeal to challenge the validity of election, referendum or recount results.
      I. The Elections Committee must investigate and decide on any actions related to an appeal within 1 week of its submission.
      II. A member may challenge the ruling of an Elections Committee through submission of a petition to the Judicial Board within 2 days of the Election Committee’s ruling.

2 Days after the End of the Voting Period:
   I. Should no appeals occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referenda will automatically become the Official Results.
      I. Should an appeal occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referendum will automatically become the Official Results 2 days after the last ruling on the matter is made and verified by the CRO.

30 Days after the End of the Voting Period:
   I. All declarations made by a candidate or nominee for a Community Representative position must be destroyed.
   II. Record of the vote for an election or referendum must now be destroyed.

Elections Period Ends
13. **Appendix II: Campaign Regulations**

**I. Poster Regulations**

I. It will be the responsibility of the CRO and Elections Committee to secure poster display space in as many University buildings as possible.

II. Poster display spaces secured by the CRO and Elections Committee must house one (1) poster per campaign. These posters must be distributed equally and when possible, grouped by position.

   i. Posters not approved and posted by the CRO and Elections Committee must not be displayed by any campaign in any location.

III. It will be the responsibility of the CRO and Elections Committee to obtain, approve, print, and display campaign posters, of a maximum size determined by the Elections Committee and communicated during the All Candidates Meeting.

IV. Posters that have been vandalized or damaged will be replaced by the Elections Committee as soon as possible. Notice of damaged posters may be given to the CRO who must replace them within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the notice.

V. The Elections Committee will make regular rounds to inspect posters.

VI. All posters must be taken down by the Elections Committee no earlier than the end of the Voting Period.

VII. Campaigns must submit electronic copies of their posters to the CRO for approval and printing no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Nomination Period has ended.

**II. Other Forms of Campaigning**

I. Advertisements placed in The Dalhousie Gazette or The Sextant are subject to limitations by those publications.

II. Campaign displays and tabling within the DSU must be booked with the DSU Meetings and Events Manager and with the Facilities Manager of any non-DSU buildings. All display and tabling approvals must be submitted to the CRO for verification.

III. The use of any physical campaign materials including posters within classrooms is not permitted.

IV. Verbal campaigning in classrooms is permitted when express written permission is given to a campaign by the presiding faculty member. All class talks must be verified by the CRO before they occur by presenting a faculty member’s note of permission to the CRO.

V. Campaigns must distribute handbills directly to members.
i. Campaigns must submit electronic copies of their posters to the CRO for approval no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Nomination Period has ended.

ii. Handbills must be no larger than 4.25 inches and 5.5 inches in size.

iii. Campaigns are responsible for printing and distributing their own handbills.

VI. The use of Union or University facilities not available to all campaigns is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to:

i. DSU branding and logos.

ii. DSU television screens.

iii. University branding, logos, footage, and ‘tiger mascot’ costume.

iv. The facilities of the offices of the DSU or any society under its jurisdiction and any resources or promotional materials owned by the DSU and its societies. This includes, but is not limited to: society funds, websites, email accounts, and/or distribution lists.

VII. The use of stickers is not permitted.

VIII. Only water-soluble chalk may be used for chalking

i. Chalking within ten (10) feet of doors is prohibited.

ii. Chalking on vertical surfaces or buildings is prohibited.

iii. Chalking on any recreational or athletic field is prohibited.

III. Media Regulations

I. All forms of media may be used during the Campaigning Period except where explicitly prohibited by the Elections Committee and noticed during the All Candidates Meeting.

II. Any additional media platforms not listed below must be used in accordance with the spirit of this section of the policy.

III. All personal accounts of candidates, spokespersons, and/or campaign workers that are used for the purposes of campaigning during the Campaigning Period must be public.

i. Media pages and groups may remain live after the end of the Campaigning Period, but campaigns must not make further posts or accept more followers. Campaigns must not send any further messages.

ii. Candidates, spokespersons, and campaign workers are permitted to use their personal media pages to promote voting during the Voting Period but must not refer to their campaigns.
IV. All emails and media campaign materials must include:
   i. A link to the DSU elections webpage.
   ii. The hashtags #dsuvotes and #dseulxn

V. Video Regulations
   i. Each campaign is encouraged to create a one (1) minute video that will be used on the DSU elections webpage.
   ii. Campaigns are permitted to make further videos but only one video may be used on the DSU elections webpage.
   iii. All videos must be submitted to the CRO for approval.
   iv. To be used on the webpage, the video must be submitted no later than the first day of the Campaigning Period.

VI. Email Regulations
   i. Campaigns must only send emails to those members who have given them their email address for campaigning purposes.
   ii. Members must have the option of unsubscribing from the email list by sending an email to the campaign.

VII. Facebook Regulations
   i. Campaigns may create a new Facebook page or group to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal Facebook pages.
   ii. Campaigns may use Facebook groups or pages created for use in past DSU elections.

VIII. Twitter Regulations
   i. Each campaign may create a new Twitter account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.

IX. Snapchat Regulations
   i. Each campaign may create a new Snapchat account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.
   ii. All snapchats must be sent to the DSU elections snapchat account including stories.

X. Instagram Regulations
i. Each campaign may create a new Instagram account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.

ii. All posts and stories must tag the official DSU elections account.
14. **Appendix III: Offenses and Fines Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Fine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poster located outside of the Elections Committee poster display area</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibited displays</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre/post Campaigning Period campaigning</td>
<td>$20.00/incident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email violations *1 incident refers to 100 emails</td>
<td>$20.00/incident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of prohibited DSU or Dalhousie resources</td>
<td>$50.00/incident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional violations according to Sections 2.3 and 9, and/or Appendix II of this policy</td>
<td>Up to $50.00/incident at the discretion of the CRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-attendance of the All Candidates Meeting or Anti-Oppression Training Session</td>
<td>Rejection of nomination at discretion of Elections Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure of a VPFO candidate to submit a completed technical questionnaire.</td>
<td>Rejection of nomination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampering with the Elections Committee poster display area</td>
<td>Automatic disqualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spending over the maximum $200.00 campaign expenditure</td>
<td>Automatic disqualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accruing more than $100.00 in fines</td>
<td>Automatic disqualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted interference with the voting process</td>
<td>Automatic disqualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slanderous statements, harassment, discriminatory behaviour, violation of the Dalhousie Student Code of Conduct, and/or violations of law.</td>
<td>Automatic disqualification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15. **Appendix IV: Campaign Expenditures**

I. No campaign may exceed a total expenditure of two hundred dollars ($200.00), including any fines levied by the CRO or Elections Committee.

II. The Vice President Finance and Operations may provide each campaign an advance equal to the amount specific in their application for the purposes of facilitating their campaign. Applications for advances must be submitted in writing to the VPFO no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the Campaigning Period.

   I. Should a campaign have unused funds they must return those funds to the VPFO within one (1) week of the end of the Elections Period.

III. No campaign may receive discounts that are not available to all members.

IV. Any in-kind good or service given to a campaign will be assigned a ‘market-value’ price as determined by the Elections Committee and included in the total expenditure for that campaign.

   I. Goods and/or professional skills belonging to a candidate, spokesperson, or campaign worker are exempt from this regulation.

V. An itemized account of all campaign expenditures must be submitted to the Vice-President Finance and Operations within twenty-four (24) hours of the close of the Elections Period. These accounts must include a written receipt or bill for each separate item, signed by a candidate or spokesperson.

VI. All campaigns that received more than twenty percent (20%) of the vote in an election with two (2) or less candidates or more than ten percent (10%) of the vote in an election with three (3) or more candidates may be reimbursed for campaign expenditure up to two hundred dollars ($200.00). The itemized account provisioned above in Section 15.5 must be submitted to the Vice-President Finance and Operations within the twenty-four (24) hour deadline for a candidate or spokesperson to receive their reimbursement.

VII. Any fines levied by the CRO or Elections Committee to a campaign may be deducted from that campaign’s two hundred-dollar ($200.00) expenditure total.

   I. Should the addition of levied fines to a campaign’s expenditure total result in that campaign exceeding the expenditure total, the Elections Committee will determine if those fines must be owed to the DSU according to the seriousness of the offenses. Any fines must be collected by the Vice-President Finance and Operations within one (1) week following the end of the Elections Period.
16. Appendix V: Important Dates

I. May 31
   I. Deadline for faculty-level societies to contact the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator to submit the name of the Faculty Representative they have internally elected or appointed to that position, along with all supporting documents.
   II. Deadline for the Dalhousie International Students Association to appoint an International Students Representative to the DSU Council by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.
   III. Deadline for the Dalhousie Indigenous Students Collective to appoint an Indigenous Students Representative to the DSU Council by contacting the DSU Policy and Governance Coordinator.

II. September 30
   I. Deadline for the Elections Committee and CRO to be appointed by the DSU Council.

III. October 31
   I. Deadline to hold, but not necessarily to have concluded, a By-election in the case that an Executive Officer, Board of Governors, Faculty, or Community Representative position is vacant following the annual DSU election or becomes vacant before October 1st.

IV. March 31
   I. Deadline for the annual DSU Elections Period to conclude.