

LAW III – ELECTIONS

1. Electoral Officers:
 - (a) The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) shall coordinate all MASU affiliated elections.
 - (b) In the event that the CRO is unable to perform her/his duties, the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) of the MASU shall act as CRO.
 - (c) The CRO shall conduct the following elections throughout the course of the year:
 - i. the President;
 - ii. the Vice-President, Academic Affairs;
 - iii. the Vice-President, External Affairs;
 - iv. the Vice-President, Campus Life;
 - v. Student Board of Regents Representative/Councillor-at-Large;
 - vi. Student Senators;
 - vii. Councillors;
 - viii. Valedictorian;
 - ix. By-elections;
 - x. Referenda;
 - xi. Any other elections, as directed by Council

2. Eligibility:
 - (a) For any election in which the positions of Off-Campus or Residence Councillor is to be filled, only those individuals who reside in the constituency for which the position is being contested are eligible to vote.
 - (b) For those elections in which the position of Student Senator is to be filled, all members of the MASU are eligible to vote. Candidates are eligible to run only in the academic faculty in which they have chosen to study. Two positions are allocated to each of the following faculties: Arts, Science and Social Science.
 - (c) For all other elections/referenda, the electorate shall consist of all voting members of the MASU.
 - (d) In order to be eligible to be a candidate in any MASU election, candidates must not have any outstanding MASU fines.
 - (e) For Executive elections, all candidates shall require a CGPA and SGPA that holds them in “Good Standing”. The MASU CRO must verify this after the candidate grants her or him permission through the Office of the Registrar before the nomination period closes. Candidates may appeal their ineligibility and this Bylaw through the MASU Judicial Committee.

3. Nominations for Election:
 - (a) Nominations shall operate in accordance to the MASU Election Policy.
 - (b) All nominations must bear the signatures of at least fifteen (15) supporters for Executive elections and at least ten (10) supporters for Councillor elections in addition to a nominator, a seconder, and the nominee. Supporters must be eligible to vote in the election for which the nomination is put forth, under Law III.2.
 - (c) Each nomination must be verified by the CRO to ensure that it satisfies the conditions of Law III.3(b).

4. Election Procedures:

- (a) The following shall be held over two days with polls open not less than twelve (12) hours:
 - i. the election of the President; Vice-President, Academic Affairs; Vice-President, External Affairs; and Vice-President, Campus Life;
 - ii. all MASU referenda; and
 - iii. all other elections shall be held over two (2) days with polls open no less than eight (8) hours.
- (b) Members of the MASU who are unable to vote during polling hours must contact the CRO to determine an appropriate method given their particular location.
- (c) For all elections, the candidate receiving the majority of all votes cast, as outlined in Law III.4(d) of the MASU Bylaws, shall be declared elected.
- (d) "All votes cast" shall include those that are deemed spoiled by the CRO. Upon request from a candidate or scrutineer, the CRO must be prepared to justify deeming it a spoiled ballot. If the candidate disagrees, s/he may make an appeal to the MASU Judicial Committee, at which time the status of the ballot may be decided by a simple majority of the voting members.
- (e) In the event of a tie:
 - i. the candidate, from among those tied, with the fewest votes in the previous round is eliminated;
 - ii. if there is still a tie, those counting votes then look back to the next most recent round and if necessary, to further progressively earlier rounds until one candidate can be eliminated;
 - iii. if this also results in a tie, among the tied candidates, the candidate who would have the fewest votes in the following round will be eliminated;
 - iv. if the candidates are tied after applying Law III.4(e)(i-iii) then the CRO will declare the election null and void and re-open nominations no less than three (3) business days after the close of the original polls.
- (f) For all elections with two (2) or more candidates, a system of optional preferential voting will be used as outlined in the current copy of the MASU Election Policy.
- (g) In the event that only one nomination is put forth for an elected position, a yes or no ballot shall be used. That candidate shall be declared elected if a majority of those ballots indicate support for the candidate. If a majority is not obtained, nominations for the position shall be reopened for five (5) days and the election re-held.
- (h) All limitations on campaigning are outlined in of the MASU Election Policy.
- (i) Counting of ballots in all elections shall be the duty of the Chief Returning Officer in accordance to the MASU Election Policy.
- (j) There shall be no voting by proxy.
- (k) During the counting of ballots, it is recommended that each candidate select a scrutineer to be present on her/his behalf. Declaration of a scrutineer must occur by the end of Council office hours the first day the polls are open. This declaration must be in writing, must bear the signature of the candidate and the scrutineer, and is subject to the approval of the Chief Returning Officer. No

person may serve for more than one candidate in any race and no candidate may have more than one scrutineer.

- (l) If a candidate desires a recount, s/he must indicate so in writing to the MASU Elections Office within twenty-four (24) hours of the results being released.
 - (m) In all elections photographs of each of the candidates shall be posted in plain view at each polling station.
 - (n) Notice as to the time and place of the polling shall be posted no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to polls opening.
 - (o) The Chief Returning Officer shall inform each candidate of all election regulations.
5. Constituted referenda shall require 2/3 of quorum in support of the motion, in accordance with Article VI.1 of the Constitution, in order to pass the motion. The MASU Referendum Policy will define referendum procedures.