



<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>Election Governance Policy</b>		
<b>Category:</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Policy #</b>	<b>GOV-1</b>

## 1. Preamble

The Election Governance Policy was created to govern the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union conduct during an election season. To maintain fairness, transparency, and integrity, the USSU Executives must avoid any actions that could unfairly influence the election process and uphold the values of professionalism, responsibility, and trust. This aligns with the USSU mission to protect and maintain the integrity of the Union.

## 2. Guidelines

In accompaniment with the guidelines listed below, the conduct of the Executives must conform to the principles set out in the USSU Bylaw - Part 2, Articles 13 to 20, as well as the USSU Executive Terms of Employment Policy.

## 3. Executive Conduct Through Elections

- 3.1 Personally observe standards of conduct that preserve the integrity, dignity, and values of the USSU at all times, avoiding impropriety or the appearance of impropriety.
- 3.2 Nothing of any monetary value (scholarships, awards, giveaways etc.) may be handed out by or on behalf of the USSU (excluding USSU businesses and centres) during the campaign period.
- 3.3 USSU Executives are expected to maintain impartiality throughout the election process, refraining from endorsing or participating in any candidate's campaign activities. This includes, but not limited to:
  - 3.3.1 Talking publicly about candidate platforms.

- 3.3.2 Attending campaign events put on by the different candidates. If executives want to attend campaign events they can only attend events hosted by the USSU.
  - 3.3.3 Allowing candidates to use any USSU office space to conduct matters relating to the campaign.
  - 3.3.4 Allowing candidates to use any official USSU social media platform to promote their proposals.
  - 3.3.5 Using any personal or professional networks or accounts to influence the voting in the election.
- 3.4 USSU Executives cannot use any resources provided to them by the USSU for their own campaign purposes. This includes any use of official USSU resources and services (social media, office space, office supplies, laptop and other electronic devices etc).

#### **4. Exceptions**

- 4.1 The following exceptions may be granted to Section 3.2 of this policy, subject to review by the University Students' Council and in accordance with the established guidelines:
  - 4.1.1 The Campus Groups Committee approving funding for campus groups, or the Vice President of Operations and Finance approving funding in accordance with Section 7.3 and Section 9.1 of Campus Groups Policy–04 (CG Grants Policy).
  - 4.1.2 The Sustainability Committee approving Sustainability Grants in accordance with Section 5.1 of Campus Groups Policy–04 (CG Grants Policy).
  - 4.1.3 Any urgent business debts or obligations that require immediate settlement may be paid on behalf of the USSU during the election season, as deemed necessary by both the Executive Committee and Senior Management.
- 4.2 Any exception not explicitly outlined in this policy may be considered if deemed urgent and is approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote of the councillors present at the next USC meeting. Such an exception

must not contravene any other section of this policy or undermine the intent of Section 3.2.

## **5. Ramifications**

5.1 All members of the Executive are bound by this document. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in the convening of the Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Committee as outlined in Section 4 of the USSU Bylaw.

## **6. Amendments**

6.1 In order to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Union, all amendments to this policy must be proposed, approved, and publicly disseminated at least one month prior to the commencement of the campaign season.

6.2 The Governance Committee is authorized to make and approve amendments to this policy in accordance with Sections 6.1 and 6.3 of this policy.

6.3 The University Students' Council shall be promptly notified of all amendments to this policy made or approved by a Committee. The Council retains the authority to overturn any Committee-approved amendment by a simple majority vote of the councillors present at the next meeting. However, unless explicitly stated otherwise in this policy, no vote of approval from the Council is required for such amendments to take effect.

6.4 The Executive Committee is not authorized to make unilateral amendments to this policy. Any proposed amendment must be submitted to the Governance Committee for discussion and approval or if approved by the Executive Committee, may be presented for ratification by the University Students' Council. In the latter case, the amendment will only come into effect if approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote of the councillors present at the next University Students' Council meeting.

<b>Contact Information:</b>	USSU Office: (306) 966-6962		
<b>Policy Authority:</b>	Governance Committee		
<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Board/Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Motion</b>
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