

Governance Investigations and Reinstatement Committee

Mandate

1. The Governance Investigations and Reinstatement Committee (GIRC) investigates the actions of an elected representative alleged to have breached a bylaw, policy, or procedure, or an appeal of election decisions or results and is responsible for interviewing and vetting candidates for reinstatement to Students' Council.

Roles of Committee

Formal Complaints Against Elected Representatives

2. A meeting of the GIRC is initiated by the decision of the Chair of GIRC or through the initiation of the Formal Resolution Process as per the Elected Representatives Code of Conduct Complaint Procedure
3. GIRC will meet to review a complaint and may call upon any committee resources or parties involved to provide further information.
4. GIRC will provide a recommendation on any action to be taken based on the Elected Representatives Disciplinary Action Policy
5. The Chair compiles the committee's recommendation(s) in a written report to Students' Council to be provided in-camera.
6. Reports will be made public, via official motion, at the discretion of Students' Council.
 - 6.1. Reports made public will be provided to SAMU members or staff upon written request to the Governance Office

Election Appeals

7. Any SAMU member may appeal a decision of the CRO or the election results, in writing, to the governance office no later than two business days after the last day of polling.
 - 7.1. The appeal must be specific in identifying what bylaw, policy, or procedure was broken, or why a decision was made incorrectly.
8. GIRC will review all supporting documents pertaining to the appeal.
9. GIRC may request the appellant, CRO, or others they deem relevant to the complaint to provide information.
10. GIRC meets as many times as it deems necessary in order to make a decision. The chair compiles the committee's results in a written report to Students' Council no later than fourteen days after receiving the appeal.
 - 10.1. If longer than fourteen days is necessary, the Chair must inform Students' Council and provide a timeline for completion

11. GIRC may declare a candidate disqualified if it rules that they have violated the bylaws, policies, or procedures pertaining to the election.

11.1. In event the successful candidate is disqualified the runner up will be declared the winner.

12. If GIRC determines that the bylaws, policies, or procedures of SAMU have been violated, they may overturn the results of the election or mandate a complete or partial by-election. The CRO will call a by-election if it is deemed necessary. All relevant bylaws, policies, and procedures are followed in the by-election with the exception of regulations outlining time periods.

Reinstatements

13. GIRC reviews all applications for reinstatements made by Students' Council, and ensures candidates considered for reinstatement meet the criteria for positions laid out in SAMU's bylaws and policies.

14. GIRC may develop additional criteria that enables them to make a recommendation on reinstatement.

15. GIRC reviews any evidence provided and may interview applicants when deemed necessary.

16. GIRC provides written recommendations to Students' Council on all applications for reinstatement.

Composition

17. Voting members of the committee are five Students-at-large.

17.1. Voting Members must act impartially.

17.2. Members are appointed by the Chair upon the recommendation of the Governance Office

18. An individual with a legal background from the community at large will serve as a non-voting resource member of the committee.

Committee Operations

19. The Chair of Students' Council serves as the Chair (non-voting) of Governance Investigations Committee.

20. A Governance Office representative serves as the recording secretary for the committee.

21. In the case of a Formal Complaint against an Elected Representative, the third-party mediator, or a Human Resources consultant may serve as a resource to the committee.

22. Meetings of the committee are held when an appeal or reinstatement application has been submitted, or when a formal complaint requires.

22.1. Additional meetings may also be held at the call of the Chair

23. The deliberations and minutes are confidential and archived by the Governance Office.

24. Quorum for the committee is a simple majority of voting members.

25. In the case of elections appeals, decisions of GIRC are final and binding on SAMU.