

BY-LAW #3

of

**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' COUNCIL
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

**EXTERNAL POLITICAL
REPRESENTATION**

**Last Amended
February 26, 2014**

**Supersedes
December 2, 2009**

1.00 GENERAL

- 1.01 The USC believes that external political representation is an important component of student politics and will strive to ensure that University's undergraduate students have fair and effective representation at all levels of government.
- 1.02 The USC believes that any external political representation must be representative of the needs of University's undergraduate student body and will actively strive to ensure that this mandate can be met.

2.00 MEMBERSHIP

- 2.01 The USC holds official membership within the:
- (1) Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA); and,
 - (2) Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA).
- 2.02 The USC will officially review each external organization every two academic years, on alternating years.
- (1) Official reviews will take place between September 1st and February 1st of the given review year;
 - (2) Official reviews will be conducted by the Chair of the Provincial and Federal Affairs Standing Committee, in consultation with the Vice-President External and the Committee;
 - (3) Official review statements must be approved by the Standing Committee on Provincial and Federal Affairs, the Executive group, and ratified by Council;
 - (4) Official reviews must follow the guidelines outlined in the document, "External Political Representation Organizational Review"; and,
 - (5) Official reviews must be forwarded to the organization under review immediately following Council ratification.
- 2.03 The USC may sever membership agreements with an external political/lobby organization if all the following conditions are met:
- (1) Two consecutive official reviews recommending membership severance are ratified by EAC, Board, and Council; and
 - (2) At two consecutive Annual General Meetings council votes to leave an external organization;
 - (3) If the USC is a full member of an external political lobby organization when a review recommending withdrawal from the organization is ratified by EAC, Board and Council, the USC will perform the required steps to become an Associate/Prospective member of the organization for a period of one year. In the

following school year, a subsequent review of the organization in question will be conducted as per EPROR.

- (4) If the USC is an Associate/Prospective member of an external political lobby organization when a review recommending withdrawal from the organization is ratified by EAC, Board and Council, the USC will perform the required steps to terminate membership in the organization.

2.04 The USC may immediately sever membership agreements with an organization by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Council if there are serious legal, criminal, or financial concerns with that organization. The organization in question must be given two weeks notification prior to any such vote being held.

2.05 The USC may join an external political/lobby organization if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) An official review of the organization is conducted between September 1st and February 1st, as outlined in the External Political Representation Organizational Review (EPROR).
- (2) If the USC is a non-member of an external political lobby organization when a review recommending joining the organization is ratified by EAC, Board, and Council, the USC will perform the required steps to become an Associate/Prospective member of the organization for a period of one year. In the following school year, a subsequent review of the organization in question will be conducted as per EPROR.
- (3) If the USC is an Associate/Prospective member of an external political lobby organization when a review recommending withdrawal from the organization is ratified by EAC, Board, and Council, the USC will perform the required steps to become a full member in the organization.

2.06 The autonomy of the USC must be maintained in any external political organization the USC is a member of. As such, the following principles must be maintained:

- (1) USC shall not join and shall endeavour to remove itself from any external organization that limits the autonomy of the USC in any of the following ways:
 - i. Requirements as to how its members decide to join or withdraw from the organization:
 - a. Which mechanisms of voting are acceptable;
 - b. Quorum, the binding percentage of votes needed;
 - c. Wording of a referendum question;
 - d. What constitutes appropriate campaign materials, and;
 - e. When the vote is allowed to occur.

- ii. A requirement that the USC enter into purchasing agreements with suppliers and companies as members of that external organization.
 - iii. A requirement to allow the staff/leaders/members of that organization access to Western's campus or USC events, even without the consent of the USC.
 - iv. A requirement to allow the external organization to distribute flyers/materials/printed content on Western's campus, even without the consent of the USC.
- (2) A requirement to provide due notice of leaving, and to pay the fees that were due for that year, are acceptable.

3.00 FEES

- 3.01 The USC will collect and pay membership fees to external organizations in the amount defined by the organization.
- 3.02 The USC must be notified of any fee increases before January 31st of the year preceding the increase.
- 3.03 Fee increases shall conform to the standards set by the Student Services Committee.
- 3.04 The USC will publish fees paid to external organizations through a per-student fee model presented during the annual budget presentation.
- 3.05 The USC will strive to ensure that all fees paid out to external organizations are utilized in an effective and efficient manner, reflecting the needs of Westerns students.

4.00 REPRESENTATION

- 4.01 The Vice-President External will act as the USC's voting delegate for external organizations or will select a designate to act in her absence.
- 4.02 The President and Vice-President External will act as representatives for the USC at any external organization conferences or official meetings, or will select a designate to act in their absence. This includes OUSA conferences, CASA conferences, and the USC Local Advocacy Week conference.

- (1) Selection of three of the representatives for a general assembly will be elected from voting council members using the following process:
- i. Voting shall take place by secret ballot.
 - ii. Each Voting Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote per ballot for any given position.
 - iii. No Voting Member shall cast more than one (1) ballot for each position.
 - iv. Ballots: Preferential voting will proceed by a numbered ballot such that on the preferential ballot for each position , each voter must indicate the order

in which she prefers the candidates by placing a numeral '1' beside her first preference, a numeral '2' beside her second preference, in numerical order up to and including the final candidate.

v. Counting Ballots: The counting of the ballots shall take place according to the following:

- a. Each candidate may designate an agent to act as her scrutineer during the counting of the ballots;
- b. In the first count, first preference votes for each candidate are counted;
- c. If a candidate receives 50% + 1 of the eligible votes cast, that candidate shall be elected.
- d. Where the top place candidate fails to achieve 50% + 1, the second choice votes of the candidate finishing last in that round of ballot counting shall be reassigned accordingly. This process is repeated until one candidate receives the majority of the highest preferences remaining on the ballots;
- e. If two (2) or more candidates are tied for the least popular position, those candidates shall be redistributed accordingly;
- f. Failure to select a preference in any round of voting shall result in that ballot being spoiled for that and all subsequent rounds of balloting. A ballot shall not be deemed spoiled so long as the voter's intentions can be reasonably ascertained from the ballot;
- g. If more than one person is to be elected the voters can indicate their order of preference among the names just as if only one was to be elected. The counting procedure is the same as described above, except that it is continued until all but the necessary number of candidates has been eliminated.
- h. Tie Result – In the event of a tie, whenever possible, tie shall be resolved in favour of the candidate with the most first place votes. Where not possible, the tie shall be resolved by a coin toss.

(2) Selection for other representatives will be conducted by the Vice-President External and be ratified by the Executive group, with priority being given to members of the External portfolio.

4.03 Any delegate representing the USC must act in the best interest of the USC and Western's undergraduate students.

(1) Delegates must act within the guidelines outlined in the USC's External Statement Policies and the USC's Internal Statement Policies, as well as any limitations in the By-Laws.

5.00 POLICY

- 5.01 Policy developed by an external organization must be reviewed by the External Affairs Committee and ratified by a simple majority of Council.
- (1) External policies that have been ratified by Council will be included in the External Statement of Policies document;
 - (2) Policies which are not ratified by Council will not become USC policy but will remain policy of the external organization; and,
 - (3) USC delegates, in their capacity as delegates of an external organization, may lobby for policy that is not supported by the USC on behalf of the external organization, unless that policy is explicitly condemned by a simple majority vote of council.
- 5.02 The USC will strive to ensure that all policy developed and passed by external organizations act in the best interest and are reflective of the needs the University's Students.