

Election Manual of the University of Manitoba Students' Union

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Section I: Election Definitions

1. Unless otherwise specified, the following definitions apply to this Elections guide.
 - a. “Annual General Election” is the election held during February and March to elect the Executive and Community Representatives for the following academic year.
 - b. “Ballot” means an electronic form where a singular position is voted for.
 - c. “Banner” is any sheet of paper or other material, of a total area that is greater 1.5 square metres, which is displayed as part of a campaign.
 - d. “Campaign” or “campaigning” is any act that has the intention of soliciting support for a particular Candidate.
 - e. “Campaign Expense” means any and all expenditures by or on a Candidate’s behalf for the production or distribution of Campaign Materials, costs directly associated with campaigning, fees or charges incurred as part of campaigning, or other expenditures associated with the campaign as defined by the CRO.
 - f. “Campaign Manager” includes any Member of the Union identified by a Candidate as their Campaign Manager for the purposes of the Election Rules.
 - g. “Campaign Materials” includes any created objects (physical or digital) that solicit support or opposition for a particular Candidate.
 - h. “Candidate” means any Member of the Union whose nomination is accepted under procedures established in the Election Rules.
 - i. “Council” refers to the “Board of Directors,” “the Board,” or “BOD”; the highest decision-making body of the Students’ Union, being composed of representatives from Faculty Associations, Communities, Affiliated Organizations, and Committee Chairs. The Board shall be considered to fulfill the role of the “Council of Students” as outlined in “The Act”.
 - j. “Electronic Campaigning” means any use of social media, messaging services, websites, and/or other digital platforms for the purpose of Campaigning.
 - k. “Equality of Votes” means the same number of votes.
 - l. “Incumbent” means any member of the UMSU Board of Directors seeking to be elected or re-elected to an Executive or Community Representative position.
 - m. “Nomination Day” means the final day of the period, as set out by these rules, that nominations for candidacy will be accepted.
 - n. “On the floor campaigning” means any in person campaigning on or off campus.
 - o. “Pre-Campaign” or “Pre-Campaigning” is the use of resources outside of the campaign period established by the governing documents and/or the CRO with the goal of convincing members to vote for a candidate.
 - p. “Scrutineer” means a volunteer who oversees part or all of either a polling station or a vote count on behalf of a candidate.
 - q. “Slate” or “Slates” means two or more Candidates acting cooperatively, in any actual or apparent manner, to run as one single Campaign or team, wherein each candidate runs for a different position. A Slate may include, but is not limited to, the use of a unifying name, symbol, slogan, and/or visual identity; explicit verbal or written endorsements between candidates; and/or substantially aligned platforms between Candidates.
 - r. “Student” means an individual who is currently enrolled in the University of Manitoba in pursuit of their undergraduate degree, is actively participating in at least 3 credit hours of courses, and who has paid all relevant ancillary UMSU membership fees.

- s. "Official Volunteer" means any individual who is registered as a member of the Candidate's campaign team, who supports a Candidate by engaging in activities including but not limited to: producing Campaign Materials, Campaigning of any kind, acting as a Scrutineer, appearing in Campaign Materials, or making an official testimonial.
- t. "Voting week" means the final week of campaigning where voting is held.

Section II: Suspension or Amendment of Rules

1. The Board of Directors may choose to overrule all or part of the Election Rules temporarily for a given election, provided such a motion is:
 - a. adopted in a 2/3 vote of The Board of Directors.
 - b. adopted by at least two weeks prior to the opening of nominations for the election it would affect.
 - c. provided to The Board of Directors for notice at least two weeks prior to being adopted by The Board of Directors.
 - d. reasonable, made in good faith, and does not unnecessarily inhibit the democratic nature of the election.
2. The Elections Manual may be amended by a motion of The Board of Directors, providing it meets the following requirements:
 - a. The exact wording of the change must be provided to The Board of Directors with at least 2 weeks of notice to review the changes.
 - b. No changes may be made during the period of two weeks from the opening of the nomination period and lasting until the CRO delivers their report to The Board of Directors.

Section III: Scheduling

1. The following is the schedule used for all UMSU Election.
 - a. Week 1 (Four weeks prior to Voting Week): Nominations open on Monday at 9:00. Nominations may remain open over the following weekend at the discretion of the CRO. This week is part of the pre-campaigning period.
 - b. Week 2 (Three weeks prior to Voting Week): Nominations close on the Thursday at 17:00. This week is part of the pre-campaigning period.
 - c. Week 3 (Two weeks prior to Voting Week): This week is part of the pre-campaigning period.
 - d. Week 4 (One week prior to Voting Week): Campaigning begins at 9:00 on Monday, and extends through the following weekend. The CRO may choose to provide advance voting during this week at their discretion.
 - e. Week 5 (Voting Week): Voting shall be open on Thursday at 8:00am until Friday at 5:00pm of this week.
 - i. There shall be no on the floor campaigning on voting days.
 - ii. Electronic campaigning may continue until the close of the polls on the last day of voting.
2. The Annual General Election of the Union will be held at a time that allows Week 3 to be held during Reading Week.

Section IV: Notice

1. The CRO is responsible, in accordance with the Election Rules, for the advertising in the Manitoban Newspaper, as well as posting notice(s) on relevant sources, including outside the CRO's office and the UMSU offices that an election is to be held.
2. The CRO shall advertise in any manner they deem fit for:
 - a. the nominations of candidates prior to the nomination period.
 - b. advertise for the forthcoming election to encourage Members of the Union to actively participate in the democratic process.

Section V: Nominations

1. Prior to advertising for nominations the CRO shall prepare a package of written information which will be available to any Member of the Union at least one week prior to the opening of the Nomination Period, and will include:
 - a. current copies of the Bylaws, Governance and Operations Manual, Elections Guide and Supplementary Rules related to Elections, the CRO, and the Judicial Board.
 - b. nomination forms for candidates.
 - c. a list of all nomination requirements and deadlines, including instructions on obtaining a letter confirming the nominee's academic standing.
 - d. any other forms required of nominees, including a signed acknowledgment and acceptance of nomination by the nominees.
 - e. the current posted office hours and contact information of the CRO and DRO(s).
 - f. a detailed description of "pre-campaigning" and a list of permitted and restricted activities.
 - g. a statement of the rules regarding keys and use of offices.
2. Complete nominations, containing all material required by the Bylaws and the CRO, must be received by no later than the deadline set out in the advertisement by the Office of the CRO.
3. It is the sole responsibility of nominees to ensure the completeness and accuracy of their nominations. Any nomination that fails to comply with any part of the rules shall be summarily rejected, although the CRO can, at their discretion, allow an appropriate extension to correct any accidental or unavoidable errors or omissions in the nomination package.
4. Within 36 hours of the closing of nominations, the CRO shall post the legal name, reasonable derivative thereof, or the name of everyday use of all candidates, and shall publish the same in the next issue of the Manitoban newspaper.

Section VI: Nomination Requirements

1. In order to be nominated as a candidate, a person:
 - a. be a student for the entirety of the semester that the given nomination period and subsequent election is occurring in.
 - b. be a Member of the Union.
 - c. be in good standing with the Union.
 - d. be nominated under their legal name, reasonable derivative thereof, or the name of everyday use.
 - e. be a self-declared member of the community they are being nominated to represent if they are being nominated for a Community Representative position.
 - f. be registered as an international student with the University if they are being nominated for International Students' Representative.
 - g. have provided a completed nomination package to the CRO prior to the end of the nomination period, which shall include:
 - i. basic information about the candidate, including their name and contact information.
 - ii. for persons nominated for the UMSU Executive, the first and last names, signatures, faculties, years, and student identification numbers of at least 100 nominators who are Members of the Union.
 - iii. for persons nominated for the UMSU Executive, the name and contact information of their Campaign manager. The Campaign manager shall be a student and a member of the union and shall be considered an "official volunteer".
 - iv. for persons nominated for Community Representative, the first and last names, signatures, faculties, years, and student identification numbers of at least 15 nominators who are Members of the Union and are members of the relevant community.
 - v. a signed acknowledgment of acceptance of the nomination by each nominee.
 - vi. confirmation from the University showing that the nominee (and campaign manager, if applicable) are Members of the Union.
 - vii. a \$50.00 deposit.
 - viii. a signed document indicating the name which each candidate wishes to appear on the ballot, and an indication of whether he or she considers this name to be a reasonable derivative or everyday use of his or her legal name.
2. Members of the Executive and The Board of Directors may run as candidates in any General Election for either Executive or as a Community Representative, provided they meet all other criteria required of any other nominated candidate.

Section VII: Nomination Vacancies

1. If an open position receives no nominations by the deadline for nominations, nominations remain open until 17:00 on the Thursday during Week 3, and the CRO must advertise and post this information as the CRO deems fair and practical.
2. If an open position receives no nominations by the extended deadline for nominations, then:
 - a. If the position is on the Executive, it shall be considered vacant for the purposes of the UMSU Bylaws.
 - b. If the position is for Community Representative, it shall be vacant until the process described in Section VII clause 3 can be followed.
3. If a community representative position remains vacant after the Annual General Election, nominations to fill the position by appointment of Council shall reopen on October 1st.
 - a. If a position becomes vacant through any other means after or during September and before March, nominations to fill the position by appointment of Council shall be reopened on the first of the next month.
 - b. The nomination period shall be one week.
 - c. If, by the end of the nomination period no one has been nominated, nominations shall be reopened after one month has passed, and every month after that, until the position is filled
 - d. If one or more Members have been nominated, Council shall decide by voting after a presentation by each of the nominated candidates. Council shall also request the perspective and input of community members associated with the position. The candidate with the largest number of votes shall be considered appointed to the position.
 - e. The candidate appointed by Council shall be appointed for the remainder of the academic year and shall have full voting rights during their term in office.

Section VIII: Slates

1. Candidates displaying slate behaviour, for any Executive, Community Representative, or other CRO-recognized position is strictly prohibited.
2. To prevent the formation or appearance of a Slate, Candidates shall not:
 - a. Share expenses for Campaign materials;
 - b. directly or indirectly endorse other Candidates or Campaigns;
 - c. use or promote materials, designs, slogans, or visual identities that resemble other Candidates or Campaigns.
3. What constitutes participation in a Slate is ultimately determined by the CRO on a case-by-case basis.
4. Campaigning in the same area or keeping company with other Candidates does not constitute participation in a Slate.

Section IX: Pre-Campaigning

1. Candidates engaging in pre-campaigning activities for any Executive, Community Representative, or other CRO-recognized position is strictly prohibited.
2. Instances of pre-campaigning include but are not limited to:
 - a. Openly expressing an intention to run or register as a candidate through the media or any public forum prior to the official campaign period.

- b. Soliciting nominations prior to obtaining a Nomination Package from the Office of the CRO and outside defined Nomination/Registration Period.
 - c. Distribution of any Campaign Material or Campaigning prior to the start of the official Campaign Period.
 - d. Making presentations or speeches to groups of more than five (5) Union Members with regards to a Candidate's candidacy or qualifications from the beginning of the Nomination Period.
 - e. Displaying, erecting, and/or posting physical or electronic Campaign Material or causing such materials to be displayed, erected, and/or posted.
 - f. Directly promoting one's campaign to a faculty association, student club, and/or student at large with the intent of gaining their support and/or endorsement before the first day of the official campaign period.
3. What constitutes pre-campaigning is ultimately determined by the CRO on a case-by-case basis.
 4. Efforts to organize your campaign alongside official volunteers prior to the official campaign period does not constitute as pre-campaigning.

Section X: All Candidates' Meeting

1. Following the closing of nominations, the CRO shall immediately convene a meeting for all candidates and their campaign managers (referred to as the "All Candidates' Meeting").
2. All candidates and campaign managers shall attend the candidates meeting in its entirety. The CRO may exempt individuals from attendance under extenuating circumstances, but only if the person requesting an exemption does so in writing at least 48 hours prior to the candidates meeting, or informs the CRO of an emergency for which no notice could reasonably be given.
3. At the candidates meeting, the CRO shall:
 - a. review the relevant governing documents, and respond to questions about same.
 - b. announce the times and dates of daily meetings during the campaign, and announce any other methods that shall be regularly used to communicate with campaigns.
 - c. take attendance.
 - d. deal with any other topics deemed necessary by the CRO.

Section XI: Office Space

1. The Union shall endeavour to provide storage and office space to all candidates. No campaign shall have an office on campus which is not approved by the CRO.
2. The CRO shall ensure that all candidates in an election have equal access to office space.
3. If any member of a campaign already has an office at the University, such office may be used for the storage of campaign materials and may be used for any act which pertains to the campaign, provided the CRO approves such use prior to its use.

Section XII: Campaigning as an Incumbent

1. Candidates are prohibited from using UMSU resources to aid in their Campaign, create Campaign Materials or gain an unfair advantage over any opposing Candidate approved by the Office of the CRO.
2. Candidates and Campaign Managers who have access to UMSU resources not available to all Union Members including but not limited to email lists and office space will not have access to these resources during the campaign period.
3. Any incumbent must meet with the CRO after their nomination has been confirmed but prior to the first day of the campaigning period to define the aspects within their current role they are able to fulfill unless outlined otherwise in the UMSU governing documents.

Section XIII: Prohibitions & Violations

1. No Candidate may distribute or use, and the CRO cannot approve, Campaign Materials which:
 - a. have more than a nominal value when distributed.
 - b. contain libel or slander (based on consultation with legal counsel if necessary).
 - c. are factually incorrect.
 - d. violate any federal or provincial statute, or any University rule, regulation, policy, or procedure.
 - e. are discriminatory or derogatory towards any person(s) based on the characteristics listed no section 9 (2) of the Manitoba Human Rights Code.
2. Where the CRO determines that Campaign Material which requires the approval of the CRO is being distributed, displayed, or used by a campaign without the CRO's approval, then the CRO may:
 - a. order the material immediately withdrawn or removed and may confiscate the material from the campaign for a period of not less than 24 hours.
 - b. assign an additional penalty, which may include (but is not limited to) any or all of the following:
 - i. destruction of the material.
 - ii. A reduction in permitted campaign expenses or a restriction on campaigning, provided that the penalty is balanced against the volume of material distributed or its effect, and that no destruction takes place until the appeal period expires.
 - iii. Any Campaign Materials that cost more than \$100 to produce must have their costs pre-approved by the CRO. The CRO will approve all costs exceeding \$100, provided they are not in violation of the Election Rules
4. Each Candidate must comply with any building regulations of the University in addition to the following:
 - a. no more than 1 poster per Candidate may be affixed to any one bulletin board.
 - b. no more than 1 posters per Candidate may be affixed to the same pillar, and these posters must face in opposite directions.
 - c. no poster may be affixed so as to obscure or cover another Candidate's campaign materials.
5. Where posted Campaign Materials are in violation of any rules, they may be removed by the CRO. The CRO may authorize another individual or Candidate to make the removal.
6. No individual may remove, deface, damage, or destroy Campaign Material without the authorization of the CRO.
7. Each Candidate is limited to a maximum of 75 posters on display at any one time at the Fort Garry Campus and a maximum of 35 posters on display at any one time at the Bannatyne Campus. The CRO may restrict distribution of Campaign Materials to ensure this limit is not breached.
8. No candidate, campaign manager, and/or official volunteer shall act in any way that is disrespectful, intimidating, or hostile towards any members of the Office of the CRO. Any actions which are found to be in contravention of this shall result in penalties up to and including disqualification of the offending party from participation in the General Election.

Section XIV: Penalties

1. Where a breach has occurred, regardless of cause or the intent of the parties involved, and that breach has provided an unfair advantage to a campaign, the CRO shall assign a penalty that:
 - a. fully counterbalances any unfair advantage gained.
 - b. penalizes the campaign for committing a violation; and is of the same type or character as the advantage which was gained.
 - c. Penalties available to the CRO include, but are not limited to:
 - d. a reduction in permitted campaign expenses.
 - e. a reduction in reimbursements.
 - f. the confiscation or destruction of campaign materials.
 - g. limits, restrictions, and prohibitions on any type of campaigning, for any period of time.
 - h. disqualification.
2. A penalty may be assessed for an individual breach, or for a series of repeated violations that in aggregate constitute a greater breach.
3. A candidate shall only be disqualified where they commit a serious breach that:
 - a. cannot be counterbalanced by a lesser penalty.
 - b. involves tampering with ballots, balloting, voting or counting procedures.
 - c. involves repeated violations for which lesser penalties have already been imposed.
4. Where a serious contravention of the election occurs, such that the results of the election could not reasonably be deemed to indicate the actual preference of the voters, that election, or part related to the contravention, may be declared void if:
 - a. A motion is passed by the Board of Directors ruling the election results cannot be upheld, and that a re-election must occur.
5. If all or part of an election is voided, they shall be repeated at the earliest opportunity by which the Board of Directors feels the actual preference of the voters can be determined.

Section XV: Demerit System

1. The CRO shall assign demerits to candidates for violations of the Election Rules. If a candidate obtains 50 demerit points they shall be disqualified immediately and if the voting period has not occurred their name shall be struck from the ballot. A candidate has the right to appeal this penalty to the Appeals Committee
2. The CRO shall provide all candidates with a table outlining potential offences and their respective demerit penalty at the All Candidates meeting. This table shall not be expected to be all inclusive, and in the case of uncategorized offences, or extenuating circumstances the CRO can assign other penalties.

Section XVI: Damages, Disqualifications, and Lost Deposits

1. Any damage or similar expenses caused by a Candidate, or a volunteer for a Candidate, shall be paid for by the Candidate deemed responsible by the CRO. Failure to do so shall result in immediate disqualification for the offending Candidate.
2. Any disqualified Candidate will lose their deposit, if any, and their right to be reimbursed for election expenses.
3. Reimbursement of campaign expenses for Candidates who withdraw from the election shall be at the discretion of the CRO.

Section XVII: Complaints and Appeals

1. Complaints shall be allegations of a breach of the Election Rules against Members of the Union other than the Chief Returning Officer which are submitted to the Chief Returning Officer for a ruling.
2. Appeals shall be allegations of a breach of the Election Rules by the Chief Returning Officer which are submitted to the Appeals Committee for a ruling, and such alleged breaches shall be:
 - a. a misapplication of the Election Rules to a Complaint.
 - b. a misapplication of the Election Rules to any other ruling of the CRO.
 - c. any other action by the CRO during the Election Period that contravenes the Election Rules.
3. No appeal exists from a ruling of the Appeals Committee, and a ruling of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on the parties to the Appeal.
4. Rulings of the CRO regarding breaches of the Election Rules that were not as a result of a Complaint shall be treated as Complaints for the purposes of posting the ruling.
5. All Members of the Union shall cooperate with the investigations of the CRO and the Appeals Committee unless otherwise prohibited by the Governance Documents of the Union or by law.
6. The CRO shall prepare and provide a complaint form which requires complainants to indicate the:
 - a. name and student identification number of the complainant.
 - b. specific clause(s) of the Election Rules that is alleged to have been breached.
 - c. specific campaign or individual that is alleged to be in breach.
 - d. specific facts which constitute the alleged breach.
 - e. evidence of these facts.
7. The CRO shall prepare and provide an appeal form which requires appellants to indicate the:
 - a. name and student identification number of the appellant.
 - b. CRO's ruling being appealed.
 - c. reason for the appeal, including specifically any errors in interpretation or application found in the ruling.
 - d. ruling sought from the Appeals Committee.

Section XVIII: Complaint Procedure

1. Any Member of the Union, other than the CRO, may file a Complaint regarding an alleged breach of the Election Rules.
2. The following shall be the process by which Complaints are filed, received, and ruled upon:
 - a. The Complainant must submit a Complaint to the CRO using the prescribed form within 48 hours of the alleged breach of the Election Rules.
 - b. If the Complaint is found to be validly submitted, the CRO shall send a copy to any other parties named in this Complaint and continue this complaint procedure.
 - c. The CRO shall investigate the Complaint using whatever means are at their disposal. This investigation shall include requesting a written response to the Complaint from any party alleged to have committed a breach of the Election Rules.
 - d. The CRO shall issue a written ruling on a Complaint. This written ruling shall:
 - i. be sent to all parties to the Complaint via e-mail; and
 - ii. be posted as soon as possible at the office of the CRO, on the Election Website and at UMSU's offices.
 - e. Written rulings on a Complaint shall be required to be issued by the CRO within twenty-four (24) hours if the Complaint was received between 06:00h Monday and 16:30h Friday, or within forty-eight (48) hours if the Complaint was received between 16:30h Friday and 06:00h Monday.
 - f. Any penalties assigned by the CRO as a result of their ruling shall take effect immediately unless stated in the CRO's ruling.
3. Complaints that are not validly submitted shall be thrown out by the CRO, but the Complainant may resubmit as soon as they can make a valid submission.
4. Any complaints deemed by the CRO to be submitted with malicious intent to disadvantage another candidate will result in demerits or disqualification from the election at the discretion of the CRO
5. The following do not require a written complaint and shall be brought to the CRO's attention immediately upon being discovered:
 - a. A violation regarding the required number of poll clerks at a polling station.
 - b. complaints regarding pre-campaigning.
6. All Complaints must be submitted electronically.
7. Any posted ruling of the CRO on a Complaint shall contain:
 - a. a summary of the allegation.
 - b. a summary of the parties to the complaint.
 - c. a listing of all applicable Election Rules that apply.
 - d. a finding regarding the facts.
 - e. a ruling regarding the alleged breach.
 - f. the penalty assigned.
 - g. the time the ruling was posted.
 - h. the time limit on any appeal.
8. The CRO shall advertise the via the UMSU newsletter, social media, and website:
 - a. updates on all validated complaints.
 - b. disqualification of candidates.

Section XIX: Appeal Procedure

1. Any Member of the Union may file an Appeal alleging a breach of the Election Rules by the CRO.
2. Only Members of the Union who were party to an original Complaint are entitled to appeal the ruling of the CRO to the Appeals Committee.
3. The following shall be the process by which Appeals are filed, received, and ruled upon:
 - a. The Appellant must submit an Appeal to the Chair of the Appeals Committee using the prescribed form within 48 hours of either the alleged breach of the Election Rules or the CRO's ruling on a Complaint.
 - i. If the disqualification occurs prior to 24 hours before the beginning of voting, the disqualified candidate has the right to appeal the decision and, if the appeal is made within reasonable urgency as determined by the CRO, have a decision rendered by the beginning of the voting period.
 - ii. If the disqualification occurs within 24 hours of the beginning of voting, the disqualification cannot be reversed prior to the election and the disqualified candidate will not appear on the ballot, although it can still be appealed for the purpose of clearing the name of the disqualified candidate.
 - iii. If a disqualification occurs during the voting period, voters will be immediately informed through email and social media of the disqualification. A disqualification made during the voting period cannot be appealed until after the election, and then only for the purpose of clearing the name of the disqualified candidate.
 - b. If the Appeal is found to be validly submitted, the Chair of the Appeals Committee shall send a copy to any other party named in the Appeal, including the CRO, and continue this procedure.
 - c. Should the CRO identify a breach of the Elections Manual by a candidate or campaign, the CRO shall document their finding in the prescribed complaint form.
4. Prior to the appeal hearing, the Appeals Committee shall first convene in camera and determine if a prima facie case has been made in the appeal. If a prima facie case has not been made, the Appeals Committee shall dismiss the Appeal or the affected parts thereof.
5. If the Appeal hearing shall occur, it shall use the following process:
 - a. The Chair shall ask:
 - i. the members of the Appeals Committee if any perceived conflict of interest exists between them and any party to the Appeal.
 - ii. the parties to the Appeal if they wish to challenge any Board member based on a conflict of interest.
 - b. The Appeals Committee may call a recess to consider any Conflicts of Interest raised at the beginning of the hearing.
 - c. The Chair shall then explain any procedures to be followed to the parties present, including any time limits on presentations or examinations.
 - d. The Chair shall invite the Appellant to present their case.
 - e. The Chair shall invite the Respondent to present their case.
 - f. The Appeals Committee shall investigate the case as they deem appropriate and may call a recess of no more than twenty-four hours in duration.
 - g. The Chair shall offer first the Respondent then the Appellant the opportunity to make a closing statement.
 - h. The Appeals Committee shall retire for deliberations in camera.

- i. The Appeals Committee shall tell the parties to the Appeal who are present at the hearing of their ruling immediately after coming out of deliberations.
- j. The Chair shall issue the written ruling of the Appeals Committee within 12 hours of the end of the meeting, and shall:
 - i. send the ruling to all parties of the Appeal via e-mail.
 - ii. post the ruling as soon as possible at both the office of the CRO, and the election website.

Section XX: Daily Campaign Meetings

1. On every weekday during the campaign period, the CRO shall chair a meeting of campaign representatives to review complaints, rulings, orders, rules, procedures and announcements.
2. All Candidates are required to do one of the following for each of the CRO's daily campaign meetings:
 - a. attend the meeting themselves.
 - b. send a proxy.
 - c. ask for and receive the CRO's permission to miss that particular meeting.
3. Candidates not directly competing with each other can send the same person as a proxy to the daily campaign meetings, but such proxies must be approved by the CRO.

Section XXI: Campaign Materials

1. All Campaign Materials must be approved by the CRO before they may be used in a campaign.
2. The CRO may choose to exempt, at any time, any type of Campaign Materials from the approval process. Any such exception must be:
 - a. Clearly defined.
 - b. Consistently applied to all Candidates and UMSU Members.
 - c. Communicated fairly to all Candidates.
3. Communication that is private and solicited, whether it is by a digital system or not, shall not be considered Campaign Materials.
4. The CRO may require the use of a unique mark, punch or other means of identification for any type of Campaign Materials that indicates those Campaign Materials have been approved by the CRO.
5. Candidates may request a written ruling from the CRO about whether any proposed materials fall within the definition of Campaign Materials. The CRO must reply in writing within 24 hours.
6. Candidates shall be held solely responsible for adhering to all rules and regulations set out in UMSU's governing documents regarding the application of posters. Upon notification by the CRO or a DRO of violation of these rules or regulations, the candidate must correct the violation within six (6) hours or be subject to the application of demerit points.
7. Upon the introduction of unapproved promotional materials in the course of a general election campaign, the CRO shall communicate to the electorate that these materials are not legitimate campaign materials, that they are the product of influences attempting to interfere with and bias the campaign and subsequent vote, and that these materials should be disregarded. This statement from the CRO shall be distributed to members via e-mail before the voting period begins, but no more than twenty-four (24) hours before the beginning of the voting period.
8. All Campaign Materials must be removed after the close of polls on the final day of voting by a date and time to be determined by the CRO.

Section XXII: Banners

1. Materials shall be considered a banner if they surpass 1.5 square meters in area.
2. Each Candidate may place banners around Campus, and the CRO will set rules and limitations on:
 - a. The number of banners available for each Candidate to use.
 - b. The banner locations available for use.
 - c. The method by which these banner locations will be allocated.
3. Candidates must construct and place banners in accordance with University building regulations.
4. Banners locations will be assigned at the first All Candidates' Meeting.
5. Banners shall be subject to the same limitations as other campaign materials.

Section XXIII: Fair Market Value

1. A Candidate that receives a product or service for free or at a reduced price shall use the fair market value of the product when calculating their total campaign expenses if the product or service cannot be reasonably obtained by all competing campaigns at the same price.
2. Fair market value shall be determined by the CRO using the following factors and the CRO shall notify the campaign which method of valuation has been used:
 - a. the price another campaign would have to pay for the same product or service provided by that supplier, or another similar supplier, in which case that amount shall be assessed.
 - b. whether the product or service is reasonably available to all campaigns at no charge, in which case no charge shall be assessed.
3. For certainty of budgeting purposes, a campaign may request in writing a declaration from the CRO of a product or service's fair market value, but must include in that request:
 - a. a full and accurate description of the product or service.
 - b. the supplier of the product or service, and their address, phone, fax and E-mail where available.
 - c. the campaign's estimate of fair market value and their method of deriving that value.
 - d. at least 3 other suppliers of the same product or service, if available.
 - e. where a product or service is to be claimed as free, reasonable evidence of that fact.
 - f. where a product or service is to be claimed as free, reasonable evidence that the product or service is reasonably available free of charge to other campaigns.
 - g. a signed declaration from the purchaser indicating the presence or absence of any known relationships, whether by blood, marriage or acquaintance, between the supplier and any member of the campaign.
4. The CRO shall provide a written response to any such complete request within 36 hours of the request being received.

Section XXIV: Approval Process

1. The process for approval of Campaign Materials is:
 - a. campaigns must provide the CRO with a written description of the proposed Campaign Material.
 - b. the CRO may request any or all of the following in writing in order to ensure the proposed Campaign Materials do not violate the Election Rules.

- i. an estimate of the cost of the proposed Campaign Material.
 - ii. a declaration of the source of the materials used in production.
 - iii. the contents or presentation of the proposed Campaign material.
2. The CRO will provide in confidence a written approval or refusal of Campaign Materials, and will respond within 24 hours of receiving a complete request, subject to any provisions in the Election Rules.
3. If the Campaign Material is approved by the CRO, the Candidate can print, post, or otherwise distribute it, subject to any provisions in the Election Rules.
4. All Campaign Materials that can be produced by the Union's Digital Copy Centre must be purchased there, unless the CRO provides an exemption. No exemption will be provided unless it can be demonstrated in writing to the CRO's satisfaction by the Candidate that the Union's Digital Copy Centre does not have the facilities or equipment required to produce the materials.

Section XXV: Campaigning

1. On the floor campaigning will last for 9 consecutive days, starting at 09:00 on the Monday of Week 4, continuing through the weekend, and ending at the start of voting.
2. Electronic campaigning may begin at 09:00 on the Monday of Week 4 and will cease at the close of voting.
3. Candidates or volunteers may not actively on the floor campaign or promote any Candidate during voting days.
4. No Member of the Union shall campaign either for or against a Candidate after the opening of the nomination period and prior to the campaign period, with the exception of:
 - a. private campaign organizing meetings involving recognized campaign volunteers.
 - b. the collection of signatures for nomination forms.
 - c. the normal duties required of the current members of the UMSU Executive and Council.
 - d. private conversations to recruit Volunteers.
5. When applying these rules, the CRO may consider any additional factors in addition to the definition of campaigning.
6. Any campaigning performed by a Candidate that does not fall within the boundaries of the aforementioned reason is subject to punishment by the CRO.

Section XXVI: Campaigning Standards and Prohibitions

1. Each campaign shall act reasonably, responsibly, and in good faith. Further, each campaign shall:
 - a. ensure that all Candidates, Campaign Managers and Volunteers are aware, understand and comply with the Election Rules and all other relevant rulings, orders, and rules.
 - b. be responsible to the CRO for the conduct of its Volunteers.
 - c. report any breach of a ruling, order, or governing document.
 - d. comply with any University rules, regulations, policies, and procedures.
 - e. comply with all local, municipal, provincial and federal laws.
2. No Candidate may collude with another campaign, either prior to, during, or following the campaign period. Specifically, no campaign, campaign manager, volunteer, or candidate shall:
 - a. appear jointly in any campaign material.
 - b. publicly endorse another campaign.
 - c. produce campaign materials that could cause a reasonable person to associate such materials with a campaign slogan, design, or visual identity of another Candidate
 - d. distribute the campaign materials of another Candidate.
3. Campaigning is restricted to Members of the Union, and no one who is not a Member of the Union may campaign.
4. Individual Members of the Union who hold titles within council can endorse and individual during the campaign period. However, the club or faculty association as a whole cannot.
5. No candidate, campaign manager, or volunteer may campaign:
 - a. in a business or service owned or operated by the Union, except where specifically provided for by the CRO, and where all candidates have been given equal access.
 - b. in a University library.
 - c. in a classroom during a class period without first obtaining permission from the instructor responsible for the class.
 - d. anywhere else the CRO feels would be detrimental to the election process.
6. In the event of referenda being held during an Annual General Election, candidates, campaign managers, and volunteers may speak to, volunteer for, and/or endorse a side.

Section XXVII: Election Forum

1. The CRO shall adequately advertise the time and date of the forum in the previous 2 issues of the Manitoban newspaper
5. There shall be at least one Election Forum on the Fort Garry campus during the campaign.
6. There shall be an Election Forum on the Bannatyne campus if deemed practicable by the CRO.
7. All Candidates shall be provided with the opportunity to participate in at least one Election Forum during the campaign period.
8. Members of the Union shall be provided with the opportunity to ask all Candidates questions from the floor at an Election Forum.
9. The Election Forum shall be chaired by the CRO.
10. Each Candidate has the opportunity to speak for a time period as fixed by the CRO.
11. Each speaker shall have the same fixed period of time in which to speak as their opponents have.
12. If there is a question from the audience at the Election Forum, each Candidate shall have a reasonable and fair opportunity to respond thereto.
13. Any person(s) who attempt to disrupt the orderly conduct of the Election Forum shall be removed from the facility.

Section XXVIII: Campaign Expenses

1. Candidates must include the cost of all Campaign Materials created in their campaign expense accounts whether or not those materials are used or distributed.
2. Each Candidate must keep an up-to-date and accurate account of all campaign expenses and the Campaign Manager or Treasurer is responsible for answering any inquiry from the CRO regarding expenses.
3. All expenses incurred by a Candidate in the course of campaigning must be included in the campaign expenses unless specifically exempted by Council or listed below:
 - a. Services and products provided by UMSU to all Candidates at the request of the CRO.
4. Educational materials may be distributed by UMSU to Members of the Union during a referendum and may not be considered part of the campaign expenses of any Candidate, provided that the materials:
 - a. Are approved by the CRO.
 - b. Are non-partisan in nature.
 - c. Provide education and context to all Members of the Union.

Section XXIX: Expense Summaries and Overspending

1. The CRO shall review all campaign expense accounts (containing those products and services that are subject to spending limits), and shall post preliminary summaries of each campaign's expenses by 18:00 Hours on the day before voting begins.
2. Where the CRO determines that a Candidate has exceeded the spending limit (for those products and services that are subject to spending limits) or has falsified documents, the campaign shall be disqualified, and notice to this effect shall be posted with the summaries of each campaign's expenses, and communicated directly to the campaign in question.
3. Where a campaign has been disqualified the campaign may only appeal by presenting notice and appearing before a Judicial Board Meeting within 24 hours of the posting deadline.
4. Final expense accounts must be provided to the CRO by noon on the first Tuesday after voting ends.

Section XXX: Candidate Reimbursement

1. The Union shall reimburse a candidate the remaining full value of its campaign expenses for products or services that are subject to a spending limit as evidenced by its campaign expense account.
2. In cases where the campaign paid less than fair market value for a product or service that is subject to a spending limit, the campaign's reimbursement shall be limited to the amount actually paid for the product or service and not the fair market value thereof.
3. The Union shall reimburse the candidate within seven days of receiving the candidate's final budget. Upon receipt of the final budget, expenses shall be reimbursed within seven (7) days unless there are outstanding issues that could potentially disqualify the candidate from receiving all or part of their campaign expenses or deposit.
4. Candidates who do not hand in their expense accounts by the deadline shall not receive any reimbursement.

Section XXXI: Online Voting

1. The CRO shall arrange a minimum of one electronic polling station near 101 University Center.
2. An electronic polling station shall consist of (a) designated computer(s) with (a) privacy screen(s) and adequate supervision by attendant(s) at the discretion of the CRO

Section XXXII: Ballot Design

1. Notwithstanding these rules, the CRO shall decide the design of the ballot.
2. Ballots shall be electronic.
3. Each ballot shall be identical to the next with the exception of the ordering of ballot options.
4. If a ballot question is a 'Yes/No' choice, the options shall be 'Yes' followed by 'No'.
5. If a ballot question is a choice between anything other than 'Yes' and 'No', the CRO may decide whether the ballot options are placed in the same order on every ballot or on a rotating order.
6. The ballots must allow for voters to clearly indicate their choice.
7. Ballots for Community Representatives shall include a method for voters to self-identify as coming from the community in question.

Section XXXIII: Voting

1. Each member of the union shall be allowed to cast 1 secret, non-transferable ballot, and the ballot shall entitle each voter to make 1 choice for each position questions for which they are eligible to vote
2. A voters list shall be compiled for the International Students' Representative, and shall include all International Students who are Members of the Union.
3. The voting population for the Accessibility, Black Students', Indigenous Students', Mature and Part-time Students', Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (2SLGBTQIA+) Students', Racialized, and Women-identified Students' Representatives shall include all members of the Union who self-identify as coming from the community described in the title of each position.

Section XXXIV: Results

1. If a complaint or appeal is not resolved within the twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of the voting, the results may not be finalized.
2. The CRO shall post-election results within twenty-four (24) hours of all complaints, appeals and recounts having been addressed and resolved.
3. The final tally of demerits along with their consequences shall be applicable until results of the election are finalized.
4. Following the close of voting, candidates shall be required to remove all campaign materials including tapes and adhesives. Failure to remove materials in within the allotted time may result in demerits being applied in the twelve (12) hours following the material removal period.

Online Voting

1. Under no circumstances should the election be ended earlier than what is advertised.
2. The results of the election should only be accessed after the conclusion of the election on the final day of voting; initial accessing of the votes should be done in the presence of the UMSU CRO, the UMSU Governance Coordinator (or delegate), and any scrutineers who have submitted the necessary paperwork.
3. The Certified results from the online voting system provider should be accessed and published on the UMSU voting page which will also publish the Voter Verified Audit Trail to allow students to check that their vote was recorded properly.
4. The Certified results from the online voting system provider shall serve as the preliminary results for the UMSU Election.

Section XXXV: Ties and Recounts

1. In the event that two or more competing candidates receive an equality of votes and have the highest amount of votes for the respective position, the tie-breaking method shall differ as follows:
 - a. For Executive positions, there shall be a run-off election between the tied Candidates conducted as far as practicable in accordance with the Election Rules. Any such run off election shall occur within 14 days of the final recount of the ballots of the General Election.
 - b. For Community Representative positions, Council shall vote to decide which of the tied Candidates shall be elected at the soonest Council meeting following the final recount of the ballots of the General Election.
 - c. A record shall be kept of voter turnout in UMSU general elections, and by-elections, for each faculty, residence and college.
2. Election results (including the final vote count for each candidate) as well as turnout shall be made publicly available to Members of the Union, and results of elections (including sample ballots) shall be archived by the Union and accessible to Members.

Section XXXVI: Appeals Committee

Mandate

The Appeals Committee's responsibilities are reviewing and adjudicating complaints arising from UMSU Elections

Membership

1. The Appeals Committee shall be comprised of:
 - a. Five students-at-large (voting)
 - b. Two Graduate Students Associations Members (voting)
 - c. Two Community members who are alumni of the University of Manitoba (voting)
 - d. One Governance Committee Member who will serve as Chair (non-voting)
 - e. One Judicial Board Committee Member who will serve as the Vice-Chair (non-voting)

The Graduate Student Association and Community Members positions are flexible and can be occupied by students-at-large if not filled

Selection Process

1. Applications for the Appeals Committee open on Friday at 17:00 after the close of nominations and close on Thursday at 17:00 during Week 3, pre-campaigning period.
2. The Appointees shall be selected by an ad-hoc committee.
3. The Ad-hoc committee shall consist of:
 - a. Governance Chair as Chairperson (non-voting)
 - b. Four board members selected at random
 - i. The draw to select the four board members shall occur two weeks prior to when nominations close to ensure proper planning for a meeting during Week 3.

Duration of Committee

1. The Appeals Committee shall be in effect from 9:00 am on Monday during Week 4 at the start of Campaigning period until 5:00 pm on the last voting day

Meetings of the Appeals Committee

1. The Appeals Committee shall meet daily on business days Monday- Friday during the campaigning period.
2. The meetings will be pre-decided and included in the Committee application posting.
3. All applicants **must** be available to attend the meetings and failure to do so will lead to disqualification from the committee, and loss of remuneration.

Decisions of the Appeals Committee

1. No appeal exists from a ruling of the Appeals Committee, and a ruling of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on the parties to the Appeal.

Remuneration of Appointees

1. The voting members of the Appeals Committee shall be awarded an honorarium at the end of the position's term, upon successful completion of duties, in an amount determined by resolution of the Finance Committee (as defined in the Governance and Operations Manual) and approved by resolution of the Governance Committee.
2. The remuneration amount must be selected prior to call out for applications and included in the posting.