

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 his or her behalf in campaigning.

Campaigning is the process undertaken by a candidate seeking election whereby that candidate seeks to promote his or her desire to hold office, and what he or she intends 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.

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.

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

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.
- 6** The value of campaign materials allowed for use in elections and referenda is limited.
- 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 – July 16, 2014

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.