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**ELECTIONS POLICY**

***Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS)***

Effective:

*[15/12/2022]*

Date of Last Amendment:

*­­­­­­[30/11/2021]*

**PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the rules for elected student positions with the Arts Undergraduate Society. Each member must adhere to each of the following regulations and procedures.

1. **ELECTION COMMITTEE**

**1.1** The Elections Chair; *Ashley Ethier* will oversee the general conduct and execution of the elections on behalf of the Faculty Association.
**1.2.** The Vice President: Clubs & Associations will serve as the support to the Faculty Association and its Election Committee.

1. **ELECTED POSITIONS**
	1. The students within the Faculty of Arts will elect:
		1. One (1) President

**3. ELIGIBILITY**

**3.1.** Each student within the Faculty of Arts will have the opportunity to vote for any candidate standing for election.

**4. NOMINATIONS**

**4.1.** The nomination period shall be a minimum of 7 days.
 **4.1.1.** After the conclusion of the nomination period, a nominee becomes a candidate.
**4.2.** Any nominee for an elected position with the Arts Undergraduate Society must be a paying member of the association registered in an undergraduate program within the Faculty.

**5. NOMINATION PACKAGES**

**5.1.** The ‘Nomination Package’ must be made available to the membership no later than 2 weeks before the close of the nomination period.
**5.2.** The package should include the following:
 **5.2.1.** The date on which the nomination period ends;
 **5.2.2.** A copy of the Election Policy;
 **5.2.4.** A ‘Nomination Form’:
 **5.2.4.1.** This includes at least thirty [30] signatures from students within the Faculty of Arts.

**5.2.4.2.** This should be done using the signature form in the Nomination package and/or on a confidential platform, like a google form where nominees can share the form with supporters who can then submit their name and information without having access to others information

**5.2.4.3** This process can be determined by the *Arts Undergraduate Society* Elections committee, the elections chair and the Vice President of Clubs and Associations

**5.3.** All required completed documents of the ‘Nomination Package’ must be emailed to president@auslaurier.ca and elections.chair@auslaurier.ca before the close of the nomination period.

**6. AGENTS**

**6.1.** Each candidate shall be entitled to one (1) Agent who must be a member of the Faculty.
**6.2.** An Agent is recognized as the official representative and is empowered to operate on behalf of the candidate.
**6.3.** The following positions are ineligible from serving as a candidate’s Agent:
 **6.3.1.** A Students’ Union director of the board;
 **6.3.2.** An Appeals Committee member;
 **6.3.3.** An Elections Committee member;
 **6.3.4.** A member of the Students’ Union Management Team;
 **6.3.5.** A candidate for election;
 **6.3.6.** A referendum Party Chair;
 **6.3.7.** A Scrutineer.

**7. ONLINE CAMPAIGNING**

**7.1.** Campaigning will begin January 15th, 2023 @ 8:00pm and end January 24th, 2023 @ 7:30am

**7.1.1** Candidates’ authorized social media accounts are not permitted to post during the voting period.

**7.1.2.** There shall be no campaigning while polling is open on voting days.

**7.1.3** Existing content, authored during the campaign period, may remain posted on authorized candidate accounts during the voting period

**7.1.4** Individual social media activity on accounts not declared for candidate use, including displaying support for campaign posts, sharing promotional material, or altering profile pictures is **NOT** considered campaigning.

**7.2.** Candidates (including their Executive Campaign Team and General Campaign Team) are not permitted to make use of any privileged access to the social media accounts or email lists of any Students’ Union businesses, committees, clubs, faculty associations, or third-party organizations for campaign purposes.

 **7.2.1.** Residence Life Staff and Students’ Union Icebreakers are not to utilize their position to solicit first year student votes in or outside of their residence buildings.

**8. EXPENDIDTURES**

**8.1.** Candidates are limited to expenses and gifts-in-kind totaling *$250*
**8.2.** Candidates will be reimbursed for one hundred percent (100%) of their approved campaign expenses unless maximum limits are surpassed.
**8.3.** Candidates are required to submit receipts to the Faculty Association in order for campaign materials to be approved and received.
 **8.3.1.** It is the candidate’s responsibility to monitor their expenditures and keep track of all itemized receipts.
 **8.3.2.** Upon request, all candidates must be able to report their total expenditures to the head of the Elections Committee or their designate.

**9. PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS**

**9.1.** The head of the Elections Committee (Elections Chair) or their designate must approve all promotional material with a signature
**9.2.** All candidates are required to include the following on all promotional materials:
 **9.2.1.** Identification of the position for which they are a candidate;
 **9**.**2.2.** The name/approved logo of the Faculty Association.

 **9.2.3.** #LaurierVotes branding

 **9.2.4.** “Wilfrid Laurier University Students’ Union” or a colloquialism approved by the Faculty Elections Chair
**9.3.** Candidates are only permitted to contact students through email using personally cultivated mailing lists. The use of official “listservs” is prohibited.
**9.4.** All social media platforms (accounts) must be declared, approved and registered with the head of the Elections Committee or their designate.
 **9.4.1.** Social media platforms are not permitted to promote a potential candidacy prior to the commencement of the campaign period.
 **9.4.2.** During the elections period all registered candidate social media platforms must be available publicly. Accounts with privacy restrictions enabled are unable to be used for campaigning purposes.

 **9.4.3.** Students have the right to request removal from any candidate’s subscription list;

 **9.4.5.** Candidates are individually responsible for all content disseminated on registered social media platforms

 **9.4.6.** All social media content, whether written, audio, or video, must adhere to the Elections policy for the Arts Undergraduate Society, the Wilfrid Laurier University Non- Academic Code of Conduct, and all other relevant University policies and applicable laws.

**9.4.7.** Students have the right to request the removal of their photograph or likeness from any candidate’s digital promotion or social media platform content.

**10. VOTING AS FACILIATED BY THE STUDENTS’ UNION**

**10.1.** Voting will be conducted for a minimum of thirty-six (36) hours.
 **10.1.1.** Voting must be open on voting days between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm.
**10.2.** Voting will be conducted by electronic ballot.
 **10.2.1.** Electronic ballots will enable all members to cast their vote by secret ballot.
 **10.3.** Each electronic ballot will include the following:
 **10.3.1.** Separate sections for each distinct question asked;
 **10.3.2.** A list of the candidates running for each elected position;
 **10.3.3.** A question asking the voter to rank their preferred candidates for each elected position; **10.3.4.** Any referendum questions put to their membership, in the form of a “yes” or “no” question.
**10.4.**A ballot will be considered official upon submission.
**10.5.** An online ballot will be considered spoiled if a specific selection is not completed.
 **10.5.1** Spoiled ballots, or sections thereof, will still be counted towards quorum.

**10.6.** One Scrutineers is allowed for each candidate to observe voting areas. Due to virtual voting this is in no way mandatory

**10.6.1** Please Inquire with Elections Chair for the Arts Undergraduate Society In regard to facilitating a scrutineer
**10.3.** In the case of a tie, the elected people will operate as co-presidents for their term

**11. DEMERITS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS**

**11.1.** If any of these policies are broken the nominees will receive a demerit or a disqualification based on severity, at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

 **11.1.1** Three demerits will result in a disqualification

**12. APPEALS**

**12.1.** The Appeals Committee will consist of the following:
 **12.1.1.** Sabrina De Costa
 **12.1.2.** Victoria Stranges

**12.1.3.** Jessica Aspinall

 **12.1.2.1.** No members sitting on the Appeals Committee may be a member of any campaign team or openly support any candidate.
**12.2**. All decisions reached by the Appeals Committee are considered final after approval from the VP: Clubs and Associations and will be communicated to the relevant candidate by such means as deemed appropriate by the head of the Elections Committee or their designate.

**STUDENT ELECTIONS CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Introduction:**

The Student Elections Code of Conduct, as a component of the Students’ Union Elections Policy, is intended as a guide for the election period. These guidelines should be viewed in addition to the Wilfrid Laurier University Non-Academic Code of Conduct, and all other relevant University policies and applicable laws. Violations of the Student Elections Code of Conduct are subject to the demerit system outlined in the Elections Policy, at the discretion of the Chief Returning Officer, the Chief Governance Officer and/or the Appeals Committee.

1. All Candidates running for an elected position, Referendum Chairs, their Agents, Campaign Teams, and Scrutineers shall:

 1.1 Be courteous, polite and respectful to the electorate, the Elections Committee, the Appeals Committee, those members currently holding elected positions, the staff of Wilfrid Laurier University and the Wilfrid Laurier University Students’ Union, and their fellow candidates.

 1.2. Not harass or otherwise “aggressively campaign” towards any member of the electorate, regardless of whether or not they choose to exercise their vote.

 1.3. Refrain at all times from profanity, slander, derogatory statements, or disrespecting the electoral process.

 1.4. Never issue, condone or otherwise endorse offensive statements regarding an individual or group’s creed, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, sexual identity, and commit to engage the electorate with a commitment to equality.

 1.5. Not use Students’ Union resources for electoral purposes unless explicitly permitted to do so as outlined in the Elections Policy, or as mandated by the Appeals Committee.

 1.6. Respect the rules of all Students’ Union business operations, including but not limited to the Turret, Wilfs, Brantford Williams, and Golden Grounds.

 1.7. Not campaign in the Students’ Union offices or the Office of the Secretariat.

 1.8. Not purposefully engage in behaviour that would result in the issuance of a demerit, as outlined in the Elections Policy.

**Remember that your campaign is a reflection of you as a person and your suitability as a Student Representative. Please exercise common sense and good judgment in making this election fair for all Candidates.**

**Signatures:**



Ashley Ethier Olivia Reio

Arts Undergraduate Society Arts Undergraduate Society

Elections Chair President

Date: December 14, 2022 Date: December 03, 2022

-And-



Haleigh Running

WLU Students’ Union

VP: Clubs & Associations

Date: