



University Students' Council Of Western University

Bylaw #2: Election Bylaw

Authority: Board of Directors	Date Ratified: September 24, 2025
	Next Review Date: September, 2028
Previous Amendments: October 11, 2023; September 1, 2021; November 27, 2019; November 28, 2018	
Related Document(s):	
Review Committee(s):	
Delegates:	

1. PURPOSE

This Bylaw outlines the rules and procedures for University Students' Council (the "USC") elections at Western University.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. For the purpose of this Bylaw, in addition to the definitions from **Bylaw #1**, these terms shall be defined as follows:

2.1.1. **Affiliate** means King's University College and Huron University College.. **Campaign Material** means any material, regardless of format, that promotes or opposes any Candidate or Referendum Question.

2.1.2. **Campaigning** means any attempt by a person or organization to motivate a student to cast a ballot in favour or against a Candidate or Referendum Question. This may occur with or without Campaign Material.

2.1.3. **Campaign Period** means the designated days during which a Candidate and/or their Campaign Volunteers, may campaign as set out in the Electoral Code and elections calendar.

- 2.1.4. **Candidate** means a student seeking or to be elected to an office and whose name appears on the ballot issued by the USC.
- 2.1.5. **Corporation** means the University Students' Council of Western University
- 2.1.6. **Council** means the Members of the Corporation and the Legislative branch of the Corporation.
- 2.1.7. **Days** shall mean business days.
- 2.1.8. **Divisional Election** means an election for Faculty Councils and Affiliate Councils.
- 2.1.9. **Election and/or USC Election** means and includes any election or by-election as defined in the USC electoral Code.
- 2.1.10. **Electoral Governance Board ("EGB")** means the EGB, as defined in the USC electoral Code.
- 2.1.11. **Faculty** means any of the Western University faculties.
- 2.1.12. **Faculty Council, Affiliate Council or Constituency Council** means the student-led governing bodies of Western University Faculties or Affiliates.
- 2.1.13. **Presidential Election** means an election for President of the USC.
- 2.1.14. **Referendum** means a question posed to Western University's student body.
- 2.1.15. **Secretary of the University** as defined by Western University.
- 2.1.16. **Student** means any individual with undergraduate status registered at the Western University, King's University College, and Huron University College.
- 2.1.17. **University** means Western University together with King's University College, and Huron University College.
- 2.1.18. **USC** means University Students' Council of Western University.

3. JURISDICTION

- 3.1. This Bylaw applies to all USC administered Elections at Western University.
- 3.2. The USC shall recognize no Election or Referendum Question result unless certified by the EGB.

3.3. The Secretary of the University is the Chief Returning Officer of the Board of Governors and Senate elections, and shall serve as the ultimate governance authority for these elections.

3.3.1. The EGB shall assist the Secretary of the University in the facilitation and regulation of the Board of Governors and Senate Campaigning.

3.3.2. The Secretary of the University is the Chief Returning Officer of the Board of Governors and Senate elections, and shall serve as the ultimate governance authority for these elections. The EGB shall assist the Secretary of the University in the facilitation and regulation of Board of Governors and Senate campaigning.

4. ELECTION GOVERNANCE

4.1. The EGB, as established in the USC Electoral Code, shall have sole authority to investigate, adjudicate, and sanction alleged electoral violations.

4.2. The EGB shall exercise the authority granted to it in the USC Electoral Code.

4.3. By-law #2 shall not limit or duplicate the powers of the EGB.

5. VOTER ELIGIBILITY

5.1. All undergraduate students enrolled at Western University at the start of the nomination period, as outlined in the election calendar, are eligible to vote in the USC Elections.

5.2. Each eligible voter is permitted one vote for USC President.

5.3. Each eligible voter is permitted one vote for the following positions in the Faculty or Affiliate for which they are registered as a student, as determined by the Western University Registrar's Office.

5.3.1. Faculty, Affiliate, or Constituency Council President,

5.3.2. Faculty, Affiliate or Constituency Councillor.

5.4. Students in a dual degree program shall only vote in one of the constituencies in which they are enrolled.

5.4.1. By default, a student shall be eligible to vote in the constituency listed in the common data elements delineating the candidates, electors, and voting segments as received by the Registrar's Office.

5.4.2. To vote in the other Faculties, Affiliates or Constituencies, the Student must make a written request to that effect. The manner in which such requests will be processed, including criteria for a successful request, will be prescribed in a Policy established

by the Board in accordance with section 10 of this Bylaw. Requirements for the form and substance of such requests, including any deadlines, will be prescribed by the USC.

5.5. Council members of the outgoing and incoming USC shall be permitted one vote for the Vice-President External Affairs and Vice-President University Affairs elections.

5.5.1. A Council member is a member of both the outgoing and incoming councils shall be permitted two votes.

5.6. Eligible voters are permitted one vote for each referendum question presented to the entire student body of Western University.

5.6.1. For referendum questions specific to Faculties or Affiliates, only students enrolled in said Faculties or Affiliates, as it may apply, shall be permitted one vote unless otherwise outlined.

6. CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

6.1. For an Election during the Summer term, only undergraduate students enrolled in the most recent winter term and intending to return for the following academic year will be permitted to run for USC President, Vice President External Affairs and Vice President University Affairs.

6.2. For an Election during the Fall term, only undergraduate students enrolled in the most recent fall and winter terms will be permitted to run for USC President, Vice President External Affairs and Vice President University Affairs.

6.3. For Elections during the Winter term only undergraduate students currently enrolled in the Winter term and most recent Fall term will be permitted to run for USC President, Vice-President External Affairs, and Vice-President University Affairs.

6.4. Any person can become a Candidate in a Faculty or Affiliate Council election if they are registered as a student in that Faculty or Affiliate college at the time of nomination.

6.5. Candidates may only run for one elected position at a time during any given election period.

6.6. To determine if a student meets the above- noted criteria, the USC shall rely on records provided by the University Registrar.

6.7. Students in a dual degree program may only run for an elected position in one of the Faculty or Affiliate in which they are enrolled.

- 6.7.1. By default, the student will be eligible to run in the Faculty or Affiliate in the common data elements delineating the candidates, electors, and voting segments as received by the Registrar. As defined by Western University
- 6.7.2. The student shall make a written request to run in the Faculty or Affiliation of their choice.
- 6.7.3. How such requests shall be processed, including criteria for a successful request, will be prescribed in a policy established by the Board following section 10 of this Bylaw.
- 6.7.4. Requirements for the form and substance of such requests, including any deadlines, will be prescribed by the EGB.
- 6.8. For a full list of the constituencies and the number of Councillors representing each, refer to Council Composition Procedure.
- 6.9. Candidates shall comply with all obligations and responsibilities outlined in the USC's Electoral Code, including but not limited to volunteer list requirements, campaign conduct, and disclosure obligations.

7. ELECTIONS CALENDAR

- 7.1. The USC shall release the election calendar in consultation with the EGB incorporating timelines outlined within the electoral code.

8. BALLOTING

- 8.1. Ballots are cast online using a service provider to be determined by the USC.
- 8.2. Eligible shall be able to abstain from any or all segments on the ballot without risk of spoiling the ballot.
- 8.3. All Elections and Referendum Questions with more than two (2) options on said ballots, excluding divisional races, shall be administered using a preferential ranked ballot that is counted using the single transferable vote method.
 - 8.3.1. Voters shall mark their choices in order of preference.
 - 1. One (1) is the highest (most preferred ranking);
 - 2. Two candidates cannot have the same ranking, or the ballot is invalid ;
 - 3. Any Candidate can be given any ranking, including no ranking.

- 8.4. For all Elections and Referendum Questions, with only two (2) options on the ballot, and for all divisional elections with any number of options, a plurality voting system shall be used to count ballots.

9. ELECTION RESULTS

- 9.1. Election results shall be released within three days of the close of balloting.
- 9.2. Disqualification or sanctions impacting results shall be determined in accordance with the USC Electoral Code.

10. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 10.1. The Board of Directors will occasionally establish Policies for the conduct of Elections and Referendum Questions, consistent with this Bylaw.
- 10.2. The EGB shall establish procedures and regulations consistent with the USC Electoral Code.
- 10.3. In the event of conflict between this By-law and the Electoral Code, the Electoral Code shall prevail.