



Election Policy

1. Preamble

In conjunction with the USSU Bylaw, the USSU Election Policy shall serve as the guiding policy for protocols regarding USSU election, by-election, and referenda.

Where this Policy contradicts the Bylaw, the Bylaw will supersede this Policy.

2. Campaign Material

All campaign materials must be approved and/or stamped by either the Assistant Chief Returning Officer (ACRO) or the General Manager's Designate (GMD) prior to posting.

2.1 Posters:

All posters must be stamped with the USSU stamp. A stamp specific to the building in which the materials are to be posted is not required; the USSU stamp, given by the ACRO or GMD, is sufficient for campaign posters. Candidates must contact building managers to ensure posters are placed in authorized areas.

2.1.1 Rules for postering in all areas except the Arts Tunnel:

- No more than 15 posters in any building
- No posters on glass, wood, or painted metal surfaces or on any specifically designated spaces or bulletin boards, in accordance with University of Saskatchewan policy
- No posters on exit doors
- Posters may be posted on building walls, provided that proper materials are used:
 - on drywall or painted surfaces – blue sticky tac only;
 - on brick surfaces – clear tape only
- No posters of any kind in the Agriculture/Geology Atriums, the Arts Ramp, or any Arts & Science washrooms.

2.1.2 Rules for postering in the Arts Tunnel:

- No more than 25 posters in the Arts Tunnel
- Posters are to be placed in designated areas only
- Posters must be posted using masking tape only

2.1.3 All inappropriately posted materials will be promptly removed. The candidate or referendum campaign will be billed if inappropriate posting of their materials damages any surface. Any additional sanctions will be at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

2.1.4 All candidates or referendum campaigns will be required to participate in the poster teardown. The teardown will take place according to the Election Schedule.

2.2 Online and Multimedia:

Candidates and representatives may use websites and may send e-mail for campaign purposes provided the material has been approved and it is in compliance with the applicable University rules, regulations, and policies regarding electronic communication.

2.2.1 All campaign materials must be approved by the ACRO or the GMD prior to posting. Candidates/representatives or referendum campaigns are responsible for all content published on their social media accounts.

2.2.2 Candidates/representatives or referendum campaigns must ensure all links, videos, and posts are not live/published until the beginning of the designated Campaign Period.

2.3 USSU Logos:

The use of the USSU, USSU Centres, and Operations logos on campaign material is not permitted.

3. Forums

3.1 During the Campaign Period for the USSU General Election, the USSU hosts a series of forums in order to give candidates for Executive positions or referendum campaigns the opportunity to showcase their platform to students. The Assistant Chief Returning Officer will moderate all forums. Each candidate or referendum campaign will have up to five minutes to speak. Once candidates have had their opportunity to speak, students will be given the opportunity to ask questions.

3.2 The forum schedule will be included in the Election Package.

4. Fair Market Value

All candidates and referendum campaigns must adhere to the fair market value for their campaign materials. Fair market value means the set price referred to in the Fair Market Value supplied in the Election Package for a given product available in the Saskatoon region to all students who approach a person or company that sells or deals in that product or service. In cases where a candidate or referendum campaign receives or purchases materials for less than fair market value, the candidate or referendum campaign will be assessed the fair market value of materials towards the total campaign expenditures.

5. Violations

5.1 Candidates and representatives are expected to behave in a manner consistent with good election protocol. Any failure to maintain the standards expected may result in punishment, including disqualification from the election.

5.2 The Elections Committee considers the following to be offences. This list is not exhaustive:

- Violating the USSU Bylaw regarding campaigning
- Violating USSU Postering Rules, including failure to participate in tear-down
- Campaigning during meetings of University Students' Council
- Using a current USSU Executive position for partisan purposes
- Defaming or questioning the character of another candidate or third party during the course of a campaign
- Using copyrighted images without express written permission of the copyright owner or using a person's name, image or likeness without his/her express written permission
- Providing voters with an electronic device during the voting period for the purpose of voting
- Solicit, touch, or handle a voter's electronic device during the voting period for the purpose of voting
- Failing to attend the mandatory Orientation Meeting and Procedures Meeting without providing sufficient reason to the Elections Committee in advance will result in disqualification

5.3 The Chief Returning Officer, in consultation with the Elections Committee, shall investigate and deal with alleged violations of the Bylaw, Election Policy.

5.4 The Elections Committee has the jurisdiction to impose any sanction it deems just for any conduct that amounts to a significant and substantive breach of election protocol. Where an unfair advantage has been obtained, a penalty shall be assigned that endeavours to fully counter-balance any advantage gained.

5.4.1 For example, the Elections Committee may:

- Withhold reimbursement of any amount of election expenses up to 100%
- Issue a letter of reprimand
- Require a letter of apology
- Publish a notice of the violation in The Sheaf
- Require a new election to be held for any or all positions
- Disqualify candidates

5.5 Disqualification of a candidate may occur when the violation resulted in an unfair advantage which cannot be counter-balanced by a lesser penalty, or is malicious or prejudicial to another candidate or their campaign. For further clarification, the following types of violations will likely result in the disqualification of a candidate:

- a. Interference or attempted interference with the voting process;
- b. Interference, including defamatory or slanderous comments, written or oral, towards another candidate;
- c. Malicious or intentional breach of the Bylaw or elections policy;
- d. An attempt to undermine the electoral process

Policy Authority: Election Committee

<u>Approvals</u>	<u>Board/Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Motion</u>
Created	Executive Committee	03/01/17	EC05