

# Elections Preview

What You Need to Know to Kickstart your Campaign.

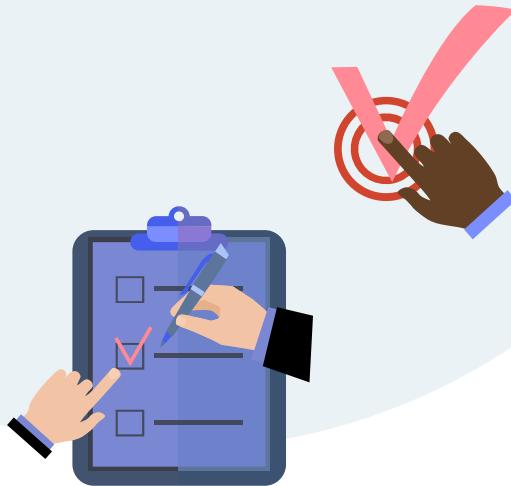
Updated: November 2025



# 01

# Role

# Previews



# Finding the Right Fit

If you like \_\_\_\_ consider joining...



- Advocacy
- Organizational policy
- Discussing student issues
- Creating student focused programming for all undergrads



- Decision-making
- Institutional policy
- Consulting on institutional strategy for all students, faculty and staff
- Risk management and compliance



- Networking and community building
- Discussing student issues
- Creating student focused programming just for your academic unit/interest group

# Elected Roles- Executives and Council

1

## **President**

Leads the USC, represents all students, and oversees advocacy, services, and events.

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2

## **VP External Affairs**

Represents students to governments and the community, builds partnerships, and leads advocacy campaigns.

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3

## **VP University Affairs**

Works with stakeholders at Western to address student issues, improve campus life, and supports equity.

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4

## **Councillors\***

Meet monthly to bring student voices to the USC as members, help shape policies, programs or projects. There are two types: **voting members** and **resource members**.

# Hired Roles - USC Executives

1

## **VP Orientation & Programming**

Plans major campus events like O-Week and runs student programming in partnership with Western and other community groups.

2

## **VP Student Engagement**

Develops USC branding and engagement strategy, coordinates with media and communications to keep students informed and involved.

3

## **VP Student Services**

Oversees key USC programs like health and dental plans, bus passes, and clubs.

# Hired Roles - Council

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## **Speaker**

Leads Council meetings, keeps discussions fair and on track, and ensures rules are followed, coordinates events and L&D.

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## **Deputy Speaker**

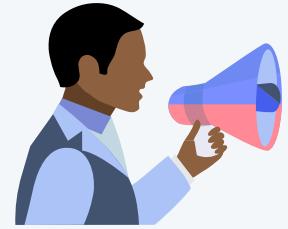
Supports the Speaker with council and meeting administration, steps in when the Speaker is away.

# Key Differences

USC Executives	Other Paid Governance Roles	Councillors
Full-time (~40 hrs/week)	Part-time (~5-10 hrs/week)	Part-time (~5-15 hrs/month)
Paid, salaried positions	Hourly or honorarium pay	Unpaid, volunteer positions (eligible for awards)
Accountability Level: High (Council, Board, student body, various stakeholders)	Accountability level: Moderate (USC execs/support staff)	Accountability level: Low-Moderate (students at large and division)
Activity level: High (daily meetings, lots of internal and external work)	Activity Level: Medium (flexible scheduling)	Activity level: Low (meet 2-3X per month)
Term: 1 year (May-April)	Term: Contract lengths vary	Term: 1 year (May-April)

# What Makes A Strong Leader/Candidate?

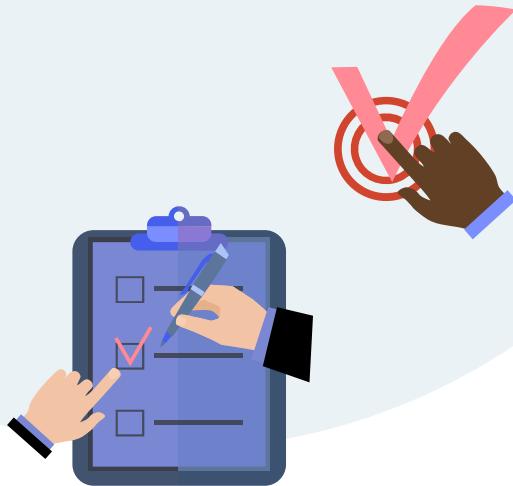
- **Purpose-Driven:** Motivated by improving student life, not just holding a title.
- **Visible & Accountable:** Comfortable being a public-facing representative.
- **Growth-Oriented:** Able to learn, adapt, and manage pressure.
- **Collaborative Communicator:** Listens well, builds consensus, handles conflict respectfully.
- **Reliable:** Follows through, balances commitments, shows up consistently.
- **Integrity-Focused:** Makes fair, ethical decisions; respects process.
- **Realistic About the Work:** Understands these roles are meaningful *and* demanding.



# 02

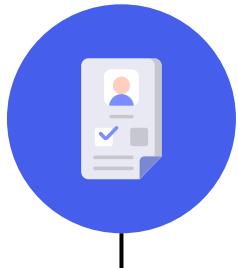
# Elections

# Roadmap



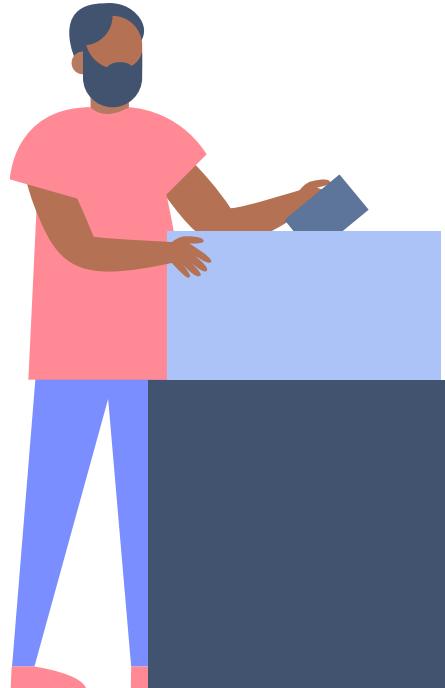
# Eligibility Requirements

In order to run you must be...



## A Registered Undergraduate Student

Must currently be enrolled in the most recent fall and winter terms as a full-time undergraduate student.



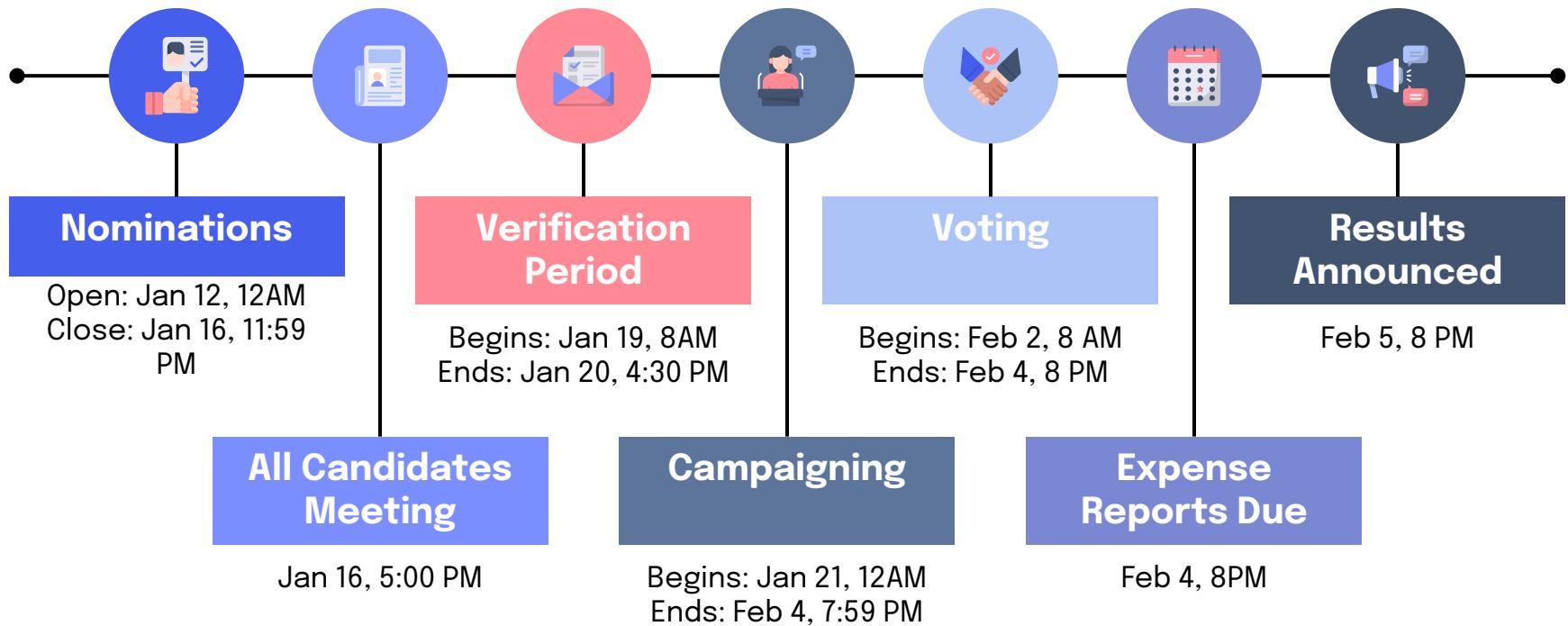
## Registered in at Least 1 Faculty

Registered as a student in a single faculty or affiliate college.  
Dual Degree students must declare their faculty **BEFORE** noms close.

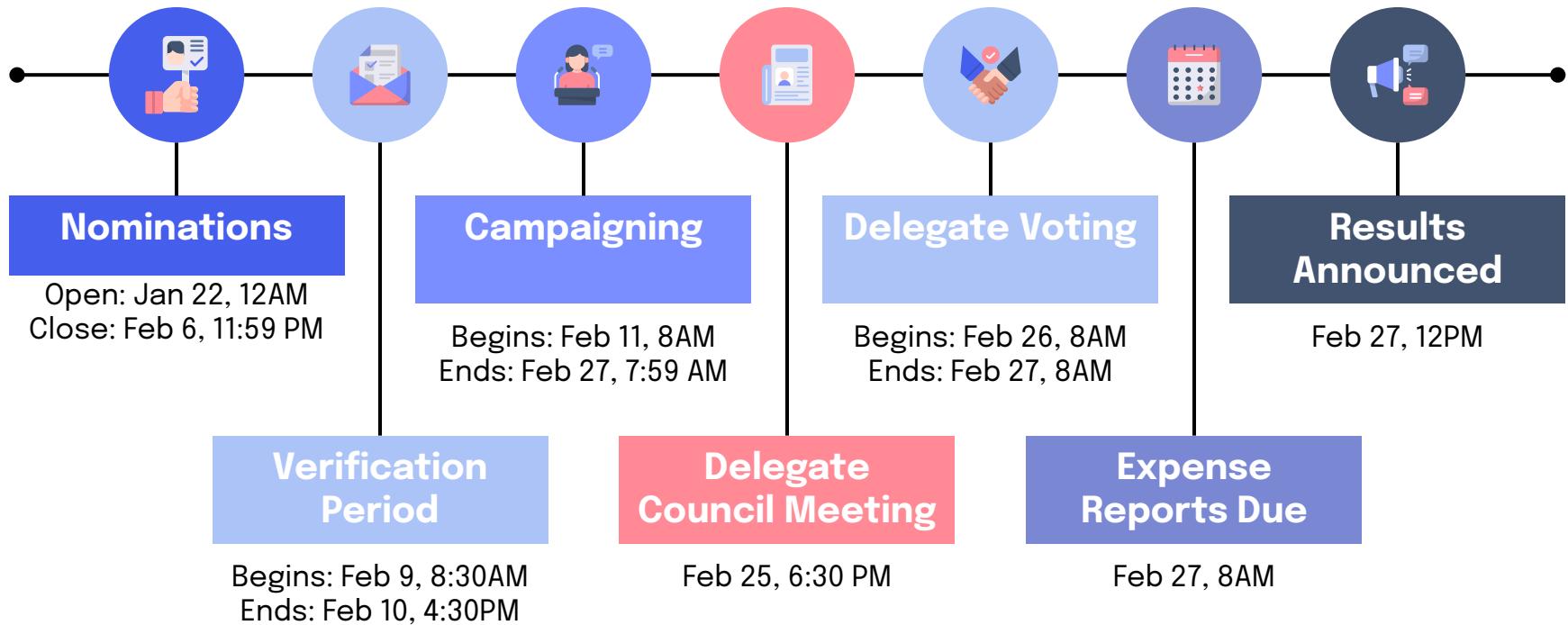
# Election Types

	<b>Elected By</b>	<b>Voting System</b>
1 <b>President, Bog, Senate</b>	Student body at large*	Electronic Ballot
2 <b>VPEA, VPUA</b>	Council	Electronic Ballot (restricted to council)
3 <b>Councillors</b>	Students within their faculty/professional school/association	Electronic Ballot (restricted to faculty/division)

# Election Dates (President, Council, BOG, Senate)



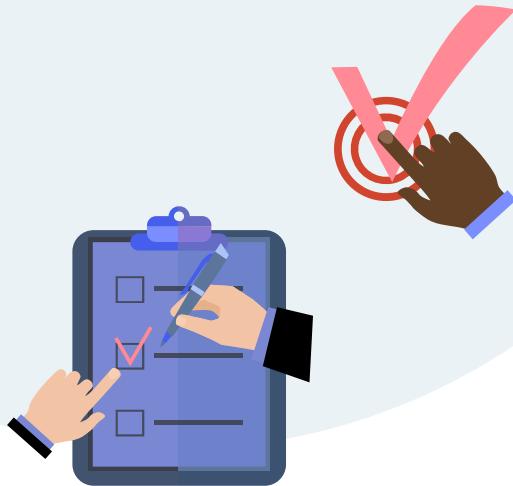
# Election Dates (VPEA & VPUA)



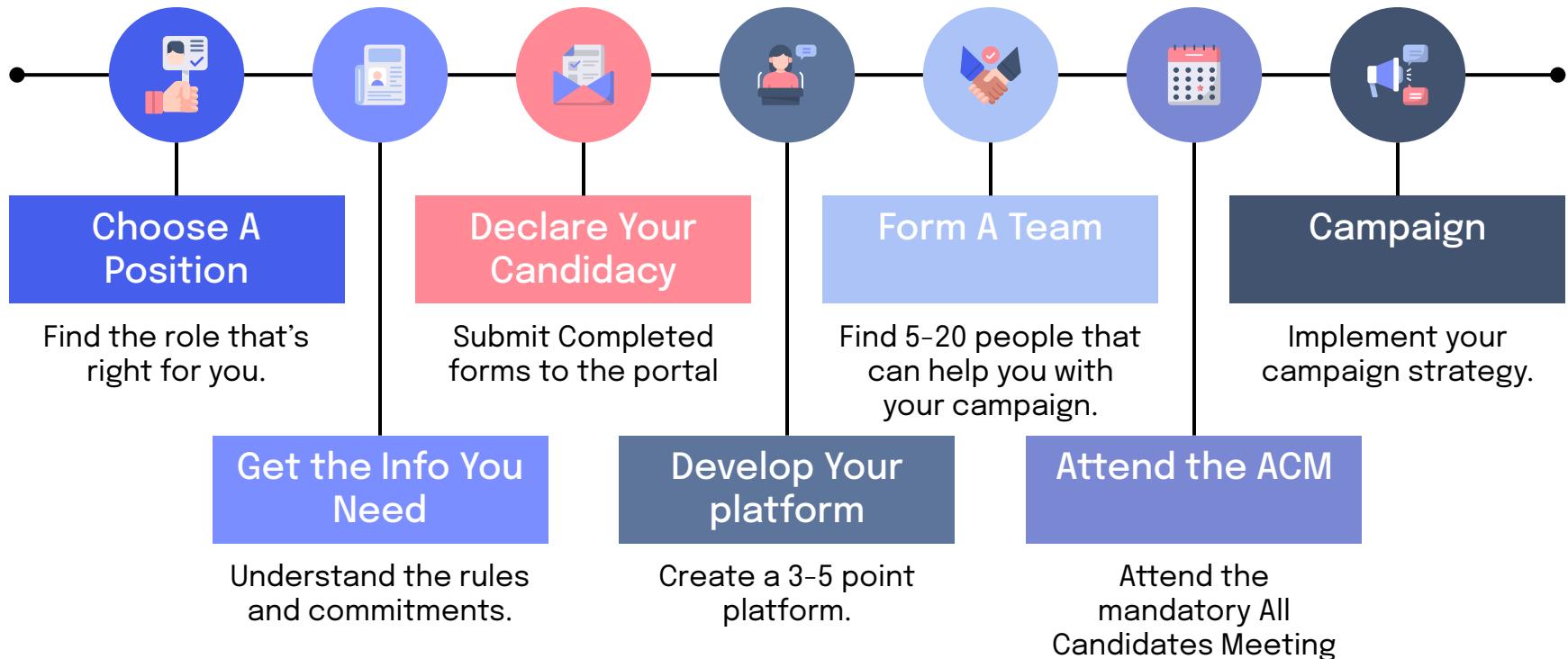
# 03

# Campaign

# Basics



# How to Run



# Nomination Information

- What's required in a nomination package?
  - Candidate information
  - Signatures (5-50)
  - Acknowledgements/Waivers
- How to submit and confirm completion?
  - USC [Website](#)->nomination [portal](#)
- Common mistakes (missing signatures, late submissions, incomplete forms)

**NOMINATION FORM**  
**FACULTY COUNCILLOR**  
of the University Students' Council (herein the "USC")

Nominations close:  
Friday, October 3, 2025 at 11:59 P.M.

THIS FORM IS NOT VALID UNLESS COMPLETED IN FULL AND SUBMITTED VIA ONLINE  
UPLOAD (<https://westernusc.ca/get-involved/usc-elections/candidates>) THROUGH THE  
CANDIDATE PORTAL ON THE USC ELECTIONS WEBSITE BY 11:59 P.M. on October 3, 2025.

If you experience issues with your submission, email [electionsgov@westernusc.ca](mailto:electionsgov@westernusc.ca) and  
[dane.ferry@westernusc.ca](mailto:dane.ferry@westernusc.ca)

**Please note:**  
A candidate may only run if they are a full time or part time student as outlined in the USC By-Law.

**REQUIRED INFORMATION:**

Name (Last, First):	Preferred Name (Optional):
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Gender Pronoun (Optional):	Phone Number:
<hr/>	
Student Number:	UWO Email (@uwo.ca):
<hr/>	
Faculty:	Preferred Email :
<hr/>	
London Address:	Constituency:
<hr/>	

# Campaign Platforms

Your platform is the set of ideas and goals you plan to deliver if elected.

## Tips:

- **Be specific:** Avoid vague promises—say what you'll do because that's what you'll be accountable for.
- **Be realistic:** Focus on what can be done during your term of one year (it can be a floor but also a ceiling)
- **Make it measurable:** Know how you'll track progress/check that box at the end of your term.

## Avoid:

- **Overpromising:** Strong platforms usually list 3-5 solid goals you can realistically achieve.
- **Ignoring ongoing work:** You'll inherit projects, programs and relationships from past teams that your work will need to build on.
- **Niche issues:** Focus on broad student concerns, not one-off complaints.



# Need Inspo?

Places to find information to help you build your platform include...

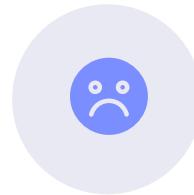
- Current USC policy manual
- Position Papers
- Consultations with students
- Consultations with USC execs
- Current executive roadmap
- USC charter and governing docs

See our sample platform/roadmap activity.

# Disclaimer: Dealing With Feedback



VS



VS



## Constructive Criticism

Useful feedback that offers specific suggestions for improvement.

## Unfounded Negativity

Lacks substance or constructive suggestions, often stems from frustration.

## Harassment

Aggressive and unwanted behaviour that escalates over time, creating a sense of danger.

# Mindset Tips

## Resilience

Focus on positive actions, solutions. Shift the discussion towards what is being done to address the issue. Focus on values, goals and impact where possible.

## Delegate

Allow other members of your team to manage feedback on your behalf.



## Set Boundaries

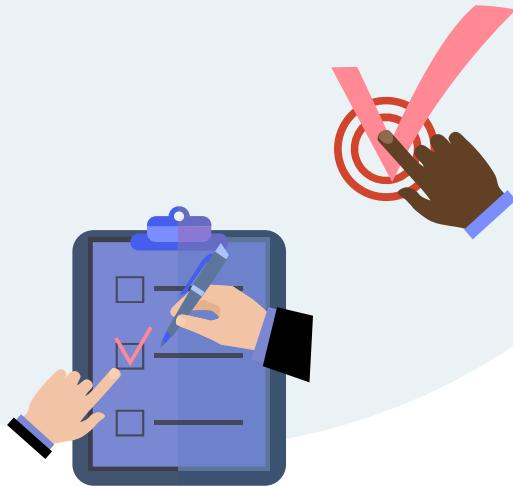
Know when to disengage, when it's not productive and it doesn't serve you. Define what types of feedback are acceptable, ignore or block harmful comments.

## Practice Self Care

Engage in activities that help you relax and recharge. Engage support services where needed.

# 04

# FAQ's



# FAQ

**Q: I don't have leadership experience — should I still run?**

**A:** Absolutely! The USC is all about learning and growth — anyone can run, no experience needed.

**Q: I don't want to campaign. Can I still get involved?**

**A:** Yep! Check out the *Get Involved* page on the USC website for other opportunities.

**Q: What's the hardest part of being in student government?**

**A:** It depends, but most people mention time management, public speaking, and dealing with group dynamics.

**Q: How much time does being a USC Councillor take?**

**A:** Around **5–15 hours a month**. You'll meet at least twice monthly — once for committee, and once for Council (last Wednesday of each month at 7 PM).

**Q: How much time does being an Executive take?**

**A:** It's a **full-time (40 hrs/week)** paid position with regular office hours and some travel.

# FAQ Cont.

## Q: Can I consult with current USC Executives about my campaign?

**A:** Yes, but only before nominations open. After nominations open, you can't meet with them about campaign-related topics, and there are certain things they cannot discuss at any time (like internal strategy, confidential information, or staff-only processes). Staff cannot be consulted

## Q: Can I run in a constituency outside of my current faculty?

**A:** Only if you're a registered dual-degree student. You must request permission from the EGB **before nominations close** so we can verify your eligibility.

## Q: Can I still run or apply if I'll be away during the summer?

**A:** It depends on the role. Some hired positions (like AVPs or Coordinators) may have flexible summer schedules, but Council and Executive roles require consistent availability, including meetings and, for Executives, daily in-office work.

## Q: Can I run for an executive position in another organization at the same time?

**A:** Generally, no. Dual membership can create conflicts of interest depending on timing and responsibilities. Always check with Governance/EGB before nominations close.

# Additional Resources

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1. USC Elections [Website](#)
2. USC [Website](#)
3. USC [Instagram](#)
4. USC [LinkedIn](#)
5. USC [Twitter](#)
6. USC [Youtube](#)
7. USC [Facebook](#)

**Questions?**

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