



Elections and Referenda

Rationale

Elections and referenda should be fair, open, and transparent.

Detailed procedures should exist to govern the elections and referenda process.

Definitions

Campaign materials are materials used by a candidate and all those acting on their behalf in campaigning.

Campaigning is the process undertaken by a candidate seeking election whereby that candidate seeks to promote their desire to hold office, and what they intend to do if elected to office. Campaigning also encompasses the process undertaken by a candidate who seeks to influence the outcome of a particular referendum question.

Campaign expenses are the costs incurred by a candidate and all those acting on their behalf during their campaign and for the purposes of that campaign.

A **candidate** is a qualified person who seeks to obtain an elected position or a person who seeks and registers a specific outcome for a referendum question.

The **Chief Returning Officer** is a person who is not a member of SAMU and is charged with responsibility for ensuring that the elections and referenda proceed according to Bylaws, Policy, and Procedure.

Expectations

1 The administration of elections and referenda are fair and impartial.

2 A Chief Returning Officer (CRO) is appointed by Students' Council.

3 The CRO provides a written report to Students' Council on the outcomes of elections and referenda.

3.1 The CRO will attend the Students' Council meeting at which the report is provided and be available to answer questions.

4 Campaign materials are approved by the CRO.



- 5** The duration and scope of campaigning is limited and defined.
- 6** The value of campaign materials allowed for use in elections and referenda is limited and defined.
- 7** Reimbursement may be provided for a portion of candidates' campaign expenses.
- 8** A grievance and appeal process exists.
- 9** Awareness of all aspects of elections and referenda is promoted by SAMU.
- 10** Opportunities are provided for students to interact with all candidates.
- 11** MacEwan University requirements regarding campaigning are adhered to.



Fact Sheet

Approvals:

First Approval – August 21, 2013

Last Approval – January 20, 2021

Source and Updates:

August 21, 2013: *Elections and Referenda* approved by Students' Council motion 2013-08-21-6.11. Source material drawn from *Policy 15 – Elections*.

July 16, 2014: updates approved by Students' Council motion 2014-07-16-6.4.

April 18, 2018: *Elections and Referenda* approved by Students' Council motion 2018-04-18-7.3 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Update to language to use gender neutral pronouns.

January 20, 2021: *Elections and Referenda* approved by Students' Council motion 2021-01-20-7.5 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Updates to language for inclusivity and to be clearer on expectations.